

# Riverfield Academy

## Lord of the Flies - 12th Grade Study Guide

The test on your summer reading novel will be given the second day of the ~~2016-17~~<sup>2017-2018</sup> school year, and it will consist of both objective and discussion questions. Cliffnotes, Sparknotes, and/or the "Notes" section at the end of the book will prove very helpful in dealing with the symbolism of the text; **HOWEVER**, these will in no way prepare you for the material that awaits you on the test... **READ THE BOOK!**

1. Be able to discuss and state evidence for the following themes in Lord of the Flies:
  - The need for social order
  - Power (consider the types portrayed)
  - Vision (consider the mirages; who has the clearest vision and why is this ironic)
  - Fear of the unknown
  - Loss of identity
  - Loss of innocence (especially for Ralph and Piggy, as well as for the group as a whole)
2. An allegory is a narrative in which characters, events, and setting represent something other than themselves. Ralph, Piggy, Simon, and Jack each represent something other than himself. Explain. What does the whole work represent?
3. Find several examples of irony and be able to explain. Pay attention to the irony of similarities between the events on the island and events in the outside world.
4. Pinpoint the moment when the balance of power sways from Ralph to Jack.
5. Lord of the Flies has religious overtones. For example, many critics see Simon as a "Christ" figure. Explain this view.
6. The young people in the novel have the opportunity to create a new society in a perfect setting. What goes wrong? Why?  
If your class were stranded in a similar situation, what would be the outcome? Why?
7. Discuss the symbolism of:

the shell	signal fire
snake-like shapes (creepers)	painted faces of the boys
the sow and her death	dead parachutist
fire at the end	firekeepers vs. hunters
the Lord of the Flies	
8. Discuss Golding's use of the pig's head as a symbol and its connection with the title of the novel.