

Reading Project: Year 5

In our reading project we are going to discuss some of the most famous novels of English and American literature. All the novels in this project require careful reading beyond the plot level. For a full understanding you will have to read between the lines and find the symbolism and allusions of the texts. In order to see these hidden beauties always read with a pencil in your hand and mark any interesting or odd passages in the margin. Discuss your selections in your readers' conferences.

Step 1: Choosing a novel

Visit Amazon.com in the internet and find the five books in our project. Read the brief plot summaries and some readers' comments, then choose the novel that interests you most. You need not order them at Amazon. All of the books are available in Graz.

The Books:

John Steinbeck, *The Pearl*
 George Orwell, *Animal Farm*
 Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*
 William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*
 J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*
 Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

Step 2: Getting Started: (Reading Diary)

Read the first chapter of your novel and write a 10-minute entry in your reading diary. Please take your reading diary very seriously. Go beyond the plot level and write about all your thoughts, associations, questions... (Check your handout "What is a reading diary?" for further instructions.) Write a second entry into your reading diary after you have read the first half of your novel, and a third one after finishing.

Your reading diary and your marginal notes in the book will be used as a basis for discussion in your readers' conferences. These notes will also help you remember your reflections later (for Matura preparation for example).

Step 3: Readers' Conferences and Workshop tasks

1. Work in your group and share your reflections and questions. Read each other's diaries and try to answer each other's questions. Ask your teacher for help in case of disagreements or open problems.
2. In each readers' conference choose 10 vocab. items that you would like to remember and write them into your vocab book. → LP book
3. Do the workshop tasks carefully and collect all the tasks in a folder.

Step 4: Preparing the Presentation

Choose one or two of the presentation tasks (see separate handout). Distribute the work load evenly among the group members and design an interesting, well-rounded group presentation. Copy your contribution for all the group members + one for your teacher.

Step 5: Presentations

Groups present their novels.

Peer-evaluation and feedback of the presentations + Assessment and feedback from teacher

Step 6: Project Folder

Organize your project folder and hand it in for final assessment. Hand in your reading diary.

Book Presentation

For our final presentations of the reading project choose one of the following tasks. Each student in your group must do a different task. Discuss which of the tasks are most meaningful in connection with your novel. Choose tasks that complement each other so that the class gets a full picture of the main themes, symbolism, background and style of your novel.

- Short biography of the author
- Present an alternative book cover and blurb (and print out all the covers and blurbs available at Amazon.com). Discuss the symbolism of these covers.
- • Character portraits of the main characters. (You might want to use the *character profiles* handout. Adding a picture will make your portraits even more realistic.)
- Present the historical and cultural background of your novel. (Use visual aids)
- Write a newspaper article reporting an important incident in your novel.
- Write a poem or song-lyrics that might be used in a film or radio-play of your book.
- Act out a scene of your choice.
- Prepare a "bubble sheet" (A3 poster) where you collect important quotes from your book.
- Identity bags: Bring a bag full of objects that are somehow important to the main character of your book. Show them and explain their relevance.
- Design a board game or quiz to be played in class.
- Choose your favorite scene and imagine how it would be shown in a film. Draw a film storyboard.
- Write a summary of the book (see handout *Literature summary*)
- Find a painting or other work of art that deals with one of the main themes in your book. (Choose a painting that reflects the symbolic and metaphorical level of your book, rather than a painting that shows the setting of your story.)
- Road signs: Identify a few symbolic items in your book and draw them like "road signs". Consider the shapes and colors of road signs and make use of their symbolism. Explain the meaning of the symbol on the back of your sign (50 – 100 words).
- Alternative idea: If you have an idea of your own contact your teacher about it.

Additional ideas for the readers of *Animal Farm* and *Brave New World*

- Present the basic principals of propaganda and advertising (use visual aids)
- Give a propaganda speech about any topic of your choice. Then explain the methods you have used.
- Present to pros and cons of genetic engineering (use visual aids)

Lord of the Flies

By William Golding

1. Character Study

Lord of the Flies contains numerous characters, all of which are young boys. The most important characters in the novel are listed below. Work in your group and collect as much as you can about the main characters in the novel. Divide the work in your group, then share your findings.

Collect details about the following points:

- The character's appearance
- The character's life before arriving on the island
- What the character thinks about being on the island
- The character's actions in the novel, significant events
- The character's relationships with others on the island
- Anything else you find interesting about the character and predictions about what might happen to him in the rest of the novel
- What aspects of human behavior does the character represent
- Include one or two typical quotations from each character to support your points.

Ralph



fair hair, his dad taught him how to swim when he was five, his father is a commander in the Navy, he believes that his dad will rescue them and it is really important to him that the fire keeps burning because otherwise they can't be rescued, he becomes the leader by a democratic election and immediately established rules for the life on the island, he has problems with Jack who wouldn't really accept his leadership, he is glad that Piggy helps

him some times though he doesn't show it, Ralph represents the idea of democracy (the conch, election)

p. 82 "I'm calling an assembly."

p. 154 "Can't they see? Can't they understand? Without the smoke signal we'll die here! Look at that!"

Jack



red hair, athletic, he's in the choir, he is the "leader" of the choir, he also wants to become the leader of the group but he doesn't want to take that much responsibility (building huts, keeping the fire burning) he wants to have fun, go hunting, he doesn't like Ralph, Piggy and Simon, after some time he doesn't want to be told what to do by Ralph so he forms his own group, the "hunters", he doesn't want to

admit that he needs Ralph's help (he needs fire but doesn't ask for it, instead he steals Piggy's specs), Jack becomes more and more cruel and wants to be the only leader, in the end he accepts no more resistance and hunts Ralph down, he represents an authoritarian rule with no resistance allowed, he was chapel chorister and head boy, he can sing

p. 46 "You shut up!"

p. 59 "But we want meat!"

Sharp

Piggy



doesn't want to be on the island, gives advice to Ralph, his spectacles help to make fire, he is an outsider, isn't being respected by the others, Jack doesn't like him, he has good ideas, before arriving on the island he was also an outsider, he doesn't like being called Piggy, he trusts in Ralph, believes that he will rescue them from the island, he is reasonable, he is fat, he has asthma, his father is dead, he used to live with his auntie, Piggy believes in the "power of the conch", it is really important to him that the person who has the conch is respected by the others, he wears specs
p. 8 "I can't swim. I wasn't allowed. My asthma -" since he was three
p. 40 "My specs!" howled Piggy. "Give me my specs!"

Piggy represents reason and intelligence

Simon



a skinny, virid little boy, black and coarse hair, he faints when arriving on the island, at first the others think that he is the beast because he got up in the night and went somewhere on the island, he believes that the beast might be some sort of ghost, he wants Ralph to stay chief, he believes that Ralph will be saved from the island, later he discovers who the "beast" really is but he doesn't have a chance to tell the others because he is taken for the beast and killed, Simon is somehow the wise martyr
p. 102 "Go on being chief." (To Ralph)

Roger



a slight, furtive boy whom no one knew, he kept to himself with an inner intensity of avoidance and secrecy, Roger joins the hunters, he is brutal and emotionless, he fulfills any orders Jack gives him, often without knowing why, but he doesn't care, he kills Piggy when he wants his specs back
p. 176 "He's going to beat Wilfred." - "What for?" - "I don't know. He didn't say. He got angry and made us tie Wilfred up. He's been" - he giggled excitedly - "he's been tied for hours, waiting -"

Sam and Eric



Sam and Eric, also Samneric, are twins, do everything together, even end each other's sentences, they do what they are told and follow the strongest leader (in the beginning Ralph, then Jack), they do not really have an opinion of their own, they accept many ideas, they think that the dead parachutist is the beast, in the ending they tell Jack where Ralph was planning to hide, they represent the average human being who follows the 'strongest leader', bullet-headed, with hair like tow
p. 108 "Ralph, wake up!"
"What's the matter?"
"We saw -"
"- the beast -"
"- plain!"

2. Describing characters and their feelings: Showing versus telling

See how the author shows the character's feelings rather than telling us they felt angry, worried etc. Record some of the feelings shown by the main characters in the novel. Choose 10 examples.

Page and §	Feelings:	Description (telling phrases)	Character(s) Involved
p. 9	pride	with a touch of pride, blinking and smiling	Piggy, Ralph
p. 9	worry	an expression of pain and inward concentration about the pale contours of his face	Piggy
p. 23	embarrassment	he went pink, bowed his head and cleaned his glasses again	Piggy, (the other boys)
p. 24/25	shame	the freckles on his face disappeared under a blush of mortification	Jack, Ralph, (the other boys)
p. 27	anger	the rose of indignation faded slowly from his cheeks	Piggy
p. 107	fear	they became motionless, gripped each other's arms, four unwinking eyes aimed and two mouths open	Sam and Eric
p. 107	fear	they scrambled away over the rocks and fled	Sam and Eric
p. 111	anger	Jack's face went so white that his freckles showed as clean, brown flecks. He licked his lips and remained standing.	Jack
p. 112	nervousness	Piggy held his breath	Piggy
p. 145	happiness	the twins come, dragging a great log and grinning in their triumph	the twins

3. The Plot

Draw a plot diagram (plot mountain) that shows the development of the crisis on the island. Use an A4 sheet, landscape format for this task. → separate sheet

4. The Setting

✓ Draw a map of the island. Mark the most important places and note the page numbers where you found the relevant information. Use an A4 sheet, landscape format for your map.

→ Separate sheet

✓ Reread the descriptions of the landscape carefully and collect a sheet full of descriptive phrases used by the author. Then use different colors to sort your phrases into the following categories: → LP book

Phrases that appeal to the

- sense of smell
- taste
- touch
- hearing
- seeing

✓ Then discuss the significance of the following places and take notes.

Significance of setting overall: island is rich of fruits and pigs so there is enough food to survive, there is also enough wood to light a fire and built huts

Platform is important because it is the meeting place where many important decisions are made and news are reported

Scar is long and safe, the huts and the platform is there so it's something like home on the island

Mountain the fire is on the mountain and you can look over the whole island from it

Castle rock Jack chooses it as the place for the hunters to stay at, Piggy is killed at Castle rock

The beach the huts are built on the beach, it stands for safety and home, at the end of the book they are all rescued on the beach

5. Themes

William Golding presented numerous themes and basic ideas that give the reader something to think about. One of the most basic and obvious themes is that society holds everyone together, and without these conditions, our ideals, values, and the basics of right and wrong are lost. Without society's rigid rules, anarchy and savagery can come to light. Golding is also showing that morals come directly from our surroundings, and if there is no civilization around us, we will lose these values.

Other themes of the novel include:

- Civilisation/Savagery p. 39 / p. 69
- Democracy & Order p. 24
- Leadership and the abuse of power p. 176
- Good versus evil p. 195
- Survival p. 59
- Outsiders p. 23
- Fear p. 107
- Violence p. 200, p. 126
- Adults p. 14, p. 103

Choose three of the above themes and find relevant passages that show how the author deals with the theme. Write relevant page numbers next to the themes above. Write a well structured paragraph about each of the three themes of your choice. Divide the themes in your group so that you cover as many as possible.

Civilisation and Rules: Who or what rules your life?

Think about who or what rules and governs your life and how this affects you.

1. First, list three of society's laws or rules that directly affect you as an individual.
2. Complete the table to show who created each of these rules, who enforces them and how they enforce them. What are the advantages and the disadvantages of each of these rules?

	Rule One	Rule Two	Rule Three
Rule	You have to go to school	You have to keep your room tidy	You have to help in the household
Who created it?	gouvernement	my parents	my parents
Who enforces it?	my parents	my parents	my parents
How is it enforced?	they make me go there	no TV if I don't tidy it up	they wouldn't do anything for me if I didn't help
Advantages	I can learn many necessary things	my room is tidy	they also do me a favour if I help
Disadvantages	I don't have that much free time	it takes a lot of time to clean up	it is a lot of work and I don't like doing it

6. Symbolism in *Lord of the Flies*

Symbolism plays an important part in the development of the story. This narrative technique is used to give a significance to certain people or objects, which represent some other figure. The following table lists many of the examples of symbolism used throughout Golding's book. Discuss in your group what each of the objects or characters might represent.

Object/Character	Represents
Piggy (and Glasses)	intelligence, civilization
Ralph, The Conch	reason, democracy
Simon	truth, knowledge
Roger	insecurity, hidden by cruelty, violence
Jack	cruelty, authoritarian leadership
The Island	paradise
The "Scar"	home, safety
The masks and war paint	no more morality, savagery
Lord of the Flies	the evil
The Beast	See details next page

There are many other aspects in the story that may be considered symbolic, but the several above are probably the most significant. Another good example of symbolism is the shape of the island. The boat shape of the island is an ancient symbol of civilization. The water current around the island seems to be "flowing backwards," giving the subtle impression that civilization may be going backwards for the island or its inhabitants.

Lord of the Flies

The Beast

Although many of the boys on the island believe in the existence of 'the beast' it is not a real creature that can be hunted and killed. Rather, it comes to represent some of the boys' darkest fears and desires.

Look at the passage below which is taken from Chapter Two when the boys first talk about the beast and then answer the questions.

'He wants to know what you're going to do about the snake-thing.'

Ralph laughed, and the other boys laughed with him. The small boy twisted further into himself.

'Tell us about the snake-thing.'

'Now he says it was a beastie.'

'Beastie?'

'A snake-thing. Ever so big. He saw it.'

'Where?'

'In the woods.'

Either the wandering breezes or perhaps the decline of the sun allowed a little coolness to lie under the trees. The boys felt it and stirred restlessly.

'You couldn't have a beastie, a snake-thing, on an island this size,' Ralph explained kindly.

'You only get them in big countries, like Africa, or India.'

Murmur; and the grave nodding of heads.

'He says the beastie came in the dark.'

'Then he couldn't see it!'

Laughter and cheers.

'Did you hear that? Says he saw the thing in the dark-'

'He still says he saw the beastie. It came and went away again an' came back and wanted to eat him-'

'He was dreaming.'

Laughing, Ralph looked for confirmation round the ring of faces. The older boys agreed; but here and there among the little ones was the dubiety that required more than rational assurance.

'He must have had a nightmare. Stumbling about among all those creepers.'

More grave nodding; they knew about nightmares.

'He says he saw the beastie, the snake-thing, and will it come back to-night?'

'But there isn't a beastie!'

There was no laughter at all now and more grave watching. Ralph pushed both hands through his hair and looked at the little boy in mixed amusement and exasperation.

Jack seized the conch.

'Ralph's right of course. There isn't a snake-thing. But if there was a snake we'd hunt it and kill it. We're going to hunt pigs and get meat for everybody. And we'll look for the snake too-'

'But there isn't a snake!'

'We'll make sure when we go hunting.'

Ralph was annoyed and, for the moment, defeated. He felt himself facing something ungraspable.

The eyes that looked so intently at him were without humour.

'But there isn't a beast!'

Something he had not known was there rose in him and compelled him to make the point, loudly and again.

'But I tell you there isn't a beast!'

The assembly was silent.

→ separate sheet

1. Describe the boy who first mentions the 'beastie'. What happens to him at the end of Chapter Two?
2. The beast is first described as a 'snake-thing' – what do you think is the significance of this? Where else do images of snakes appear in the novel?
3. Why does the boy think he has seen a 'beastie'?
4. How do the following characters react to the boy's revelation about the 'beastie' and what does this tell us about them?
 - Ralph
 - Jack
 - the other older boys
 - the other younger boys
5. What ideas does each character have about what the beast is during the story? What or who is mistaken for the beast at different stages in the novel?
6. Now trace how the idea of the beast develops through the whole novel by copying out and filling in a chart like the one below. You will need to re-read the following pages of your book: (Faber edition, 1958) You might have to find the right pages in your edition.
 - Chapter 2 34-6, 47
 - Chapter 3 52-3
 - Chapter 5 88-92, 94-99
 - Chapter 6 106-109, 112, 115-118
 - Chapter 7 127, 133
 - Chapter 8 151-2, 158
 - Chapter 9 161, 168-70
 - Chapter 12 206

Page Number	Who mentions the beast?	What is said about the beast? (Include quotes)	What is the importance of the beast at this point in the novel?

→ separate sheet

7. Writing tasks:

7.1: Summary Writing:

Follow the instructions on the summary writing sheet and write a short summary (3-5 paragraphs) of the novel. → *seperate sheet*

7.2: Literature Essay or Creative Writing task

Choose one of the following tasks. If you choose an essay task follow our guidelines for 5§ essays. First brainstorm your ideas, then formulate a clear thesis statement for your essay. Support your thesis in the following paragraphs and give examples from the novel.

Essay tasks:

a) Write an essay about the importance of the beast in *Lord of the Flies*. You will need to consider:

- How the different characters react to the idea of the beast
- How ideas about what the beast might be change during the novel
- What you think the beast represents

b) How much do you think Ralph is to blame for what goes wrong on the island? Write about:

- the ideas Ralph has about life on the island at the start of the novel
- the decisions Ralph makes
- how the writer presents the character of Ralph
- other reasons for things going wrong. → *seperate sheet*

c) Although the reader's sympathies are usually with Ralph, many of the boys decide to follow Jack.

- Explain what you think are the differences in what Jack and Ralph stand for and in how they behave in the novel.
- Why do the boys follow Jack?
- Can you see any similar effects and developments in our society? Do you know any politicians who behave like Ralph or Jack?
- Explain what went wrong on the island and why. What is Golding saying about how societies operate.

Creative Writing tasks:

d) **Piggy's Diary:** If Piggy had had paper and a pen he would certainly have written a diary. Choose an interesting moment in the novel and write an entry into Piggy's diary. (Write about one page, typed)

e) **Island Code of Conduct:** If all the boys had followed certain rules of conduct the situation would not have got out of hand on the island. Imagine Ralph and Piggy had had time and the necessary equipment to write the 10 commandments or rules of conduct for the group of boys. Formulate the rules carefully and give reasons so that the other kids would understand the purpose of the rules and stick to them more willingly. Design a nice flyer that each of the boys would get to sign. Don't forget to write an introduction (a preamble).

WRITING A SUMMARY (Literature)

Heading	SUMMARY <u>Animal Farm</u> (by) George Orwell
Paragraph 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• setting (where / when)• main characters (very few details)• distinguishing features? (eg genre, narrative technique et
Paragraph 2	one sentence summary of the whole work
Paragraphs 3-5 (approx.)	summary of plot (expanding the one sentence summary)

Vocabulary for summary writing

a / the work	author	plot
novel	poet	narrator
story	playwright	character
poem		
play	set eg <i>The novel is set in Victorian London.</i>	
title		
chapter		
stanza		

Do's and don'ts for summary writing

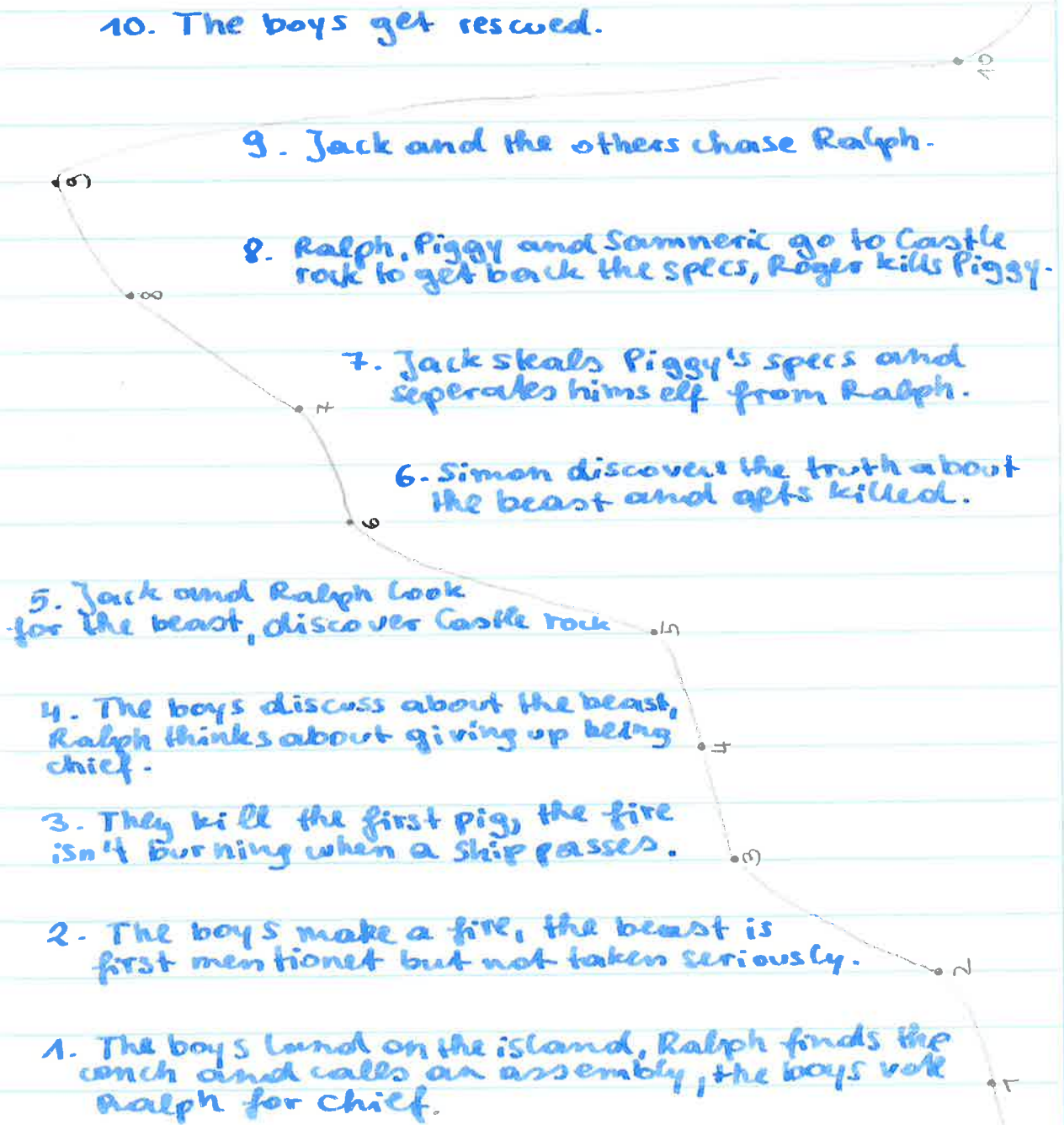
Do
underline the title of a novel
use the present tense
only include the most necessary information
keep to the number of words asked for

Don't
include examples and other unnecessary details (eg descriptions)
quote from the work
include any evaluation (eg your opinion)

3. The Plot

Lord of the Flies

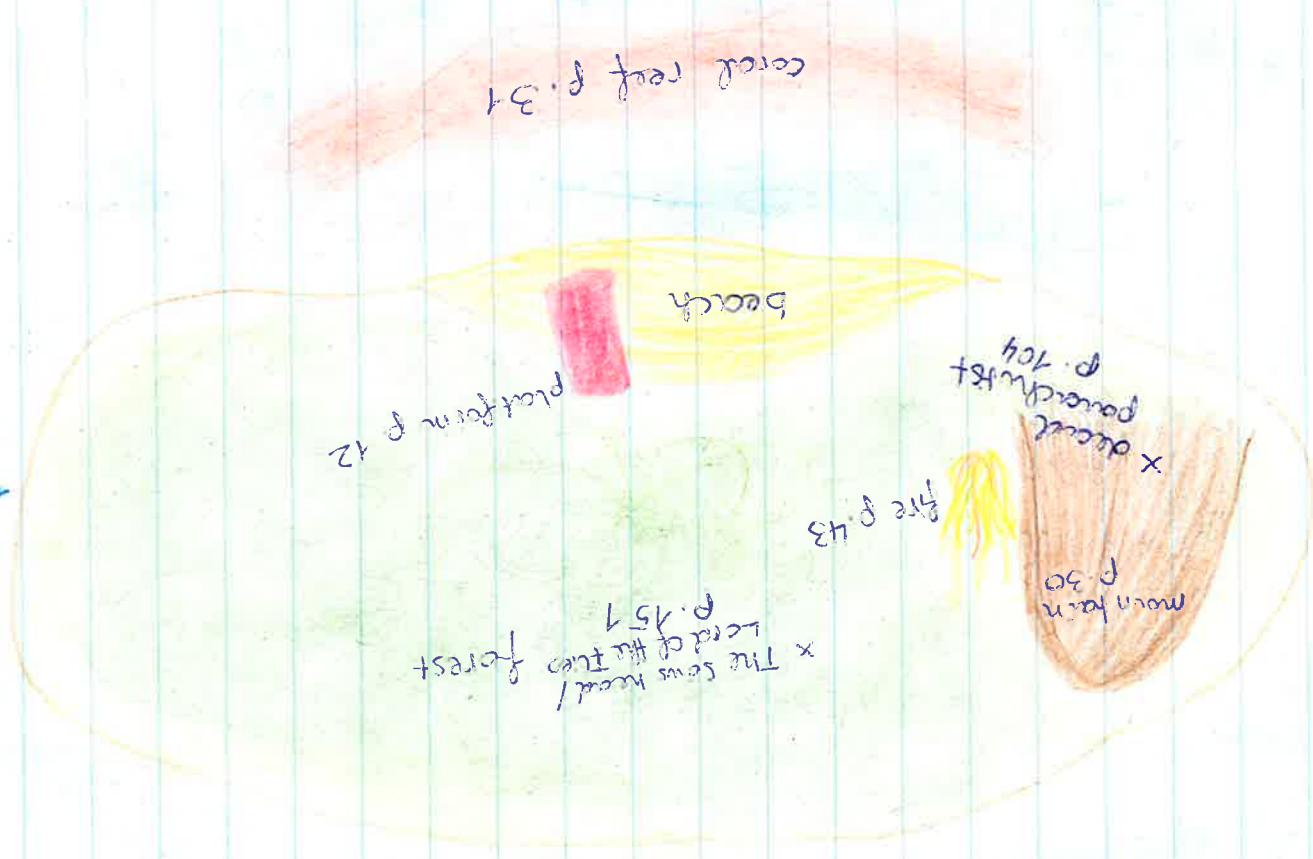
PLOT DIAGRAM



4. The Setting

Map of the Island

coral rock p. 31



5. THEMES

Paragraphs:

Democracy and Order

Democracy and order are very important in a society. Though it isn't always respected, it is necessary to have the possibility to say what you think and to have rules which are being obeyed. In "Lord of the Flies" these ideals are represented by Ralph who is voted chief in a democratic election. He immediately tries to achieve order by the organization of the group and setting up rules. The conch he found is also a symbol for the freedom of expression. Though Jack takes over being chief from Ralph the way he tries to keep up order wouldn't have worked for very long, because sooner or later the boys would have realized how important it is to be able to say what you think.

Outsiders

In every society there are outsiders. Even in the group of schoolboys from "Lord of the Flies" where actually everybody should be equal, Piggy is immediately excluded because of his outer appearance. He is a pale, fat and small boy and due to these reasons he isn't respected by the others. Though he is also very intelligent and without his specs they wouldn't have been able to make fire the others keep teasing him. Piggy has always been an outsider, even before he came to the island, but he isn't able to defend himself and that Ralph, whom he trusted tells the others his nickname doesn't exactly reassure him. For outsiders it is really difficult to find their way back into the society and also Piggy never manages it.

Fear

Fear has a different meaning for everybody. Sometimes we are afraid of something dangerous or something unpleasant. But what most people are scared of, is the unknown. Not knowing what is going to happen or what is happening somewhere "out there" can really make you uneasy. In "Lord of the Flies" the fear is shown through a beast, which doesn't even exist, but symbolizes the unknown. At first the boys don't bother that much about it but then the fear gets bigger and bigger and eventually it is so huge that they decide to find and kill the non-existent beast instead of finding out what it actually is. This blind, fearful reaction leads to another horrible incident, the killing of Simon who they mistake for the beast. This shows how important it is to deal with your fear until it gets too big and you can't handle it any more.

Lord of the Flies: The Beast questions

1. He is a shrimp of a boy, about six years old, and one side of his face was blotted out by a mulberry-coloured birthmark. At the end of chapter two the boy gets lost because of the fire they made to be rescued.
2. I think the beast is described as a Snake-thing because the snake symbolizes the collapse of paradise because also in the Bible the snake makes Adam and Eve leave paradise.
3. The boy thinks he has seen a beast because he is terrified because they are alone on the island and so he doesn't realize what the beast is really like because of his negative attitude.
4. Ralph: He doesn't believe that there is a beast, and he also tells the others that they don't have to be afraid; This tells us that he has reason and tries to think logically;
Jack: He immediately wants to go hunting and kill it; This tells us that he doesn't think about something reasonable;
The other older boys: don't believe it; they also try to think logically
The other younger boys: they are scared; they believe it because they were scared anyway

5. Trough the story many different things and persons are mistaken for the beast, like a liana, Simon and in the end the dead parachutist

The Beast

N.6

Lord of the Flies

Page Number	Who mentions the beast?	What is said about the beast?	What is the importance of the beast at this stage of the novel?
p. 39-42	little boy	it is a "snake thing" in the woods	not so important yet
p. 51	little boys	"Snakes! Snakes! Look at the snakes!"	not so important
p. 56-57	Simon	some boys think it might be real, they talk about it	they don't (want to) talk about it
p. 89-101	Ralph	Ralph tries to make sure they don't believe in the beast. Simon is mistaken for the beast, they wonder about where the beast lives, what it eats, → it might also be a ghost	many boys are scared of it
p. 108-111	Samneric	the beast has claws, eyes and teeth	the dead parachutist is mistaken for the beast
p. 112	Jack	they want to hunt it	very important
p. 121-136	Jack	Ralph and Jack find dead parachutist but mistake him for the beast	very important
p. 137	Ralph	"The beast had teeth and big black eyes." "The beast is a hunter."	very important
p. 147	Jack	don't think about it any more	they want to give the beast some meat
p. 167-169	Jack	"Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!" dance	very important

SUMMARY

Lord of the Flies

by William Golding

“Lord of the Flies” is written in the style of a classical adventure novel. It is set on an island somewhere in the Pacific. The main characters are Ralph, Jack, Piggy and Simon. All four of them are schoolboys and ten to twelve years old.

In the story a group of schoolboys shipwrecks on an uninhabited island and because there aren't any adults, they have to manage surviving themselves.

In the very beginning Ralph finds a conch on the beach and uses it to call the other boys for an assembly. They decide to vote for a chief who organizes and leads them, Ralph and Jack, leader of the choir, are both candidates for it – Ralph wins the election, supported by Piggy and Simon.

Ralph immediately orders that a fire should be made so that they can be rescued if the smoke is seen. He also starts to build huts on the beach for the night and makes Jack the leader of the “hunters”, a group of boys responsible for the organization of meat.

At first everything goes well but then someone claims to have seen a “beast” and especially the younger boys are really scared of it. Ralph tries to reassure them that there isn't any beast, but they don't believe him and the mystery of the great “beast” remains unsolved.

After some time Jack and the hunters separate from the group and encourage the other boys to follow them too by giving a “party” on the beach where something terrible happens, because the boys are no longer just normal schoolboys – they've become real hunters...

ESSAY TASK: b)

How much Ralph is to blame for what goes wrong on the island

I think that Ralph is partly to blame for what goes wrong on the island, but not totally.

In the beginning the whole group is, thanks to Ralph, still very organized but then everything got out of control.

Ralph was voted to be chief by a democratic election. This is of course good, but I think that the other boys shouldn't have voted him just because he had got the conch, and this was for most boys the reason that they voted for Ralph. In my opinion Ralph should have given the boys another reason to vote for him, something that could not be that easily destroyed like the conch.

Still, I think that Ralph hasn't made many wrong decisions, because everything he ordered to be done was necessary like the fire or the huts on the beach. Maybe it was a mistake to make Jack the leader of the hunters, but there wasn't much of a choice because who knows how Jack might have reacted if Ralph wouldn't have him allowed to command at least a small group of boys. It is possible that he might have separated himself from the group much earlier.

The biggest problem for Ralph was the mystery of the beast because though he knew that it didn't exist, he didn't manage to reassure the other boys of this and so for them the option Jack offered, to search and defeat the beast, seemed much more inviting.

Jack told the boys what they wanted to hear, Ralph told them what they had to hear and this wasn't always easy but necessary because there had to be someone who acted reasonable and didn't just do things for fun.

Of course Ralph made the mistake to run away from the "beast" when he looked for it, though he would have needed to do was taking a closer look and the mystery would have been solved. On the other hand even for intelligent people it is difficult to act reasonable when they are scared.

I think that there isn't that much you can blame Ralph for, because he did his best to convince the other boys of his ideology, but it just wasn't enough.

How much Rajan is an obvious fact that goes beyond the factual
 I think that Rajan is clearly to blame for what happened on the island but not
 totally.
 In the beginning the whole group of people on Rajan's boat was surprised but then
 everything got out of control.
 Rajan was voted to be captain but he didn't do a good job. This is of course good, but I
 think that the other boys should have voted him not because he was a good
 coach, and this was for most boys because they were voted for Rajan, many
 opinion that he should have given the boys another reason to vote for him something
 that could not be that easily replaced by the coach.
 Still, I think that Rajan has a great mind, which is why he was elected captain. It
 seemed to be done very easily, like the rest of the boys on the boat. Maybe it
 was a mistake to make Jack the leader of the boat, but there wasn't much of a
 choice because who knew how Jack might have reacted? Rajan wouldn't have been
 allowed to command at least a small group of boys. It is possible that he might have
 separated himself from the group and not bother.
 The biggest problem for Rajan was the mystery of the other people, though he knew
 that it didn't exist, he still wanted to know what was going on. It was so for
 them the option was obvious, to search and find out the truth, which much more
 inviting.
 Jack told the boys what he wanted to do, which was to find out what they had in their
 and this wasn't always easy because he was not the captain when
 voted responsible and didn't have the power for that.
 Of course Rajan made the mistake to vote for the "ghost" who was looking for
 it, though he would have preferred to be voted for a ghost and the mystery
 would have been solved. On the other hand, for the other people it is difficult
 to get responsible when they are scared.
 I think that there isn't one clear right or wrong but because he did the best to
 convince the other boys in his speech, but it just wasn't enough.

Lord of the Flies – Characters



Ralph

- twelve years old, blond hair
- very charismatic
- is chosen to be the leader by a vote
- organizes and sets up rules
- tries to act reasonable
- looks at things from a logical point of view
- (keep the fire burning, doesn't believe in the "beast")



Jack

- about Ralph's age, red hair, freckled face
- leader of the choir group, hunters
- doesn't respect the rules, wants to be leader
- tells boys what they want to hear
- takes over being chief from Ralph



Piggy

- small fat boy, can't see without his specs (glasses)
- he has asthma
- very intelligent, outsider
- the conch is very important to him
- his specs are used to make fire
- he supports Ralph as chief



Simon

- a skinny, vivid little boy
- believes that they will be rescued from the island
- he is mistaken for the beast
- likes to be alone, but also helps when he is needed
- he discovers the truth about the "beast"



Roger

- has no mercy
- likes to torture a pig and the other boys
- is the most loyal follower of Jack
- immediately carries out his orders
- he is the first one to intentionally kills someone



Sam and Eric

- two small twins
- always stay together, "Samneric"
- at first stay with Ralph but later decide to join Jack