

LORD OF THE FLIES

Complete Novel Unit



LITERATURE
QUESTIONS
A BRIGHTER
WORLD

Reading support, close reading, discussion, review, assessment, and literary argument

LORD OF THE FLIES

Before We Read

Background, context, and big questions

A story about higher ideals—and what happens when they break.

PEOPLE
POWER
CIVILIZATION



1. PRE-READING

LORD OF THE FLIES

What does civilization actually restrain?

And what happens when those restraints weaken?

SOME ARGUE
Civilization brings safety, cooperation, and progress.

OTHERS ARGUE
Human nature is constant, and civilization is just a thin layer.

A BIGGER QUESTION
Keep your own ideas in mind as you read. Which perspective do you find more convincing?

2. READING GUIDE

LORD OF THE FLIES

Build the patterns

As you read, notice recurring language, ideas, and/or images.

☐ **PEOPLE** How do the boys change? Look for shifts in behavior, attitude, or belief.

☐ **SETTINGS** How do the island's physical details reflect the boys' inner world?

☐ **SYMBOLS** What objects or images seem to stand for something larger?

☐ **THEMES** How does the novel return to the same ideas in new ways?

Write down moments that feel important, repeated, or symbolic.

3. CLOSE READING

LORD OF THE FLIES

Two very different starting points



Civilization
People are fundamentally good, and systems, rules, and cooperation bring out the best in human nature.

Human nature
People are fundamentally selfish, and without external control, chaos is inevitable.

Which perspective do you find more convincing? Use evidence from the novel.

4. DISCUSSION

LORD OF THE FLIES

Final Test: whole-novel response

Choose one of the prompts below and write a well-supported essay.

☐ Civilization vs. human nature in *Lord of the Flies*

☐ Power and leadership

☐ Loss of innocence

☐ Symbols and their meanings

Support your argument with specific evidence from the novel.

5. ASSESSMENT

LORD OF THE FLIES

Finish with transfer: a Critical Lens Essay

Choose a lens, plan your argument, and make connections beyond the novel.

Psychological (Freudian)
Explore identity, instinct, and the unconscious.

Political / Social
Analyze power, leadership, and society.

Moral / Philosophical
Consider ethics, right and wrong, and human nature.

Christian / Religious Allegory
Explore symbolism, sin, and redemption.

Make a claim about what Golding's novel suggests about people, society, or the world today.

6. LITERARY ARGUMENT

Central question: What does civilization restrain – and what happens when those restraints weaken?

A coherent unit from the first day of reading



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The Reading & Analysis Guide carries the sustained written work; chapter slides come after reading for consolidation.

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Before We Read

Background, context, and big questions

A story about higher ideals—and what happens when they break.

PEOPLE

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1. PRE-READING

Build background and introduce the big ideas: civilization, authority, and human nature.

LORD OF THE FLIES

What does civilization actually restrain?

And what happens when those restraints weaken?

SOME ARGUE

Civilization brings safety, cooperation, and progress.

OTHERS ARGUE

Human nature is constant, and civilization is just a thin layer.

A BIGGER QUESTION

Keep your own ideas in mind as you read. Which perspective do you find more convincing?

2. READING GUIDE

Students complete analytical writing, track evidence, and develop their ideas as they read.

Chapter 2

Fire on the Mountain

Check comprehension and collect evidence for bigger ideas.

- 1 What happens in this chapter? Summarize the key events.
- 2 Find a quotation that reveals a character's thoughts or a theme. Explain why it's important.
- 3 How does this chapter connect to ideas about civilization, power, or human nature?
- 4 What questions are you left with after this chapter?

3. CHAPTER SLIDES

After reading, chapter slides check understanding and push for deeper discussion with evidence.



Students do not complete a second packet of slide notes while reading. The Reading & Analysis Guide handles the heavy lifting—comprehension, evidence collection, character development, theme tracking, and analytical writing.

After each reading section, chapter slides come into play. These consolidate understanding, extend the conversation, and support deeper synthesis, discussion, and literary argument.

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Reading support, close reading, discussion, review, assessment, and literary argument

Close reading that feeds the larger argument

Focused mini-lessons deepen analysis without replacing the core Reading Guide.

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Jack as Animal

Close reading: how Golding uses animal imagery to show Jack's changing character.



THE PIGGY SCENE

What animal language or imagery does Golding use here?
What does it suggest about Jack?
How does this scene connect to larger themes?

THE HUNTERS

How does the hunt change Jack?
What does animal imagery reveal about a loss of civilization?

How does Golding's use of animal imagery help you understand Jack's transformation across the novel?



1. JACK AS ANIMAL

LORD OF THE FLIES

Multiple analytical entry points

Explore the novel through different critical lenses.

Psychological / Freudian

- Unconscious motives
- Id, ego, superego
- Instinct vs. reason

Political / Social

- Power and leadership
- Society and civilization
- Systems and order

Moral / Philosophical

- The nature of evil
- Right and wrong
- Human nature

Christian / Religious Allegory

- Symbolism and sin
- Fall from innocence
- Redemption (or its absence)

Which lens helps you see the novel most clearly? Use evidence to explain.



2. CRITICAL LENSES

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From close reading to argument

Use details, patterns, and analysis to build a claim.

Observe

Identify a telling detail, image, or pattern.



Interpret

Explain what it suggests.



Connect

Link it to a larger theme or idea.



Argue

Use the evidence to support a claim about the novel.

How does Golding's use of symbolism (such as the conch, the fire, or the island) help you make a larger argument about human nature?



3. FROM ANALYSIS TO ARGUMENT

These mini-lessons help students build pattern recognition, symbolic thinking, and analytical writing. They are designed to deepen understanding of key moments and themes — not as isolated worksheets, but as purposeful practice that feeds into discussion, synthesis, and the final essay.

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Reading support, close reading, discussion, review, assessment, and literary argument

Post-reading discussion becomes evidence-based argument

Students prepare before they speak, track the conversation, and reflect afterward.

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Socratic Seminar

Prepare. Discuss. Listen. Build on ideas.



Name: _____ Class Period: _____

BS

1. SEMINAR PACKET

Clear roles, norms, and structure help students have focused, respectful, and text-driven discussions.

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Evidence to Have Ready

Use this tracker to gather quotes, moments, and ideas before the seminar.

Topic	Evidence (quote or event)	Page #	How it connects to the big question
Fear			
Power			
Civilization			
Human nature			
Responsibility			
Other			

Be ready to explain:

- ☐ What the evidence shows
- ☐ How it connects to a larger idea
- ☐ What another interpretation might be

BS

2. EVIDENCE BEFORE DISCUSSION

Students collect and organize evidence so they can enter the seminar prepared and contribute meaningfully.

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What Do We Take With Us?

Return to the central question and make a final claim.

What does civilization restrain – and what happens when those restraints weaken?

Use evidence from the novel and from our discussion to write a final response.

CONNECT TO HOBBS

How does the novel support, complicate, or challenge Hobbes's ideas about human nature?

Consider:

- What did you learn about people, society, and the world?
- How has your thinking changed since the first day?
- What question or idea will you carry forward?

BS

3. REFLECTION & HOBBS RETURN

Students synthesize their thinking, make a final claim, and revisit Hobbes to connect the novel to a larger, enduring question.

The seminar is built around responsibility, fear, power, civilization, and human nature. The teacher guide now clearly connects the opening launch deck to the closing question, so it's easy to move from reading to discussion to a final, evidence-based argument.

Review, synthesis, and assessment

The end of the unit asks students to retrieve evidence, test interpretations, and argue independently.

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Escape the Island

Final Review



PEOPLE | POWER | CIVILIZATION



Escape the Island: collaborative synthesis

A five-lock review that gets students thinking across the whole novel.

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Final Test: whole-novel response

Choose one of the prompts below and write a well-supported essay.

- ☐ Civilization vs. human nature in *Lord of the Flies*
- ☐ Power and leadership
- ☐ Loss of innocence
- ☐ Symbols and their meanings

Final Test: independent analysis

Includes two paper forms plus a Forms-ready question bank.

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Escape Final Report

Use evidence from the novel to complete your final report.

Part 1: What We Learned

What does the island reveal about people, power, and civilization?

Part 2: Evidence Bank

List at least three key moments from the novel and explain their significance.

Part 3: Our Claim

What is your group's final claim about Golding's message? Support it with evidence.



Escape Final Report: a bigger-picture takeaway

Students synthesize their learning and make a claim about Golding's novel without repeating the same formal essay several times.

Finish with transfer: a Critical Lens Essay



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Students choose a lens, make an arguable claim, select evidence, address a complication, revise, and score with the included rubric.

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Evidence for a reason – not a quotation hunt

Choose your lens, plan your evidence, and explain how each example supports your claim.

1. My Critical Lens:

Psychological
(Freudian)

Political
/ Social

Moral
/ Philosophical

Christian
/ Religious Allegory

My working claim:

2. Evidence Plan

Moment from the novel (brief description)	Evidence (quote or event)	How it supports my claim (analysis)
1.		
2.		
3.		

3. A complication or counterclaim:



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Critical Lens Essay Rubric

Clear expectations make strong writing possible.

Criteria	4 Exemplary	3 Proficient	2 Developing	1 Beginning
Claim & Focus	Insightful, arguable claim; consistently focused.	Clear claim; mostly focused.	Some claim; uneven focus.	Vague or missing claim.
Evidence & Analysis	Thoughtful, well-chosen evidence; insightful analysis.	Relevant evidence; clear analysis.	Some evidence; limited analysis.	Little or no evidence or analysis.
Use of Critical Lens	Lens is integrated and deepens interpretation.	Lens is evident and relevant.	Lens is mentioned with limited connection.	Lens is missing or inaccurate.
Addressing Complications	Acknowledges and skillfully addresses complexity.	Acknowledges a counterclaim or alternative view.	Attempts to address complexity.	No acknowledgement of other views.
Organization & Style	Clear, coherent, and compelling.	Generally clear and effective.	Some organization; uneven style.	Disorganized or difficult to follow.

Total / Comments:



Included across the full unit:

- ✓ Pre-reading background + student notes
- ✓ 32-page Reading & Analysis Guide + teacher key
- ✓ Quizzes 1–4 (A–E versions, keys, forms banks)
- ✓ Jack as Animal + Behind the Paint
- ✓ Symbolism + Archetypes + Critical Lenses
- ✓ After-reading discussion deck + use map
- ✓ Socratic Seminar
- ✓ Escape the Island
- ✓ Final Test + Forms bank
- ✓ Critical Lens Essay + rubric



Editable PowerPoint files are paired with print-ready PDFs when applicable.



Spreadsheet banks are included to speed digital quiz setup, grading, and customization.