

English IV Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to English IV Honors! Next school year, you will be studying each period of British Literature. Since you are most likely accustomed to Modern literature that is the unit which we will be covering first. This summer, you will be reading William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. Be sure to complete the following assignments in the order instructed. Please note, this is an *individual* assignment!

Step 1

You need to research and answer the first two questions listed below before reading the text. This will provide you with the knowledge you need to comprehend the historical context of the novel. Answer the third question after completing reading the novel. Type your response to each of these questions in a word document. Be prepared to submit these the first day of school when you sign into my class on turnitin.com. You should provide a Works Cited of all the sources you use for this portion of the assignment. Make sure you are using reliable sources.

The following is a brief introduction to the novel:

“William Golding (1911-1993) published his first novel, *Lord of the Flies*, in 1954. Born in England, Golding served in the Royal Navy during World War Two. Golding's experiences during the war greatly influenced his views on humanity and the evil that lies within all human

beings. He holds a pessimistic (very negative) view of humans, believing we are always surprisingly close to falling into a violent, primitive state of pure brutality. *Lord of the Flies* was published in the early years of the Cold War. Interestingly, the book is unclear as to when the story takes place” (*Bookcaps*).

ASSIGNMENT→ Look up the following information:

1. What was the Cold War? Which countries were involved with it? Did anyone “win” the Cold War? Explain your answer.
2. What types of missions, tasks, work, does one do when they are in the Navy?
3. What aspects of the novel reflect the author’s time spent in the navy? Give at least three summarized examples from the book.

Step 2

READ THE NOVEL! There will be multiple assignments and a test on this information in September!

Step 3

Choose two of the following essay topics and compose a multi-paragraph response to each. You must quote, cite and include a Works Cited page according to MLA documentation requirements. If you are unclear about MLA, I suggest you visit Purdue Owl online (owl.purdue.edu).

Topic 1: Based on the ways the boys behaved on the island, write an essay speculating on how Ralph, Jack or Roger will grow up. What kind of lives do you think they will have (job, family, goals)?

Topic 2: Discuss how the idea of the Beast is introduced and then gradually accepted by the boys. What conditions need to be present before the boys actually believe in the existence of the Beast?

Topic 3: Discuss how cultures use rituals to establish some control over their environment and the unknown. Connect this to the text by citing several examples throughout your discussion.

Topic 4: Ralph, Piggy and Jack are very different people who seem to be ruled by very different forces. Consider for a moment a Freudian analysis of these characters: one is representative of the id, another of the ego and another of the superego. How do the boys fit into Freud's theory?

Topic 5: Using example from the book as well as examples from your observations of the world, discuss how leaders use common goals to unify their followers. You may cite current or historical figures in your discussion as well.