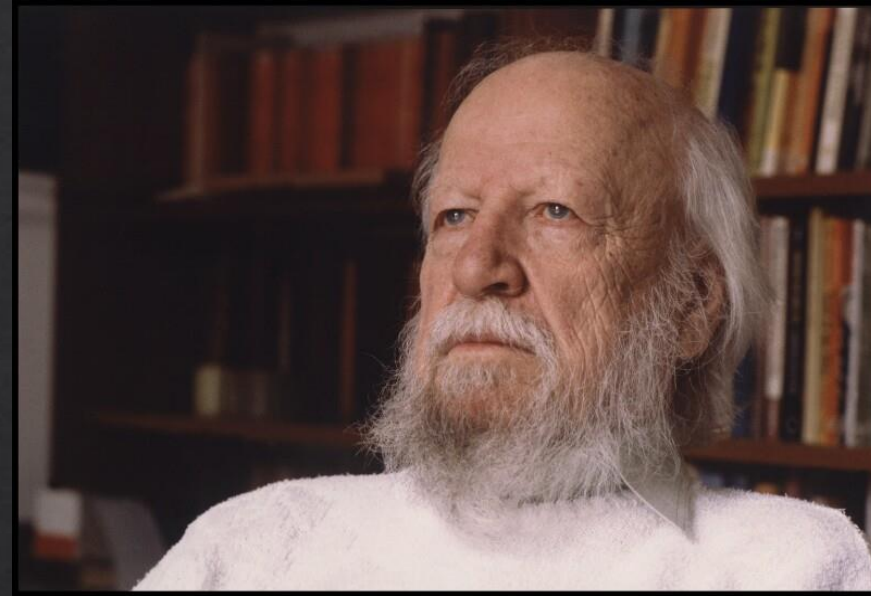


Lord of the Flies

William Golding

What are we? Humans? Or Animals? Or Savages?

William Golding (1911-1993)



- ◇ He is known as Sir William Gerald Golding.
- ◇ Birthplace: Cornwall, England
- ◇ He was born in 1911, as a child the impact of WWI was very prominent in his upcoming life.
- ◇ His father, Alex, was a teacher which inspired him also and he become a teacher after graduation.
- ◇ Schooling : Marlborough Grammar School.
- ◇ Graduated from Oxford in 1933.
- ◇ Got married in 1939.
- ◇ Joined Royal Navy as a volunteer and became a lieutenant.
- ◇ Left navy in 1945.
- ◇ Became a writer
- ◇ Died on June 19, 1993.

William Golding as a Writer:

- ◇ William Golding's first writing appeared in 1954.
- ◇ His debut novel was, *Lord of the Flies*, that met both criticism and success.
- ◇ It was filmed in 1963 highlighting the inner savage nature of man.
- ◇ *The Inheritors* (1955) is the story of violence and depravity of human nature.
- ◇ *Free Fall* (1959) and *The Spire* (1964) also depict the man is inclined towards evil inherently.
- ◇ Later works: *Darkness Visible*, *Rites of Passage*
- ◇ Golding won a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983
- ◇ He writes extensively about the true nature of man and miseries of human life.

Lord of the Flies

Introduction

- ◆ Lord of the Flies is the debut novel of Golding that was published in 1954 after 21 rejections.
- ◆ It is an allegorical account highlighting the destruction, violence and massacre caused by World War I (1939- 1945)
- ◆ It is an extensive account that confirms that man is fundamentally evil by nature.
- ◆ This novel reveals the evil side of human freedom.
- ◆ It is a saga of loss of innocence caused by the desire of power.
- ◆ William Golding won Nobel Prize on this novel.

Lord of the Flies

Major Themes:

- ◇ Man Vs. Evil
- ◇ Loss of Innocence
- ◇ Savagery Vs. Society
- ◇ Battle between vice and virtue
- ◇ Community and Individual
- ◇ Fears, Doubts and Superstitions
- ◇ Right Vs. Might
- ◇ Symbolism (power symbols)

Major Characters:

- ◇ William Golding's art of characterization is highly symbolic, pointing out the abstract human qualities.
- ◇ **Piggy:** He is a chubby, glasses wearing boy suffering from asthma. He is an advisor to Ralph and is having highly intellectual mind.
- ◇ **Ralph:** He is the elected chief of the boys who uplifts the ideals of civility, morality and democracy.
- ◇ **Jack:** He stands for the evil nature of man who was drunk in the desire of power.
- ◇ **Simon:** A mystic and strange boy who fully understands who the actual beast is.
- ◇ **Samneric:** Twins who are at the duty of keeping the fire alive.
- ◇ **Roger:** He is the agent of Jack Merridew who is in charge of torture and destruction.
- ◇ **Littluns:** All the boys below 6.



Lord of the Flies

Plot Overview



Chapter:1

The Sound of the Shell



- Explanation of the physical features of a fair haired boy, Ralph.
- A fat boy appears from behind asking about a man with a megaphone, as their plane was attacked and they crashed on that island.
- They tried to guess exactly where they are, Ralph is highly delighted to know that there are no grown ups here.
- Innocence of the fat boy, Piggy, who feels pride in having asthma and wearing glasses.
- Piggy is innocent, moral and intellectual boy who remembers his aunt at every point.
- Ralph is overjoyed as there are no restrictions on him now.
- Ralph finds a shell, conch, Piggy advises him to blow it so all the scattered boys can come to their platform.
- The sound of the shell shatters the whole island and boys continue to gather.
- They vote for Ralph as their chief which disappoints Jack.
- Jack, Simon and Ralph go to confirm whether it is an island or not, they find it is.
- Jack is too proud about his hunt but he misses the animal, he assures the innocent boys that next time it won't happen so.

Chapter: 2

Fire on the Mountain

- Ralph called for another meeting on the same platform.
- He ,Piggy and Jack put forward some rules.
 1. They need hunters
 2. They shall look after themselves
 3. They can speak only when they hold the conch in their hands.
 4. They need to raise the fire for their rescue.
- Ralph reminds them that they are not savages so they should do the right things.
- All of them collected the woods and the pile grew and with the help of Piggy's glasses the fire is lit.
- In the haste of raising fire the small boy with the mark on his face is burnt and boys are as silent as death.

Chapter:3

Huts on the Beach

- Ralph and Simon are busy in building huts for the younger boys to live in.
- Jack is irritated because he missed a pig this time also.
- There is a clash between Ralph and Jack.
- The boys are split between meat and shelters.
- Little boys are playing all the time on the beach, splashing about in water.
- Expect Simon and Ralph nobody is interested in building huts.
- Simon is a mysterious boy who walks through the deep jungle all alone.
- Ralph and Jack go for swimming but the feeling of mutual dislike remains between them.

Chapter:4

Painted Faces and Long Hairs

- Littluns are playing on the beach with the sandcastles.
- Roger and Maurice emerge from the jungle and destroy some of the castles.
- Jack maps out a new plan for hunting with colored charcoal as a camouflage on their faces.
- Samneric also joined the hunting party neglecting their duty to keep the fire going.
- Ralph spots a ship in the distance, he is highly disappointed to see that the ship left them attended as the fire has fire out.
- Simon, Piggy and Ralph hurry to lit the fire but the ship is gone by the time they reach there.
- The ship is gone but Jack and his hunters are triumphant.
- Ralph points out they missed a ship for that Jack apologizes but Ralph is still angry as it is not a minor thing to be swallow.
- They arrange a celebration dance while Ralph calls an assembly.

Chapter:5

Beast From Water

- Ralph calls an assembly to remind everyone their agreement to
 1. maintain fresh water
 2. build shelters
 3. observe sanitary measures
 4. keep the fire going
- The boys are overtaken by the growing fear of the presence of the beast.
- Jack says that if a beast is there he will hunt it and kill it.
- Piggy use psychological facts to invalidate the fear.
- Simon once again disappears to his hidden spot and meditates . He comes to a conclusion that human being is the actual beast to be feared.
- Percival says he saw a beast coming from the sea
- Jack disputes Ralph's authority and leads the boys for a dance causing an open mutiny.
- Simon and Piggy forces Ralph to call them back but his confidence is shaken.

Chapter:6

Beast From Air

- An aerial battle is taking place.
- A casualty of the battle floats down to the island. The breeze inflates the parachute, making the body appear to sit up and then sink again.
- Samneric catch the glimpse of the body's movement and hear the parachute inflating.
- They flee to Ralph in panic with a story exaggerated by their fears.
- Ralph calls an assembly and they decide to investigate the only spot left unexplored on the island.
- Piggy and Littluns are left on the beach.
- Ralph wants to be rescued, this island is no more adventurous for him.

Chapter: 7

Shadows and Tall Trees

- Ralph alienates himself from the group created by Jack and spends time to realize the vastness of sea.
- He does not like his dirty and smelly state.
- Simon joins him, reading his mind, prophesies that he will make it back home.
“You will get back to where you came from.”
- Jack is slightly wounded on a hunting mission, Ralph gets his first taste of hunting by striking a boar with his spear.
- Mock hunting boys acting as the pigs, Ralph urges them to stop and insists to go back.
- Simon volunteers to cross the Island alone to inform Piggy that the others wont be able to come back immediately.
- Jack, Ralph and Roger continue to search fro the beast.
- Jack goes on the mountain top, and returns terrifies, Roger and Ralph get frightened after seeing that spot.
- They see the image of the beast in the darkness(the dead paratrooper).
- They flee to the platform in the darkness.

Chapter: 8

Gift for the Darkness

- Jack grabs the conch and calls for a meeting.
- Ralph says that Jack would hide if the beast attacked them.
- Jack attempts a serious mutiny this time impeaching boys against Ralph convincing them that Ralph is a coward, but the boys refuse to vote openly against their chief.
- Jack leaves which makes Piggy happy who suggests that they should build a fire on the beach.
- Some boys creep away to join Jack, Simon also disappears after his unsuccessful address to the boys.
- Jack hunts a nursing sow and impales its head on the stick to offer it to the beast as a sacrifice.
- Simon sits concealed, he hallucinates thinking that the head is talking to him.
- Jack attempts a theft stealing some branches of fire.
- Simon talks to the Lord of the Flies in his unconscious and he is convinced that there is no beast except our inner self.

Chapter:9

A View to the Death

- A storm is building over the island.
- Sense of gloominess and darkness prevails.
- Simon recollects his conscious and makes his way back to the others to give them the news that,
“the beast was harmless...”
- He is famishing and can barely walk.
- Piggy and Ralph are left alone because all the boys except Samneric have joined Jack’s tribe.
- Jack announces a party and he feels pride in calling himself as the sole meat provider. He throws the meat at boys feet.
- A row between Jack and Ralph over meat.
- It starts raining, Jack orders a dance in response.
- They take their spears, clubs and started moving in a circle.
- Simon appears in the middle of the circle, bends on his knees and tries to say something but the boys leapt upon him considering him the beast.
- They tore, struck and bit him and he was no more.
“Even in the rain they could see how small a beast it was...”

Chapter:10

The Shell and the Glasses

- Only Piggy, Samneric and some Littluns are left with Ralph.
- Ralph is guilty as he considers the death of Simon as a murder.
- Piggy argues that it was just an accident done in the darkness.
- Jack begins acting like a cruel dictator, having his boys tied up and beaten for angering him.
- He plans a raid on Ralph's camp to get the fire so they can roast the pig.
- Ralph plans that they should let the fire die for tonight so that raiders can't steal burning branches.
- Jack attacks Ralph's group, steal Piggy's glasses. He has the glasses, hunting boys and authority.
- Jack is the chief now in true sense because he has the power symbol, glasses in his hold.

Chapter:11

Castle Rock

- Ralph calls an assembly at Piggy's request who wants his glasses back immediately. And they have to lit the fire.
- Ralph is conscious about Piggy.
- Piggy, Samneric and Ralph decide to talk to Jack directly on grounds of reason.
- Samneric are utterly frightened to face the boys who are now savages.
- Jack emerges from the forest and tells Ralph to go back to his end,

“You go away Ralph, You keep to your end. This is my end....you leave me alone.”

Jack's tribe is hostile towards Ralph's little group.

- Roger throws stones at the twins to scare them.
- Ralph is open with Jack and tells him what he did to them.

“You played a dirty trick.”

- He says he came here just to take Piggy’s glasses.

“You pinched Piggy’s specs, you’ve got to give them back.”

- The savages laughed at Ralph’s impassioned speech about the necessity of a signal fire.
- Jack orders his boys to grab Samneric and tie them. Tempting Ralph for a fight.
- Roger is constantly throwing stones.

“below him, Ralph was a shock of hair and Piggy a bag of fat.”

- Piggy says he has the conch and inquires from the others,

“Which is better-to be a pack of painted niggers like you are or to be sensible like Ralph.”

- All of sudden a momentous rock falls upon Piggy’s neck and he is fald, his barin comes out the conch is crashed into powder.

- Jack screams in victory at Ralph and throws his spears at him, Ralph is wounded and flees for his life.
- He came with three sincere, civil fellows and left in a horrible state.
- Piggy was crushed mercilessly, Samneric were kidnapped forcefully and he himself was seriously wounded.
- The power symbol is also gone, Ralph is empty handed, all alone surrounded by brutes.
- Golding shows that savagery takes victory over civilization.
- It is easy to prove and act wrong while goodness has to endure great hardship.

Chapter:12

Cry of the Hunters

- Condition of Ralph,
 1. bruised flesh with a swollen and bloody scar.
 2. hair full of dust.
 3. lack of security.
 4. worst, miserable state

“Ralph wept for the loss of innocence, the darkness of human heart and the fall through the air of a true, wise friend called Piggy.”

- He is afraid of spending the night alone, decides to go back to Jack to try reasoning again.
- He encounters the pig's skull. He knocks it down to the ground and takes the stake as a weapon.
- He sees Samneric who are on watch at the castle rock.
- He approaches them hoping to win their loyalty.
- Samneric explains their plight and warns him about the manhunt planned next day.
- They are grieved to see their chief in that pathetic state and give him meat of their part.

- Ralph finds a place to sleep for the night.
- There is great noise raised by the raiders that awaked Ralph but again Samneric paly their part and keep the hunters away from his hiding place.
- At last, the tribe is unsuccessful at reaching him in the thicket.
- They flush him out by rolling boulders and setting the island on fire.
- Ralph runs with all his energy and the tribe follows him, communicating in a ululating voice.
- The fire gets out of controls and engulfs the whole island.
- Ralph makes his way towards the beach and falls at the feet of a British naval officer.
- The officer's ship is attracted by the smoke of a huge fire.
- The officer is highly embarrassed to see the English boys in such uncivilized, unkempt state.
- The officer thinks that the boys are having “**fun and game**” here but when he comes to know the real situation he was ashamed.

Main Ideas Explored by the Novel:

- **Forms of Power in the Novel**
- **Democracy:**
- Democracy is the ideal form of governing the masses peacefully and smoothly. It is considered as a natural method of selecting the one who is going to be in the power. In the very beginning of the novel the boys decided who will be the ruler upon them. Ralph, having the advantage of the conch and for gathering all the scattered afraid boys at one spot, was immediately and unanimously elected as a chief. Ralph stands for democracy in the novel.

• Dictatorship:

- The misuse of power and murder of democracy along with the innocence is done by Jack who right from the beginning was not happy with Ralph and his policies, *“I ought to be chief.”* said Jack with simple arrogance, *“I’m chapter chorister and head boy”*.

- But, when Ralph was elected as chief, Jack’s hatred grew. He started planning to snatch power from Ralph. He divided boys attracting them by meat and dance. He was not happy by rules declaring sarcastically;
- *“We’ll have rules... lots of rules”*.
- Jack stands for savagery and dictatorship. He threatened the boys, ordered them to do what he wants and compelled them to go for open mutiny. Whenever, he met or talked to Ralph and Piggy, there was an assertion of power in his tone, body language was authoritative.

Power and Corruption:

- It is the corruption of Jack's absolute power that he stole the glasses of Piggy and committed a highly inhumane act.
- *“Power lay in the brown swell of his forearms; authority sat on his shoulder and chattered in his ear like an ape”.*
- He promoted blood, terror, evil, stealing immortality and violence among the boys. He enchanted this slogan.
- ***Kill the beast! Cut her throat! Spill her blood!***
- It was his unchecked absolute power that innocent, saint like a boy, Simon was cruelly killed while dancing. It was his supreme authority that Piggy was crushed under the stone. It was his devil nature that the whole island was set on fire.

Power symbols:

- William Golding uses symbols to reinforce the idea of power and politics.
- **Conch:**
- The conch was the symbol of civility and manners. It symbolized the right use of power and respect for law and order. In chapter eleven Rattle and Snake, that power symbol, conch, was crushed to powder and Jack was happy to say **the conch is gone.**

- **Piggy's glasses:**

- Piggy's glasses were symbolic because they were the necessary tool to lit the fire so that they must be rescued. Jack stole these glasses and was angry when he was called **thief** by Ralph on doing such a cheap act. The conch was smashed, the glasses, half broken, were in the hands of Jack, now nobody could stop him from being cruel. He was now, uncrowned king of the island and his authority was not answerable to anyone.
- Ralph was left all alone, with no fire, no smoke, and no rescue.
- Through these symbols William Golding showed how easy is for the clever ones to snatch power and rights from the innocents. This transition depicted the loss of innocence and influence of devilish thinking.

THANK YOU!

