



Lord of
the Flies

Intro CN

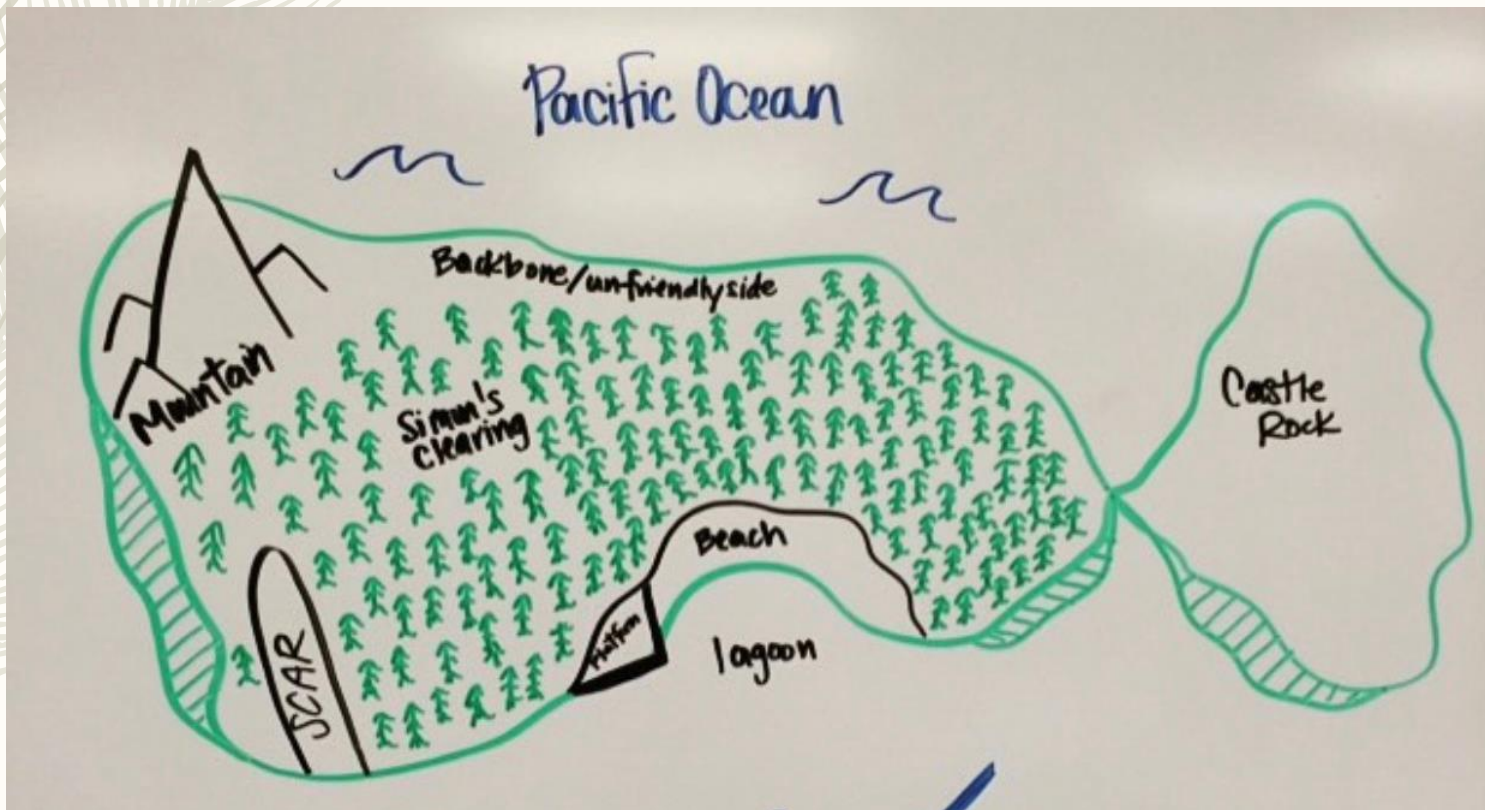
Story Premise

- Set in mid 1940s when Europe was engulfed in war
- A plane carrying British school boys ages 6-12 is mistaken for a military craft and shot down over the South Pacific.
- There are no adult survivors.
- The boys are sons of aristocratic families, who have been evacuated from a battle zone.
- The story follows the boys' survival on the island.



Setting

- A tiny coral island in the South Pacific during a war in which an atomic bomb may have been used.
- Although uninhabited except for the boys, it offers necessities to support life, including fresh water, fruit, and pigs.
- The island has a forest, 2 small mountains, and a sandy beach.



Symbols

- Scar
- Conch & Ralph
- Fire
- Sea
- Rock
- Pighunt
- Beast
- Piggy's glasses & Piggy
- Lord of the Flies
- Creepers
- Jack
- Simon
- Roger
- Samneric



Characters

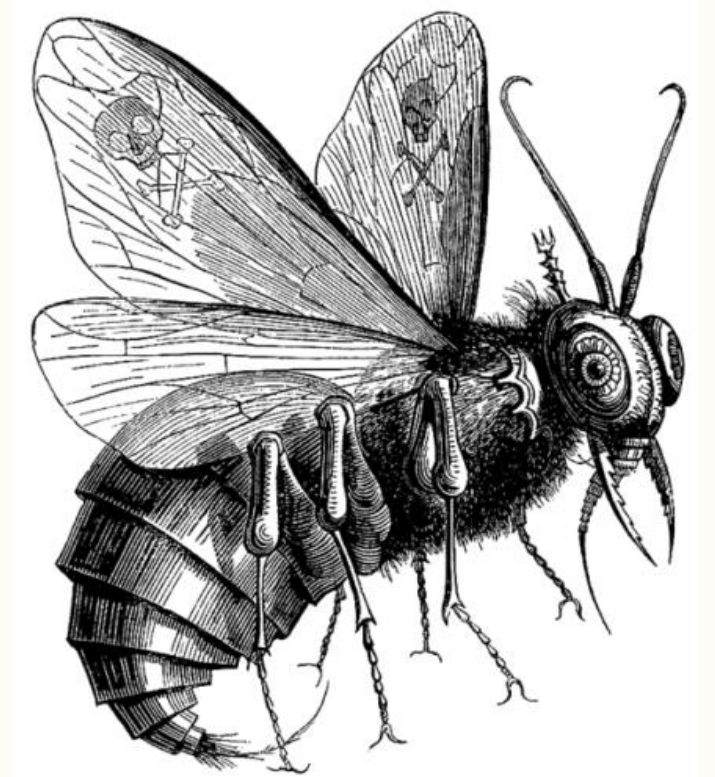
- Ralph
- Jack
- Piggy
- Simon
- Roger
- SamnEric
- Choir Boys
- Littluns

When the boys first gather on the island they appear to be a diverse group, yet they all seem very similar by the end.



The Meaning of the Title

- Lord of the Flies = Beelzebub (god of the fly, host of the fly)
- Beelzebub is often used as another name for Satan



Background on the Novel



- Rejected 21 times before it was published
- It was Golding's first novel – published in 1954
- Not successful until the early 1960s
- On the American Library Association's list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990-2000.

William Golding



- British novelist
- Born on September 19, 1911, died 1993
- Studied Science and English at Oxford
- Fought in Royal Navy during WWII
- Participated in invasion of Normandy on D-Day
- At war's end, returned to teaching and writing
- Earned the Nobel Prize in Literature



Golding's World

- WWII 1939 - 1945
- The fall of France to Nazi Germany in 1940
- Britain feared an invasion and evacuated children to other countries
- 1940 - A German U-Boat torpedoed a British ship carrying children, killing the boys, thus suspending the overseas evacuation program



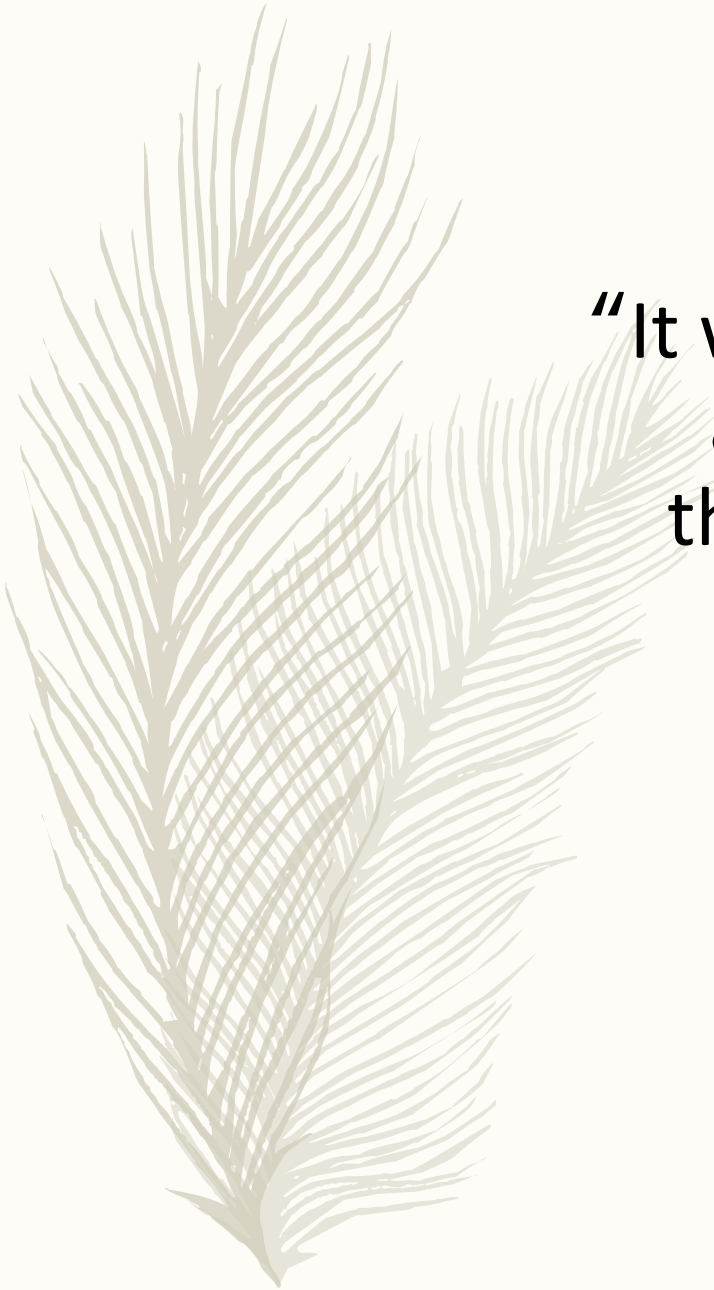
Inspiration

- Golding once allowed his class of boys total freedom in a debate, but had to intervene as mayhem soon broke out
- Experiences in war
- Critical response to *Coral Island* by R.M. Ballantyne: Ballantyne's story recounts the adventures of three British boys--Ralph, Jack, and Peterkin--who survive a shipwreck and create their own little society on an island where pigs run wild
- Poses philosophical questions about human nature

On Writing Lord of the Flies

“It was simply what seemed sensible for me to write after the war when everyone was thanking God they weren’t Nazis. I’d seen enough to realize that every single one of us could be Nazis.”

“The theme is an attempt to trace the defects of society back to the defects of human nature.”



Philosophical Influences

- **Jean Jacque Rousseau:** French writer who wrote about the “NOBLE SAVAGE” living in nature, uncorrupted by civilization. Golding attacks Rousseau’s idea
 - (a) that society corrupts humans
 - (b) that humans in their natural state are rational and good.
- **Thomas Hobbes:** English Philosopher
 - Man is by nature selfishly individualistic
 - Man constantly at war with other men
 - Fear of violent death is sole motivation to create civilizations
 - Men need to be controlled by absolute sovereignty to avoid brutish behavior



Allegory: A story in which the characters, settings, and events stand for an abstract or moral concepts.

Foreshadowing: The use of clues to hint at what is going to happen later in the plot.

Microcosm: A small, representative system having analogies to a larger system in constitution, configuration, or development.

Golding's
Literary
Technique

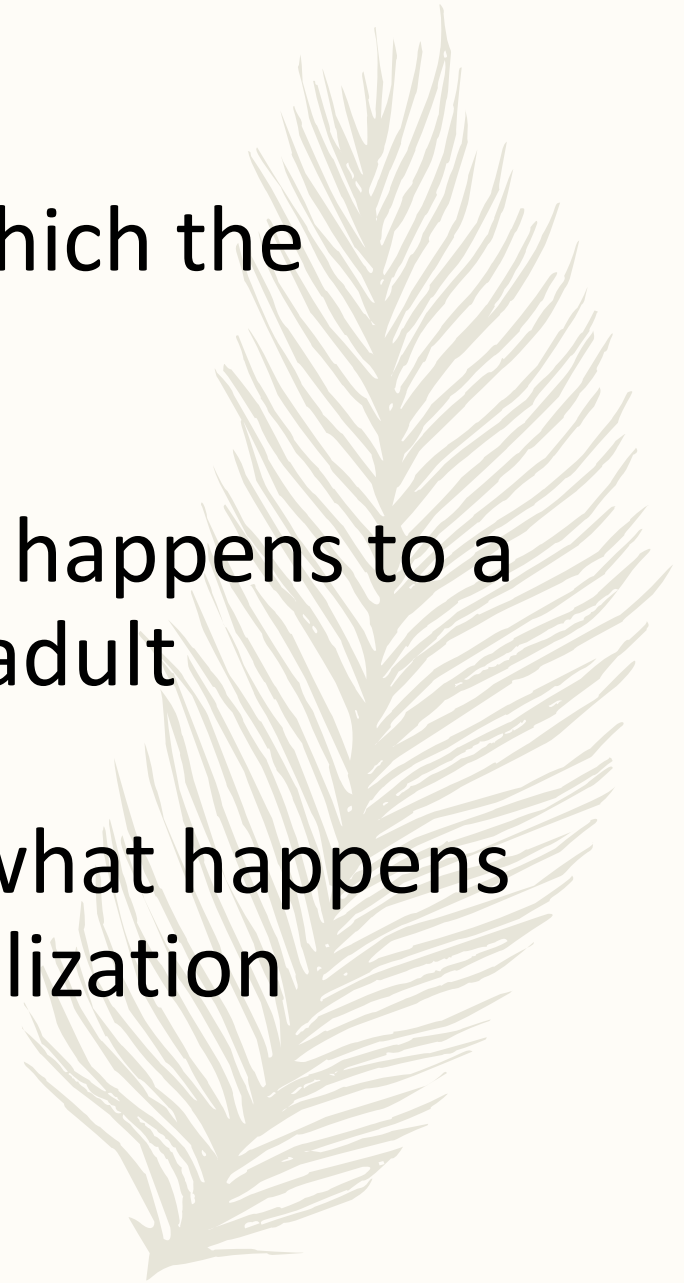


Lenses of Analysis

Lord of the Flies has been called “a fable in which the characters are symbols for abstract ideas.”

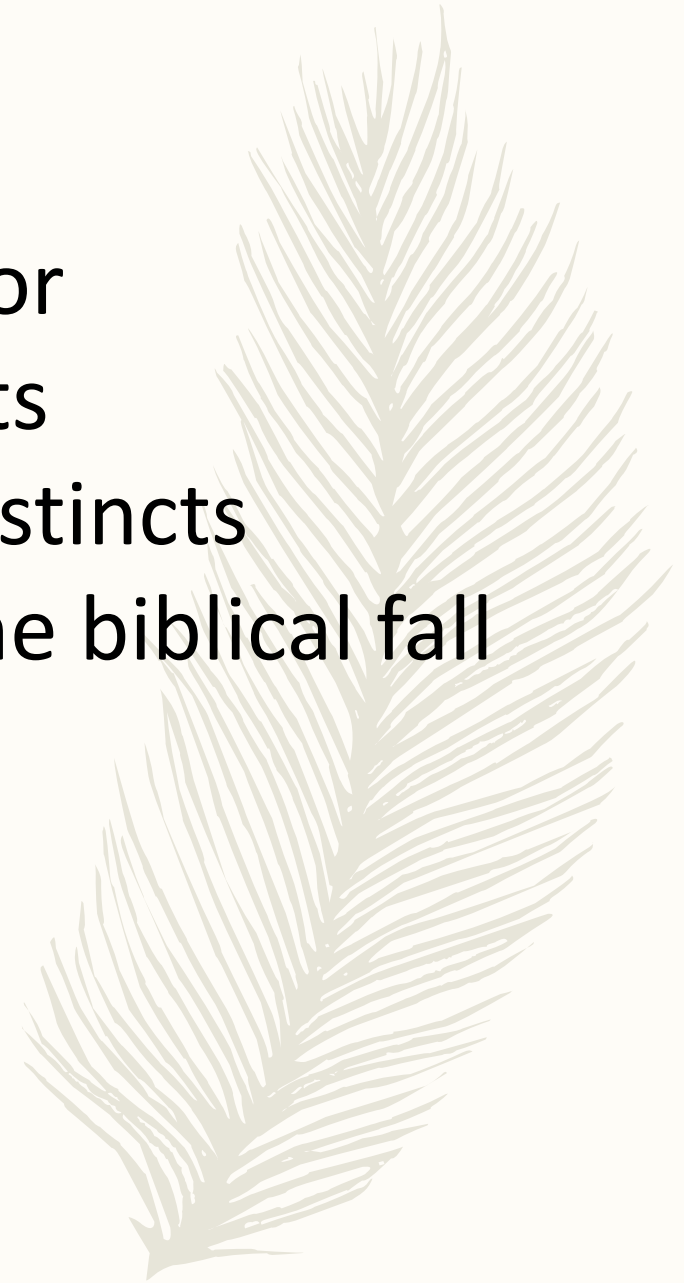
Literal level: *Lord of the Flies* deals with what happens to a group of boys stranded on an island with no adult supervision.

Symbolic level: *Lord of the Flies* investigates what happens to civilized people when the structures of civilization disappear.



Critical Perspectives

- *Social* – the study of natural man's behavior
- *Political* – critique of Western governments
- *Psychoanalytical* – the power of human instincts
- *Moral / Religious* – a modern version of the biblical fall



SUMMARY (2-4 sentences)

Something that is becoming clear to me about *Lord of the Flies* is...

