

Littérature Etrangère en Langue Etrangère

Faire découvrir aux élèves de la série L une œuvre majeure du XX^{ème} siècle

Un enseignement nouveau est né l'année dernière dans le cadre de la réforme du lycée, un vrai défi est à relever pour enseigner la littérature anglophone à des élèves ayant choisi la filière littéraire.

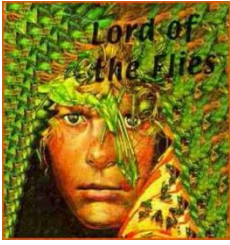
Animée de ma passion pour la littérature, je me suis lancée cette année dans cette aventure en classe de 1^{ère} L.

Nous avons étudié des auteurs aussi variés que Jane Austen, Kate Chopin, Frederick Douglass, E. M. Forster, Hanif Kureishi, Thomas Hardy, Posy Simmonds et Oscar Wilde. Il me semblait indispensable de proposer à mes élèves de lire une œuvre complète dans le courant de l'été. C'est pourquoi j'ai créé ces fiches d'aide à la lecture, afin de les stimuler dans leur besoin de devenir des lecteurs autonomes. Nous consacrerons quelques séances à l'étude de cette œuvre à la rentrée de septembre lorsque je les retrouverai en classe de terminale.

Mon choix s'est porté sur *Lord of the Flies* de William Golding tout d'abord pour l'intérêt intrinsèque que représente ce roman, régulièrement classé au Royaume Uni parmi les œuvres préférées des Britanniques. Il se veut également un hommage à un professeur trop tôt disparu qui, par son charisme et son humanité, sa culture et son savoir, le regard bienveillant qu'il portait sur ses étudiants, a eu une influence décisive sur le choix de mon métier. J'ai en effet eu le bonheur de découvrir *Lord of the Flies* en cours de Maîtrise grâce à l'enseignement généreux de Monsieur Favre à l'Université d'Avignon.

Qu'il soit, à titre posthume, infiniment remercié pour avoir fait naître chez ceux qui ont eu la chance d'être ses étudiants un goût immodéré pour la littérature, et pour leur avoir communiqué son infatigable désir de transmission.

Odile Gouget
Mai 2013



Lord of the Flies - Introduction (1/4)

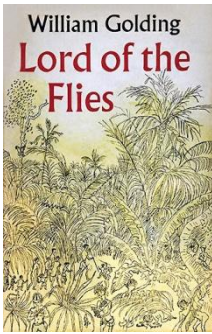
READING AND STUDYING THE NOVEL – DEVELOP INDEPENDENCE!

- Try to engage and respond **personally** to the characters, ideas and story – not just for your enjoyment, but also because it helps you develop your own, **independent ideas and thoughts** about *Lord of the Flies*. This is something that examiners are very keen to see.
- Talk about the text with friends and family; ask questions in class; put forward your own viewpoint – and, if time, **read around** the text to find out about *Lord of the Flies*.
- Take time to **consider** and **reflect** about the **key elements** of the novel; keep your own notes, mind-maps, diagrams, scribbled jottings about the characters and how you respond to them; follow the story as it progresses (what do you think might happen?); discuss the main themes and ideas (what do you think it is about? Good versus evil?); pick out language that impresses you or makes an **impact**, and so on.
- Treat your studying **creatively**. When you write essays or give talks about the novel make your responses creative. Think about using really clear ways of explaining yourself, use unusual **quotations**, well-chosen **vocabulary**, and try powerful, persuasive ways of beginning or ending what you say or write.

WILLIAM GOLDING: AUTHOR AND CONTEXT

- 1911 William Golding born 19 September in Cornwall
- 1914 Outbreak of the First World War
- 1930 Stock Exchange Crash. Golding joins Brasenose College, Oxford, as an undergraduate
- 1934 Golding works as an actor, producer and writer for a small theatre company
- 1939 Outbreak of the Second World War
- 1940 Golding serves in the Royal Navy in command of a rocket ship, involved in the sinking of the *Bismarck*
- 1945 End of the Second World War. Golding teaches at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury
- 1954 Publication of *Lord of the Flies*
- 1983 Golding awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1993 Golding dies at his home in Cornwall

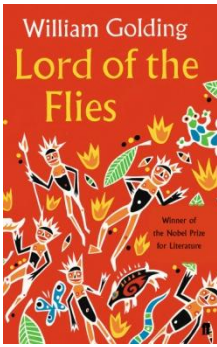




Lord of the Flies - Introduction (2/4)

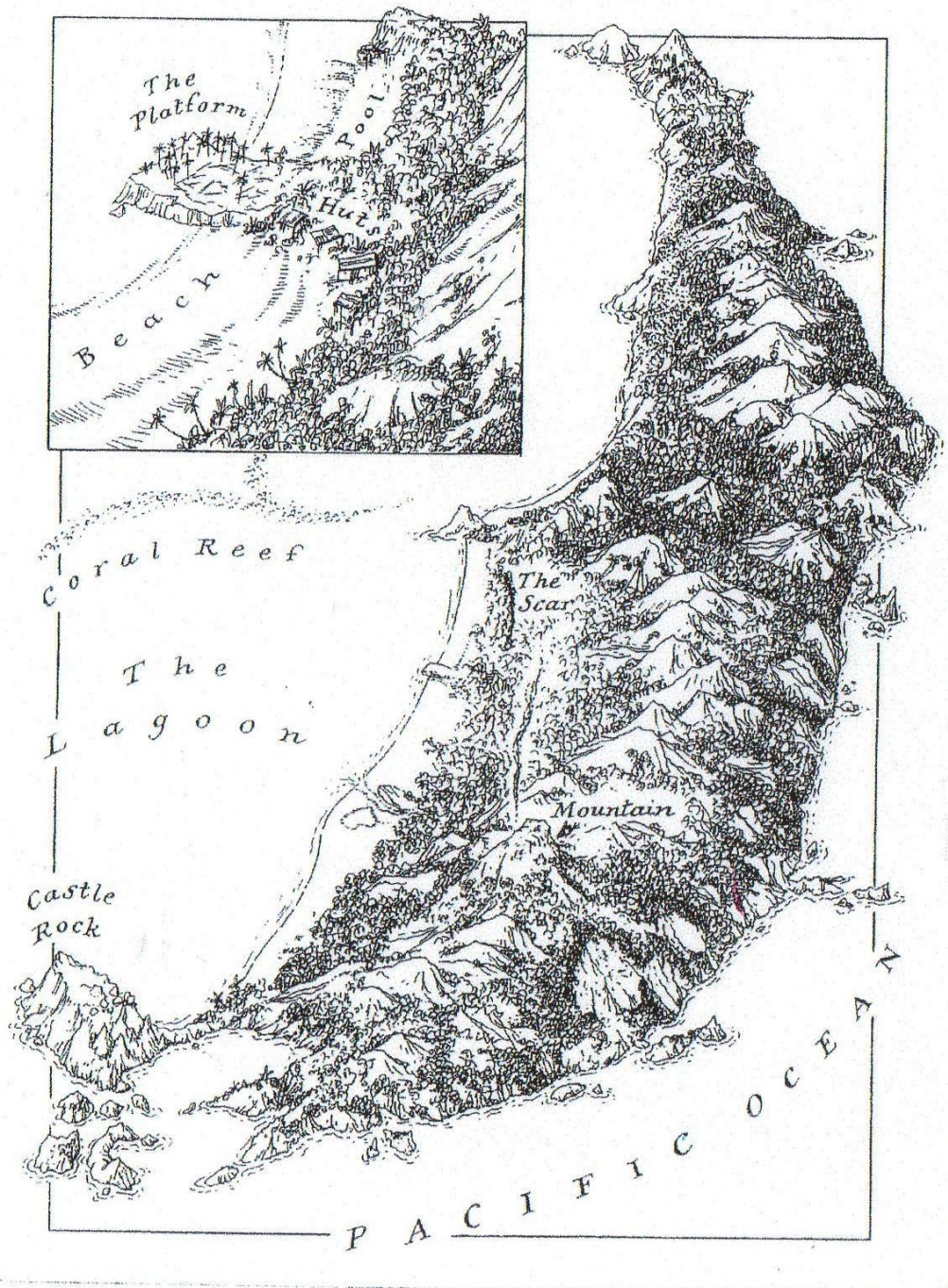
LITERARY TERMS

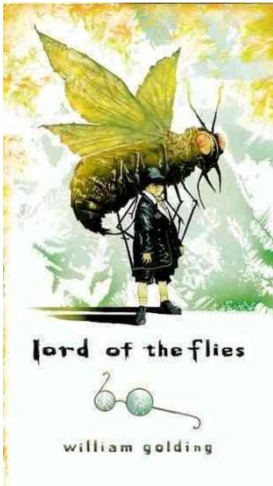
Literary term	Explanation
allegory	a story with two different meanings, where the straightforward meaning on the surface is used to reveal a deeper meaning underneath
atmosphere	a mood or feeling
character(s)	either a person in a play, novel, etc., or his or her personality
climax	the turning point at which the conflict begins to resolve itself or the final and most exciting event
colloquial	the everyday speech used by people in ordinary situations
dramatic irony	when the reader (audience) knows more about what is happening than some of the characters
flashback	a sudden jumping back to an earlier point in the narrative
foreshadow	act as a warning or sign of something that will occur later
imagery	descriptive language which uses images to make actions, objects and characters more vivid in the reader's mind. Metaphors and similes are examples of imagery
irony	when somebody deliberately says one thing when they mean another, usually in a humorous or sarcastic way
metaphor	when one thing is used to describe another thing to create a striking or unusual image
onomatopoeia	the use of words which sound like the noise they describe
pathetic fallacy	when the natural world, especially the weather, is used to reflect the feelings of characters
simile	when one thing is compared directly to another thing, using the words 'like' or 'as'
structure	the organisation or overall design of a work
symbolism	when an object, a person or a thing is used to represent another thing
theme	a central idea examined by an author



Lord of the Flies - Introduction (3/4)

SETTING





Lord of the Flies - Introduction (4/4)

CHARACTERS: WHO'S WHO

RALPH
THE ELECTED LEADER.

PIGGY
INTELLIGENT BUT AN
OUTSIDER.

JACK
EX-HEAD BOY.
HUNTER.
ASSUMES
LEADERSHIP.

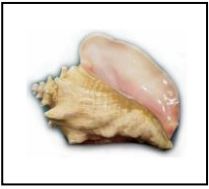
SAM AND ERIC
TWINS. OFTEN TREATED AS ONE
PERSON.

SIMON
SHY BUT COURAGEOUS.

ROGER
JACK'S CRUEL
LIEUTENANT.

MAURICE
A LOYAL SAVAGE
WITHOUT ROGER'S
BRUTALITY.

THE LITTLUNS
JOHNNY
PERCIVAL



Lord of the Flies

Chapter I - The Sound of the Shell (pp. 1-29)

- 1) What happens to this group of boys ? Why ?
- 2) Who are the first two boys on the scene ?
What do they use to summon the other survivors ?
- 3) Who is Jack Merridew ? What does he lead ?
- 4) What happens to Simon ?
- 5) What is the fat boy's nickname ?
- 6) What role is given to Ralph ?
- 7) What about the choir boys ? What about Jack ?
- 8) What do Ralph, Jack and Simon decide to do ?
- 9) What do they come across ? Do they kill it ?

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) What does Golding establish ?
- 2) Who does he introduce ?
- 3) What object is a symbol ? Explain.

The island

- 1) How is it described ?
- 2) Page 1 : find a sentence showing that this island, though exotic, is also frightening.

The characters

- 1) What do we learn about Ralph ?
- 2) What do we learn about Piggy ?
- 3) What do we learn about Jack ?
- 4) Two boys have names with biblical origins. Explain.



Lord of the Flies

Chapter II - Fire on the Mountain - (pp. 30-47)

- 1) What does Ralph blow the conch for ?
- 2) Why is an army required ?
- 3) What are the younger boys afraid of ?
- 4) What is the point of starting a fire ?
- 5) How does Jack organise looking after the fire ?
- 6) What do the boys use to start the fire ?
- 7) Why does Piggy tell the boys 'to act proper' (p. 45) ?
- 8) What does Piggy discover at the end of the chapter ?

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) What idea does it establish ?
- 2) What can you say about Ralph's and Jack's priorities ?
- 3) What idea does *Golding* introduce concerning the importance of the fire ?
- 4) What sad event happens, which foreshadows later tragedies in the novel ?

Jack and Ralph : compare the two boys

- 1) How well do they get on with each other ?
- 2) Which of the two boys is positive ? negative ?

The fire and Piggy

- 1) What are the two purposes of the fire ?
- 2) Why does Piggy support Ralph in this chapter ?
- 3) Find examples showing Piggy is different from the other boys.
- 4) How does Jack behave towards Piggy ?

The beast

Analyse the symbolism of the beast.



Lord of the Flies

Chapter III - Huts on the Beach - (pp. 48-59)

- 1) What does Jack try to do ? Is he successful ? Find relevant quotations.
- 2) What task has Ralph set for himself ? Is he successful ? Find relevant quotations.
- 3) How does Ralph react to Jack's obsession with with hunting ? Justify.

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) What are Ralph's two priorities ?
- 2) What do we learn about Simon ?



Lord of the Flies

Chapter IV - Painted Faces and Long Hair - (pp. 60-80)

- 1) How do Roger and Maurice behave towards the littluns who are playing on the beach ?
- 2) What does Jack do before hunting ?
- 3) What does Ralph see on the horizon ?
- 4) What does he discover about the fire ?
How does he feel about it ?
- 5) How does Jack react ?

Why is this chapter important ?

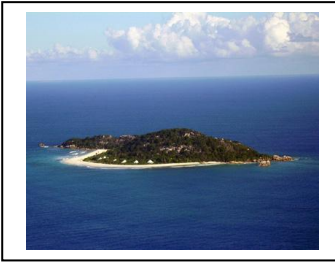
- 1) What aspect of Roger's personality comes to light in this chapter ?
- 2) What does the successful hunt foreshadow ?
- 3) What opportunity do the boys miss ?
- 4) What is emerging with the hunters' chant and re-enactment of the kill ?

Attitudes towards Piggy

- 1) Page 68. Pick out four words used to refer to Piggy and comment on them.
- 2) Why doesn't Piggy get some pig to eat ? Explain what happens.

The growing gap between Ralph and Jack

Analyse the two boys' priorities and the impact they have on their divergences.



Lord of the Flies

Chapter V - Beast from Water - (pp. 81-102)

- 1) List the rules that Ralph lays down for behaviour on the island.
- 2) What exactly frightens some of the boys ?
- 3) Pages 98-99. How does the relationship evolve between Ralph and Jack ? Quote a relevant passage.

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) Page 83. What important fact does Ralph admit about Piggy ?
- 2) Page 90. Piggy, thanks to his logical thinking and knowledge of science, voices a new idea in the novel. Explain.
- 3) Pages 95-96. What interpretation of the beast does Simon provide ?

Ralph as leader

- 1) What are his feelings concerning their rescue ?
- 2) How does he feel about his role as chief ?



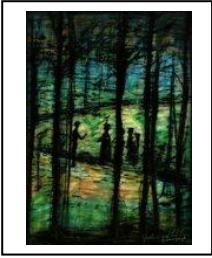
Lord of the Flies

Chapter VI - Beast from Air - (pp. 103-118)

- 1) Page 103. Explain : "There was a speck above the island, a figure dropping swiftly beneath a parachute, a figure that hung with dangling limbs."
- 2) As they tend the fire, how do Sam and Eric interpret the figure ?
- 3) Pages 110-111. Explain the opposition between Ralph and Jack.

Why is this chapter important ?

Analyse the role of the conch pp 110-111.



Lord of the Flies

Chapter VII - Shadows and Tall Trees - (pp. 119-135)

- 1) Page 119 (lines 12 to 20) + page 120 (lines 5 to 15): what strikes Ralph ?

- 2) Page 121. Analyse lines 17 - 24 - 33. What is Simon trying to do ?

- 3) What do you notice about the Ralph/Jack relationship ? Find two relevant quotes page 129 + page 132.

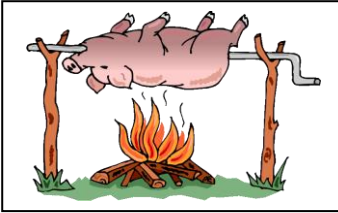
- 4) Page 135. 'Before them, something like a great ape was sitting asleep with its head between its knees.' Explain the boys' wrong interpretation.

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) How do you understand this sentence : "This was the divider, the barrier". (p. 121, line 8).

- 2) What purpose does the flashback (page 122, lines 9 to 32 + page 123, lines 1 to 16) serve ?

- 3) What are the two passages that show further evidence of the boys' decline and descent into savagery ?



Lord of the Flies

Chapter VIII - Gift for the Darkness - (pp. 136-159)

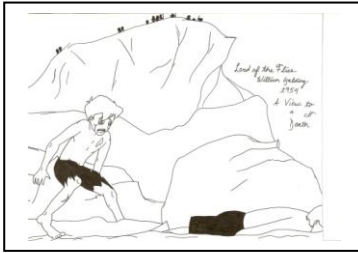
- 1) Analyse the relationship between Ralph and Jack.
- 2) What does Jack decide to do with his hunters ?
- 3) What do they do with the pig's head ?

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) Analyse the split of the boys into two groups.
- 2) Comment on Jack's style of leadership.
- 3) Discuss Simon's strange behaviour.

The lord of the flies

There are references in ancient history to a 'god of the flies' being worshipped by pagan civilisations. Although Jack has said they are going to forget about the beast, the pig's head is still left as a gift. This can be seen as symbolic since primitive man left offerings to pagan gods. Jack's tribe has thus descended into some form of paganism.



Lord of the Flies

Chapter IX - A View to Death - (pp. 160-170)

1) Simon discovers the truth about the beast. Explain and analyse the symbolism of 'a body on the hill' (p169).

2) What happens to Simon as he stumbles into the dancing circle ?

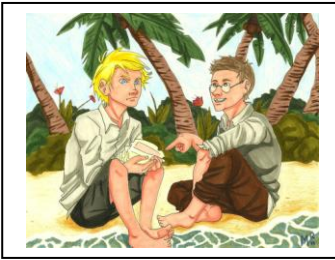
3) Find an example of pathetic fallacy in this chapter.

Why is this chapter important ?

1) Find a convenient plot device at the end of the chapter.

2) Images of light and dark are important throughout the novel but are particularly strong in this chapter. What do they represent ?

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Chapter X - The Shell and the Glasses - (pp. 171-186)

1) How do Piggy, Ralph, Sam and Eric feel about the events of the previous night ?

2) What are the noises the boys hear that night while sleeping in their shelters ?

3) How does Jack feel about his achievement ?

Quote a relevant sentence page 186.

4) Find an example that shows what kind of chief Jack is.

Draw a parallel with the historic context of the time when the novel was written.

Why is this chapter important ?

1) The aftermath of Simon's murder

The tone of this chapter is one of hopelessness and gloom among both the conch group and the savages of Castle Rock following Simon's murder. Interestingly, both groups, in one way or another, try to brush the incident aside by childish denials.

To which extent can these denials be regarded as a biblical allegory ?

2) The shell and glasses as symbols

a- What does the shell symbolise ?

b- What do the glasses symbolise ?



Lord of the Flies

Chapter XI - Castle Rock - (pp. 187-202)

1) Why can't Ralph light a fire ?

What does he decide to do, then ?

What happens as a result ?

2) What happens to Piggy ?

3) Why is Ralph left alone ?

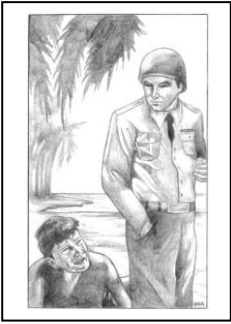
Why is this chapter important ?

1) Jack's and Ralph's behaviours are poles apart. Analyse them.

2) Analyse the symbolism of Piggy's death and of the shattering of the conch.

3) Does Piggy's death echo a previous one in the novel ? Explain.

4) Does Jack show any remorse when Piggy is killed ? Explain.



Lord of the Flies

Chapter XII - Cry of the Hunters - (pp. 203-225)

- 1) Why does Ralph go and speak to Sam and Eric ?
- 2) How do the hunters track Ralph ?
- 3) How is Ralph saved ?

Why is this chapter important ?

- 1) Page 212 : "What did it mean ? A stick sharpened at both ends."

As readers, we are given insight into events that the characters do not always have.

What is this called ? Explain.

- 2) Explain the irony linked to the fire in this chapter.