

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.
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.

100%

Excellent Work, the
 all your work is
 to the point,
 meaningful and
 you've used excellent
 language
 I really
 like
 your
 traffic sign
 and
 their
 symbols

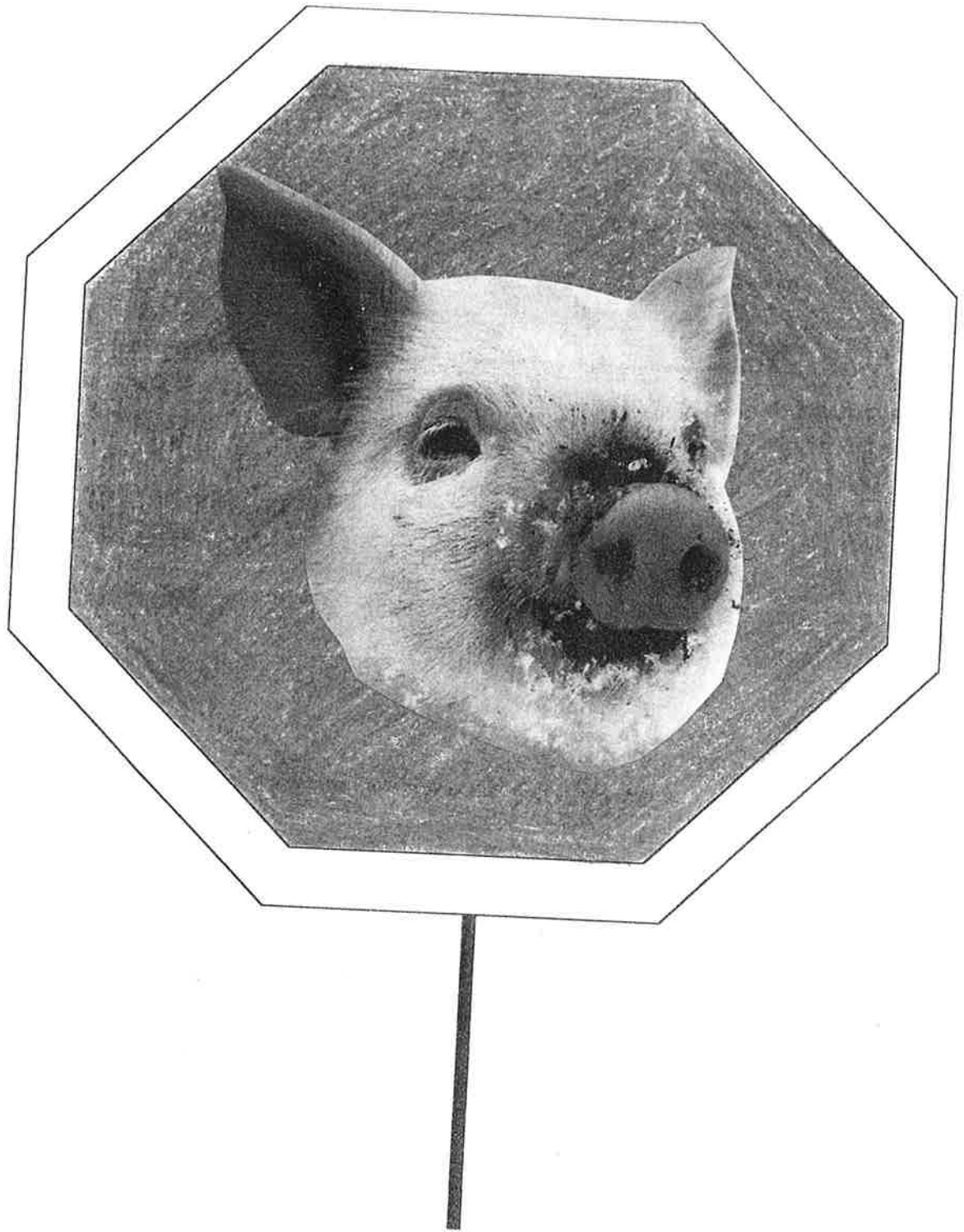
Book Presentation

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 propoganda and advertising (use visual aids)
- Give a propoganda 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)

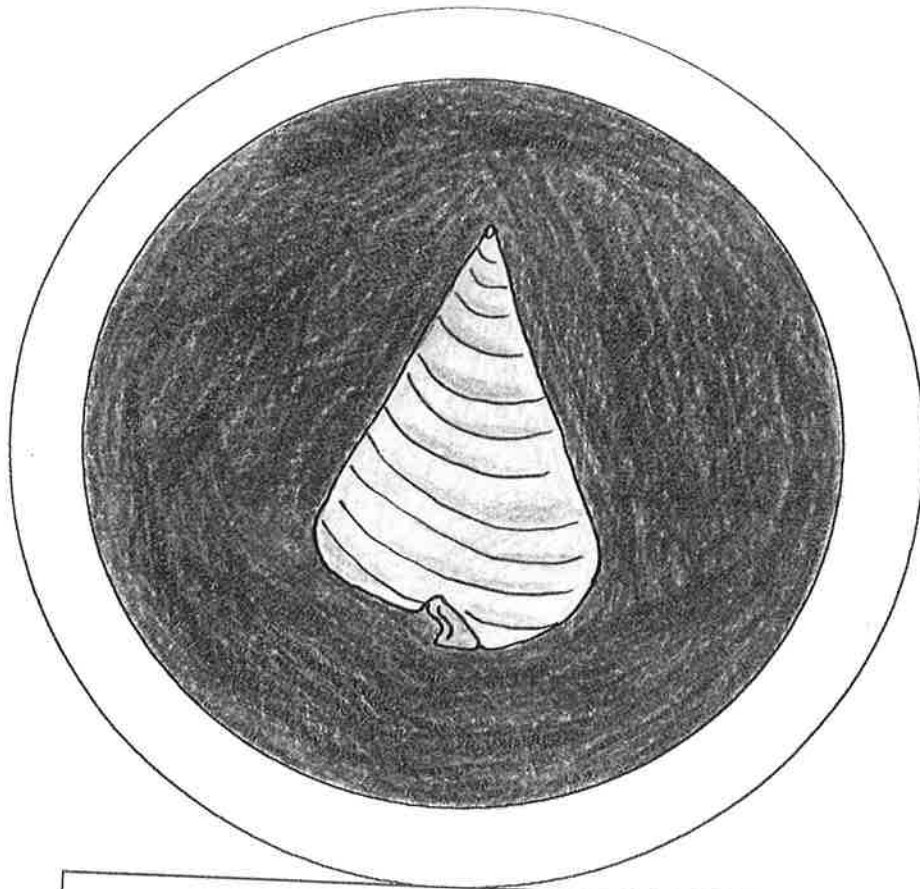


In the novel, the Lord of the flies is a pig's head on a sharpened, wooden stick. It symbolizes decay, destruction, demoralization and panic and hysteria. All of what the boys experience due to the loss of society's rigid rules and laws. They turn barbaric and savage. Lord of the flies is originally a mistranslation of the Jewish word Beelzebub, which means devil.



The war paint serves the group of savage and barbaric boys as a shelter. They hide behind the paint and shield them against any feelings such as embarrassment. The paint on their faces allows them to do things, they would never have been able to do without it or the comfort of anonymity the night gives them.

excellent!
Tiny ever: ∇ the sign is



Except for Piggy

The conch acts as a symbol of power and order. It gives the one holding it the right to speak freely and without interruption. Whenever the conch is blown, the boys have to meet on the platform and an assembly is held. Ralph found the conch in the water, shortly after their arrival on the uncivilized island. He used it to give the other boys a signal, so that they would come to the platform. The conch, with its enormous sound is the main reason, why Ralph was chosen to be the chief and lead the group.

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, blond hair, medium height, quite slim
- His father is in the Navy, he is a bit patriotic, ^{num away / dead, clamped} lived in a cottage (transport)
- He doesn't want to stay on the island and always looks for ways to escape, he is scared
- He is the leader, invented the idea of what the conch represents
- Ralph believes that the most important thing is to keep the fire burning, he had to escape from the other boys in the end and hide in the woods

- He is the only one who trusts Piggy, Jack is his rival, he calls assemblies and thinks everyone should get a say, in the end the other boys disagree with his what his aims are
- He is rational and tries to find logical solutions to the problems he faces, he is a natural leader

Jack



- taller than Ralph, thin and bony, his face is crumpled and freckled-uply without silliness, blue eyes
- He was the leader of the choir
- He sees it as an adventure and chance to prove himself
- He kills the pig, sets up his own group at Castle Rock, he is the first one to paint his face
- He has his group of hunters, who respect him as a leader, he doesn't like Piggy and Ralph, who is his rival, he ignores the girls
- Jack is savage, he sees the whole thing as a survival adventure, he is a very impulsive character

Piggy



- He is shorter than Ralph and very fat, wears glasses
- Piggy lived with his Auntie on the countryside, dad is dead, mother? not allowed to do sports on account of his asthma
- He tries to stay calm, but he doesn't enjoy this adventurous life
- His glasses light the fire, he dies
- Piggy is not really accepted by the others, but they need him or at least his glasses for the fire, he is kind of the outcast of the group
- He thinks very logical and tries to explain everything very

rational, he plans everything and does not act according to his instinct
Piggy is the only character you could call intellectual, but he is not integrated or accepted by the others, even if he holds the conch they dare to interrupt him and ignore what he says, he accompanies Ralph most of the time and Ralph gives him confidence and protects him of the aggressions of the other boys

Simon



- Blond, smaller than Ralph
- Simon does not really enjoy being on the island, but it is not that tragic for him, he is also a bit afraid, but does not really believe in a Beast
- He discovers the true identity of the Beast, hears the imaginary voice of the Lord of the Flies and dies when he comes to tell the other boys about the "Beast"
- Simon is very shy, he does not want to talk before the others, he is the earnest, good character in the novel, the others see him as a kind of

Roger



- Black hair, smaller than Jack
- He sees the whole thing as an adventure and a good chance to prove himself and his survival qualities
- He kills Piggy
- Roger spends his time with Jack, he likes to tease the littluns and throws stones at them, he dislikes Ralph and especially Piggy
- He is the aggressive one, who likes to see others scared or frightened
He is brutal and violent

Sam and Eric



- small, chunky and vital (identical twins)
- have been in the choir
- they like the adventure, but do not realize what it means to be isolated from every civilisation
- they are forced to join the savages at Castle Rock, they are being tortured to tell Jack where Ralph is hiding
- Sam and Eric are the only littluns who take part in more mature discussions and have a say, they believe in Ralph as their leader
- The twins trust Ralph and everything he says, whether it is wrong or right, they are very easy to influence or to convince of something, as they do not have their own opinion

Quotes

Ralph: "Listen, everybody. I've got to have time to think things out. I can't decide what to do straight off. If this isn't an island we might get rescued straight away. So we got to decide if this is an island. Everybody must stay round here and wait and not go away."

Jack: "For hunting, like in the war. You know - dazzle paint. Like things trying to look like something else - like moths on a tree trunk."
"He's like Pippy. He says things like Pippy. He isn't a proper chief."

Pippy: "We could experiment. We could find out how to make a small hot fire and then put green branches on to make smoke. Some of them leaves must be better for that than the others."

Simon: However Simon thought of the Beast, there rose before his inward sight the picture of human at once heroic and sick.

Other people could stand up and speak to an assembly, apparently without that dreadful feeling of the pressure of personality.

Roper: What the twins say about him: "You don't know Roper. He's a terror." "And the chief - they're both -"
"- terrors - " " - only Roper - "

Samneric : Shows that they have a say in decisions :

" Samneric ? What about you ? "

When they saw Ralph after they had been forced to join the tribe :

" You got to go because it's not safe - "

" - they made us. They hurt us - "

" - its a tribe - "

" - they made us - "

" - we couldn't help it - "

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. 11 § 2	embarrassment	The fat boy placed over his shoulder, lean toward Ralph. He whispered, "They used to call me 'Piggy'." ... Piggy clasped his hands in apprehension.	Piggy and Ralph
p. 46/47 § 6	sorry, fear, shame	Piggy fell against a rock and clutched it with both hands. "That little one that had a mark on his face - where is he now? I tell you I can't see him." The boys looked at each other fearfully, unbelieving. Ralph muttered the reply as if in shame. "Perhaps he went back to the tree."	All the boys
p. 43	anger	His voice lifted into the wime of virtuous recrimination. They stirred and began to shout him down.	Piggy the other boys
p. 85 § 1	fear	The vivid horror of this, so possible and so needly terrifying, held them all silent. The child's voice went piping on from behind the cover.	Piggy, Ralph, other boys the little boy called Peril
p. 185 § 3	astonishment, fear, rage	Little prickles of sensation ran up and down his back. He stood, the skull about on a level with his face, and held up his hair with two hands. A sick fear and rage swept him.	Ralph
p. 36 § 1	nervousness	Either the wandering breezes or the decline of the sun allowed a little coolness to lie under the trees. The boys felt it and stirred restlessly.	All the boys
p. 129 § 4	nervousness, tension	He broke off, frowning, trembling the ting out, unconsciously, tugging at the stub of a nail with his teeth.	Ralph the other boys
p. 74	mortified	The freckles on Jack's face disappeared under the blush of mortification.	Jack
p. 40	nervous, not sure what to say	Ralph pushed both hands through his hair and looked at the little boys in mixed amusement and exasperation.	Ralph other little boys
p. 62	embarrassment and he is hurt	He went very pink, bowed his head.	Piggy

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.

Sorry, I had no idea what you expected me to do here!
What is a plot diagram, what does it look like?

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.

☑ 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:

Phrases that appeal to the

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

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

Significance of setting overall:

The boys are on an island, cut off every civilisation.
They can't reach the land or search for help.

Platform

The platform is used as a meeting place for the assemblies
Ralph calls. It is a place of order and organisation.

Scar

The scar doesn't really fit to the rest of the landscape. It is the only thing that reminds the boys of civilisation. It is like a wound, which was created when the plane destroyed the paradise like setting of the untouched island.

Mountain

The mountain is of great importance, because the boys set the fire on top of it. The boys also use it as a view point, when they first start off to explore the island. From there they observe the landscape.

Castle rock

It is the place, where Jack sets up the camp for his new group of savage boys. It is a bit separated from the island itself and therefore even more isolated. It is not as big as the island, so Jack can control it more easily.

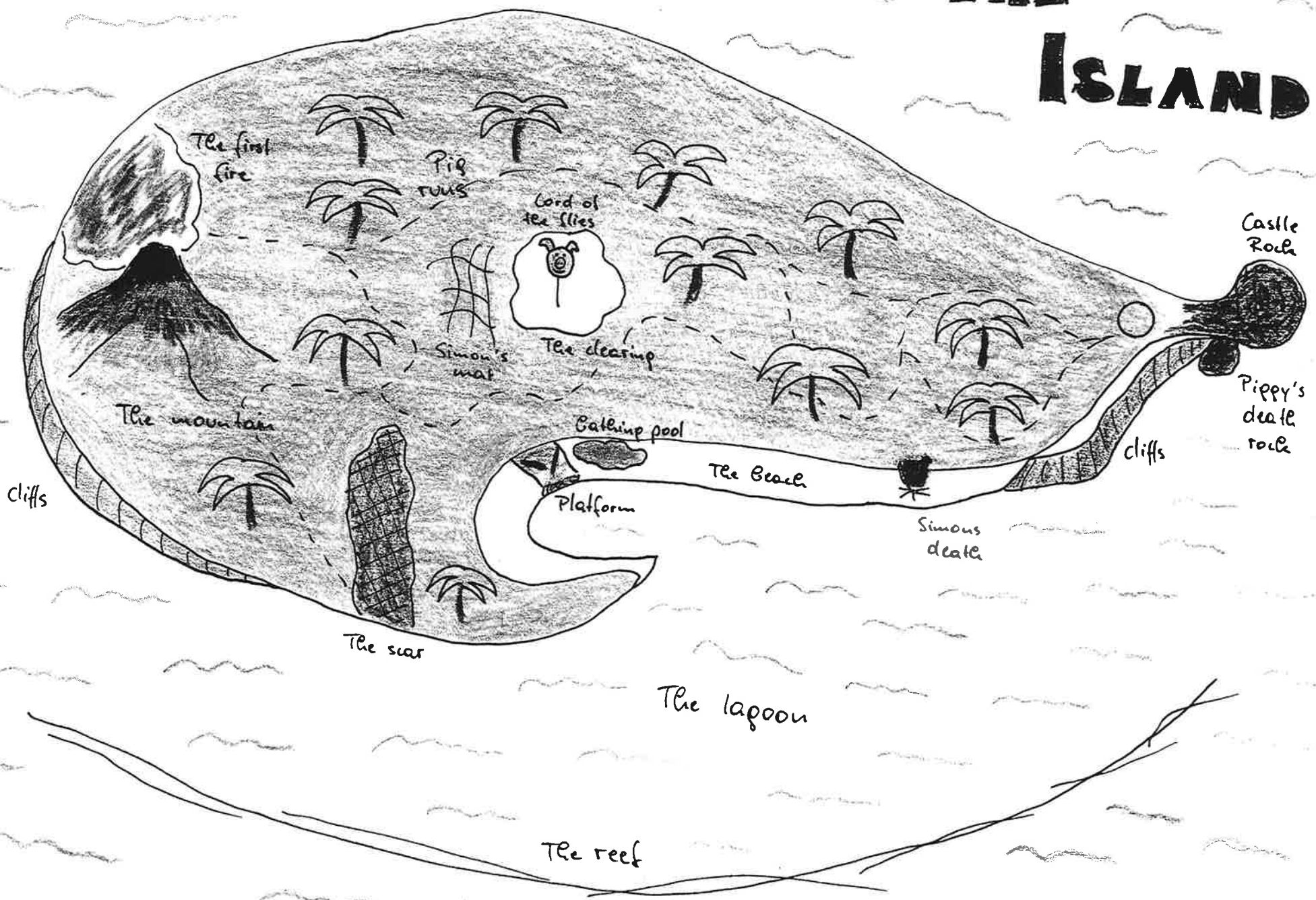
The beach

It is the interface between the land and the ocean, which is a natural barrier. This barrier forces the boys to become a group. It causes animosity as well as confidence between the boys. There was never violence on the beach. It is the furthest they can go without leaving the island, so it is a place of hope for rescue.

It stands in contrast to the scar, which will probably stay forever. White on the beach the water smooths the sand.

Also stands in contrast to the boys' memory. They want to forget what happened on the island.

THE ISLAND



The first fire

Pig ruins

Lord of the Flies

Simon's mat

The clearing

Bathing pool

The beach

Simon's death

Castle Rock

Pip's death rock

cliffs

cliffs

The mountain

The scar

The lagoon

The reef

Relevant
Page
Numbers

The Beach : p. 10

The platform + the Gateing pool : p. 12, 14, 77

The mountain : p. 116, 104, 123

diffs : p. 29

Castle Rock : p. 29, 124/125

The reef : p. 29, 124

The scar : p. 29, 38

pip runs : p. 31, 29, 113

first fire : p. 44, 123

The clearing : p. 56/57, 113, 135

lapoon : p. 111, 153

Simon's death : p. 154

Pippen's death recall : p. 181

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon.

He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow flashed upwards with a witch-like cry; and this cry was echoed by another.

The shore was fledged with palm trees. Their feathers were a hundred feet up in the air. The ground beneath them was a bank covered with coarse grass, torn everywhere by the upheavals of fallen trees, scattered with decaying coconuts and palm saplings.

The white surf flinked on a coral reef, and beyond that the open sea was dark blue.

... looking at the dazzling beach and the water.

The sand was thick over his black shoes and the heat hit him.

The beach between the palm terrace and the water was a thin stick, endless apparently, for to Ralph's left the perspectives of palm and beach and water drew to a point at infinity; and always, almost visible, was the heat.

Then he leapt back on the terrace, pulled off his shirt, and stood there among the skull-like coconuts with green shadows from the palms and the forest sliding over his skin.

A great platform of pink granite thrust up uncompromisingly through the forest and terrace and sand and lagoon to make a raised jetty four feet high. The top of this was covered with a thin layer of soil and coarse grass and shaded with young palm trees. There was not enough soil for them to grow to any height and when they reached perhaps twenty feet they fell and dried, forming a criss-cross pattern of trunks, very convenient to sit on.

Ralph hauled himself onto this platform, noted the coolness and shade, shut one eye, and decided that the shadows on his body were really green.

The water was warmer than his blood and he might have been swimming in a huge bath.

The only sound that reached them now through the heat of the morning was the long, grinding roar of the breakers on the reef.

He opened an eye, found the mold an inch or so from his face and gripped into it, light filtering between the fronds of fern.

His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island.

Flower and fruit grew in the scent of ripeness.

Outsiders

Piggy is definitely the most significant outsider William Golding created in his novel *Lord of the Flies*. He is different from the other boys from the beginning on. His glasses and his asthma make him physically weaker than the others and his intelligence is so outraging that the other boys do not accept him as a valuable member of their wild, savage group who wants to experience a great adventure on the uncivilized territory of the island. Piggy doesn't fit into their group, not physically – as he is really fat – and also not mentally. The boys, especially Jack and his group of hunters do not respect the rule with the conch, when Piggy holds the conch to inform the others about his opinion or point of view. They won't listen to Piggy, even if he seems to be the most intelligent boy on the island. Nevertheless they need Piggy and his specs. The glasses serve to light the fire, which is – at least in the beginning – regarded to be the most important thing on the whole island. As soon as the group of savages under Jack's control take the glasses with force from Piggy, he is no longer of any use to them and they get rid of him.

In my opinion, not only Piggy is an outsider. Also Simon is not entirely integrated in the group. He is ~~too~~ shy to speak in front of the assembly and even though some of his ideas would have been really helpful, the others won't pay attention to him. They ignore his presents and tell him to shut up. Simon is actually the only one who discovers the real identity of the beast. This is due to his logical and rational way of thinking. His thoughts are never cruel or brutal. Perhaps he symbolizes a kind of Christ figure in the novel. Also Simon has to die in the story.

You can find outsiders in every society. The island is like a miniature of the society we are living in.

+
very good

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
- Democracy & Order
- Leadership and the abuse of power
- Good versus evil
- Survival
- Outsiders p. 21, 45, 93, 117, 166, 174, 181 → Pippa p. 42+43
- Fear p. 128, 129, 143, 144, 152-154 → Simon
- Violence
- Adults

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	Rule One	Rule Two	Rule Three
	Do not steal	Do not kill anybody	You shouldn't tell lies
Who created it?	Government God (10 commandments)	the people God (10 commandments)	parents, friends... / government (you mustn't 'lie at court')
Who enforces it?	Government, police	the people, government, police	parents, government
How is it enforced?	you have to pay a fee or go into jail	you go into jail or get the death penalty	little punishment by the parents / pay or go to jail
Advantages	less crime	less murder	you can trust people
Disadvantages	you can't just take what you want without spending money	you can't get rid of persons you dislike	you might get into troubles or hurt somebody's feelings by telling the truth

✓ 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 his glasses	The boys need him, because he possessed the glasses, they needed so urgently to make fire, but once they had his glasses, they got rid of him. He is the oppressor.
Ralph, The Conch	Ralph is the leader. The conch represents power and stands for order. The conch was the only rule the boys ever obeyed.
Simon	He is the harmless, good and rational victim who is crucified. Simon is kind of an innocent, Christ-like figure and the only one who thinks rationally about the beast.
Roger	He represents violence and the evil I think. Roger enjoys seeing others afraid. He is the contrary to Simon.
Jack	Jack represents hate. He feels bitter about Ralph being the leader and not him. He hates Ralph and Piggy.
The island	It represents society. All the rules of society are rebuilt on the island.
The scar	The scar is like a wound in the untouched landscape. It does not fit into the island.
Paint	The masks are like a shield, they paint themselves to hide and slip into a savage personality.
The Pig's Head	It is a translation of Beelzebub. In Golding's novel it suggests decay, destruction and demoralization, hysteria and panic. The pig's head is the symbol for See details next page. It represents the boy's darkest fears and desires.

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.

- ✓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?

The Beast

1. He is a sliver of a boy, about six years old, and one side of his face is blotched out by a mulberry-coloured birthmark. He is scared and shy.

The little boy dies in the fire, up on the mountain.

2. A snake is incalculable, fast and deceitful. It may also be poisonous. I think in the novel it symbolizes the fear that creeps into the boys' mind. Snakes inject the poison into the flesh of their prey. The fearful thoughts are like the poison and the boys like the prey.

Another passage where snakes are mentioned in the novel, is when the fire comes out of control and the snakes leave the shelter of the shrubs (p. 46)

3. He saw a big, snake-like thing in the dark. He is scared and dramatizes his experience by telling the others it was a beast he saw. He wants to be taken seriously.

4. Ralph: He says there isn't a Beastie. He thinks rational and logical

Jack: Tells the little boy, that even if there was a Beastie, he would hunt and kill it. Jack likes the adventure and wants to show off.

The other older boys: At first they laugh at the little boy and agree with Ralph, that there isn't a Beastie, but then they begin to feel insecure and become more silent.

The other younger boys: They are scared and rather

Believe in the story about the snake-thing, than in Ralph. They do not think rational and so they do not listen to Ralph's explanations and arguments.

5. The little boy at the beginning thinks the Beast is a snake-thing. Pig, also a little boy says he was in the woods when he saw something big and horrid. Percival has seen some kind of Beast as well, but he starts to cry and won't tell what exactly he had seen.

Later Samneric saw the Beast on top of the mountain. They said it had eyes, feet and claws.

The Beast Pig had seen, was probably Simon who went out into the woods that night.

The thing Samneric mistake to be the Beast is an ordinary human, who came down with a parachute and was already dead. In the dark the boys couldn't see that and so they thought it was the Beast.

When Simon tried to imagine what the Beast was like, a human, heroic and sick, rose before his inward sight.

THE BEAST

Page Number	Who mentions the beast?	What is said about the beast?	Importance?
Chapter 2 34-36, 47	One of the little ones	It is snakelike	The older ones don't believe in it
Chapter 3 52-3	Ralph/Simon	The little ones are afraid	They are starting to feel scared themselves
Chapter 5 88-92, 94-99	Ralph	That they are just imagining it and that they needn't be scared	They are trying to rationalise their fear, but no one is certain
Chapter 6 106... 118	Sam and Eric	They have seen it and must go and investigate and kill it	Jack and Ralph both try to prove how brave they are
Chapter 7 127, 133	Jack	That it is near them	Jack and Ralph go after the beast
Chapter 8 151-2, 158	Simon	He starts visualising that it is talking to him	It is named the Lord of the Flies
Chapter 9 161, 168-70	Simon/ the other boys	Simon finds out the truth about the beast and goes to tell the others	They think he is the beast, they kill Simon
Chapter 12 206	Ralph	The other boys are chanting	He can hear them at Castle Rock

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.

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.

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 etc)
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
novel
story
poem
play

author
poet
playwright

plot
narrator
character

set eg *The novel is set in Victorian London.*

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)

SUMMARY

Lord of the flies by William Golding

William Golding's fantastic story about a group of English school boys who are left stranded on an unpopulated and uncivilized island in the middle of the ocean deals with the defects of society and human nature. The style Golding uses to draw colourful, realistic pictures in the readers inward sight is brilliant. This book is ^{full of} stuffed with symbolism the author uses to explain our society. He does this in a very pessimistic way that shows how dependant man is on society and its rules and laws, without those we would likely return to barbaric savagery. The main characters in Lord of the flies are Ralph, the leader of the group, Jack, his rival and Piggy, the intelligent, logical thinking outsider.

With his work William Golding wants to show how easy ^{it} human beings can make a striking transition from civilized to barbaric and savage, with the simple loss ^{of} society's rigid rules and laws.

The group of young boys, stranded on the island, try hard at first to build a functional society. They vote for a leader, hold assemblies, in which the main problems are discussed and important decisions are made. All of them want to be rescued, although some see their situation more as an exciting adventure, than as a serious problem. The boys try to keep a fire burning at the top of the mountain, so that ships passing by the island, would see their signal and notice them.

However it doesn't last very long, until the majority of the kids ^{loses} interest in such boring work as to build shelters or keep the fire going. They join Jack, the leader of the hunters and prove themselves in killing pigs.

In the night, nightmares accompany their sleep and their darkest fears and desires seem to be so real, so near and frightening. They tell stories about a beast they have seen in the darkness of the night. Of course this beast doesn't exist, it attacks the kids in their minds and turns them savage.

The pig's head ^{the} Lord of the flies - symbolized the decay, destruction demoralization, panic and hysteria, the boys experience on the island.

When most of the boys leave, Ralph and join Jack to move to Castle Rock and have their own group of savages, they start to put on war paint. Whenever they paint their faces, they can hide behind the colour. They do things they would never do without the war paint or without the dark shelter of the night.

Simon is the only one who discovers the true identity of the beast Samneric saw on top of the mountain. He never believed in a beast and when he tried to imaging it, it was a human, heroic and sick, who rose before his inward sight. Sadly he never manages to tell the others about that... Also Piggy is murdered. As soon as the others posses his glasses, which are necessary to light the fire, and he is useless to them, they kill him brutally and without any sign of moral.

In the end the group of boys is rescued, but what they leave behind is the wreckage of the once so beautiful, untouched island.

① stuffed with would imply that there is too much
Do you intend this? ^{if it.}

excellent!

② a loose screw
 all other parts : $\overline{V} \overline{e} \overline{a} \overline{r} \overline{y} \overline{1} \overline{e}$
 I lost, I lost...
 interestingly the $\overline{1} \overline{e}$ in pronounced Beng.
 the double \overline{e} is a short [u]

Dear diary!

We saw a ship today. Ralph was the first to notice the smoke move slowly along the horizon, far out on the water, but not too distant to notice it. We were so sure, that this would be our rescue. I felt my heart get lighter and jumped up ^{with joy} in joy. I knew they would see our smoke, up on the top of the mountain, but when I turned my head and my eyes searched for the cloud of smoke, that was supposed to rise from there, I could just see the bare, washy-blue sky and a yellow and red feathered bird, rising with a witch-like cry that was echoed by another.

The first thing that came into my mind was that my glasses were not clean, so that I just couldn't see the smoke, but as I glanced to my left and saw Ralph's twisted face, full of panic and hysteria, I knew my darkest fear had come true.

The fire was out. Ralph darted in the direction of the mountain, dashed through the forest, jumping over creepers and fallen tree trunks. I stood there, couldn't move. My breath was heavy and I knew I should better calm down. My auntie always told me too much excitement wasn't good for my asthma. I kept staring after Ralph. I remained in this position until he came back. Blood was sliding over his naked, sunbathed body. I turned away in loathing. Blood was one of the things that made me feel sick. My eyes concentrated on the silvery shining line - the horizon. The smoke was gone and so was the ship.

All the hunters, including the two who should have been guarding the fire, had been in the forest, hunting a pig. A simple pig caused the failure of our rescue. Why do most boys of our group behave like stupid savages? I can't see why they prefer hunting to being rescued and ^{poi-g} brought home. They haven't yet understood the meaning and importance of the fire. Ralph is a good leader, but they wouldn't listen to him. They follow Jack into the woods to prove themselves as valuable, strong and brave hunters.

I know that they do not respect me as a member of the group. They observe me like one of the pigs they hunt. With aggression and hatred, but they still need me, like they need the pig to eat. I have the glasses to light the fire. But the thing I just can't explain is why they voted for Ralph to be chief and then prefer to join Jack and hunt. The conch is the only thing that made Ralph ^{ow} leader. Without it he would be too weak to control the group. The conch allows him to speak to them and call assemblies, but without it...

Very good imitation of Piggy's voice

① Bring is always in your direction, towards you
His auntie could say it! "Bring my Piggy home!"
2. Like...

LORD OF THE FLIES

By WILLIAM GOLDING

I've now just read the first chapter of this novel. Up to now I really like the style the author uses to describe things. He doesn't tell the reader how the beach and the boys look, but he shows it. This is the first book, where I can see how perfectly well this "showing versus telling" works. When I read, I can really imagine how it must feel like, being there on the beach, the hot morning sun creating the sand and causing Ralph and Piggie to sweat.

I do not entirely understand why all the boys are on the island. There seems to have been an evacuation and the aeroplane crashed or so. ^① But why are there no adults? Ralph seems to be a very rational, straight thinking boy. He takes actions and decides. I have the impression that he is kind of a natural leader. Maybe he is born to lead and decide. Piggie is too intellectual to gain respect from the other boys. He is kind of a hypochonder, and keeps talking of his asthma and his auntie.

I did not get, why there was a choir on the plane. I mean, the boys were in uniform, fully dressed, when the plane crashed. This ^{odd! Jingles!} makes them a group. For me they belong together somehow. They are now the hunters. To me, this appears quite strange. The contrast between, nice, tidy choir boys and a group of grave hunters is outstanding and pretty unnatural. I think the author created this contrast on purpose.

① I agree - the opening is fairly cryptic. Not very plausible.

The council plays a very important role in the whole plot, I guess. It seems to be a symbol, which stands for authority and order. It gives confidence, as at least the meeting is very organized when the council is passed around and only the person holding it is allowed to speak.

In primary school my teacher sometimes threw a ball into the class, and the one who caught it had to say something. The other pupils were not allowed to interrupt the one speaking of course. This is very similar to the idea of the council.

I think Ralph broke the confidence of Tippy, when he told the other boys about Tippy's nickname, even though Tippy had asked Ralph not to tell anyone he was called Tippy. This was really unfair in my opinion.

Well, although I have just started reading, I can already say that I like the book and enjoy reading it.

Now the book is slowly getting really exciting. Jennifer told me that Simon and Tippy die, but I haven't yet read so far. There were several situations where I thought it is going to happen the very next paragraph. It is interesting to see how the behaviour of the boys is constantly changing. Jack is turning his back on Ralph and obeys rules not very often. He leads his group of hunters and ignores all the others. Roger is his closest friend. He accompanies Jack everywhere he is going to and is at least as aggressive

as Jack. I've just finished the chapter "Beast from the air". I have a few questions to this part of the novel. I did understand that the "Beast" is a man with a parachute but why did he land on the island and why is he dead. He didn't die at the landing, but as far as I got it he was dead beforehand.

My explanation to that would be, that there is a war going on (this may also be the reason for the evacuation) and the man with the parachute was a pilot in the airforce or so. He could have died in a battle in the air.

In my opinion the fire is a good idea to attract attention, but I think it is not working out the way Ralph had imagined it. I was really shocked when I read the passage about one of the younger boys, who died in the big fire. Since then they have never talked about that horrible accident again. I think the older boys are embarrassed to see, that they can't even cope with that and that they didn't take care of the littluns. Piggy wanted to count them at the very beginning, but it was too difficult with everyone running around. Nobody really feels responsible for the younger kids. The older boys do not want to replace their mothers I think. They want to prove themselves as leaders, leaders or whatever, but not as babysitters, who watch little children. Still I think this is very sad and I can imagine how

lonely and insecure the Lillons must feel.

I have now finished reading. I really liked the novel. It had very sad, riveting passages towards the end. Especially the deaths of Simon and Piggy were very gripping. In my opinion the war paint and the masks played an essential role in the murder of Simon. I cannot believe the Boys would have killed Simon if they had not got the possibility to hide behind the paint. ^{True!} I also think it was not really Simon they wanted to kill. They were dancing around the fire, like in a ritual and when Simon came running out of the wood, approaching very quietly, they just killed him and imagined he was the Beast they were so terribly scared of. Maybe if it were daylight at that time, the Boys wouldn't have done it.

Piggy's death was different. Roper did it on full purpose. His mind was clear at that time. I think it was just, that he wanted to hurt or injure someone. Maybe he didn't plan to kill Piggy, but as far as I imagine Roper he likes seeing others afraid, scared or hurt. He is really aggressive, but for no apparent reason.

The only ones who stay with Ralph after Piggy's sudden death are the twins Samneric. I think the author writes their names in one word to symbolize that they belong together, whatever will be.

In the end the twins are forced to join the group of savages on Castle Rock as well. They are the only Lillons who take part in more mature discussions. To me they

seemed very grown up and rational for their age.

About Pippy's death again:

I think the fact that Pippy is swallowed up by the ocean and that not a single trace is left of his personality symbolizes that we do not really play an important role for the world. If one dies nothing horrible will happen to our planet or so. It is like one of Reinhard Fendrich's songs. I think it is called "Tränen trocken schnell". In this song it says that if a person dies nothing will happen. No stars or clouds will fall from the sky it says in the text.

Another part I really liked in the book was where Ralph couldn't decide what to do when he was persecuted. He had two or three possibilities, but none of them really satisfying. It is similar to ordinary life. Sometimes one faces a situation, where there is no way out. But most of the time there is a good ending. Here Ralph and the others were finally rescued. When the officer asked if everybody was okay, Ralph told him, that two of them died, but actually there were three boys who did not survive. It was Pippy, Simon and the Litton who died in the flames of the fire, up on the mountain.

This is similar to our society - the Littons are being ignored, not respected and sometimes overrun.

To round it up I can say that I really enjoyed the book. It contained a lot of symbolism, which made it interesting and ambitious to read.

100%

Excellent coursework, Lydia!

Don't forget the Scarf and its important role in the
 book. Gilbert hates his
 scarf because a dictator/leader
 who/are the scarf
 couldn't have become a
 modern world.
 That are conveyed up in our
 Think of a few? Who gain
 power if people are afraid of "the scarf"