

Approved for use in English II

Summary of the Work:

Set against the backdrop of a world war, a group of British schoolboys crashes onto a deserted island. The boys attempt to organize themselves for survival. Initially, they work collaboratively to find food, create shelter, and gain the notice of the outside world. However, human nature's baser tendencies emerge in some of the characters, causing power struggles to develop between those devoted to society's accepted practices and those who fall victim to chaos and disorder. Finally, virtue, goodness, and order prevail.

Rationale:

Lord of the Flies, Golding's psychological experiment on paper, is influenced by his exposure to Freud's then new theories about human nature. This supports the focus of the sophomore curriculum to recognize how authors are influenced by the ideas and values of their times, while portraying the human condition. Additionally, Golding's upbringing, just after World War I and through World War II, led him to question the savage tendencies of man on a larger scale, thus supporting the focus of social justice in the sophomore curriculum. Finally, this book engages the students at this level who are searching for their identities and how they fit into the social structure of the world. *Lord of the Flies* provides them the opportunity to explore a variety of social roles and how pursuing those will affect their lives.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Halle, Louis., *Saturday Review*, October 15, 1955.
Moran, John, *Library Journal*, September 1, 1955.
Stern, James, *New York Times Book Review*, October 23, 1955.
Harte, Barbara and Carolyn Riley (eds.). *Contemporary Authors*. Vols. 5-8, Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1969.
Hynes, Samuel. *William Golding*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1968.
Montage, Ashley. *The Nature of Human Aggression*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976.

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- Nobel Prize for Literature, 1983
- Random House 100 Best Books of the 20th Century
- Modern Library 100 Best Novels

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 770
- Readability Level: 8.1

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee: 1969

Approved for Adoption: 1969

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Golding's fictional "adventure story" portrays the evil he believes is inherent in man, and thus the reader is exposed to violence and mild profanity.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Lord of the Flies meets the curriculum focus of examining the human condition through the study of literature. It also provides the opportunity for students to study a variety of literary terms.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

Lord of the Flies has been cited on the AP exam.