

Socratic Seminar Preparation for *Lord of the Flies*

Directions: Be prepared to discuss all questions; you never know which questions I will ask. Before the seminar please review all Socratic Seminar guidelines. If you are absent, you will not be able to make up this seminar.

1. Explain the importance of setting. Could this story have been set in a different time and place and still have the same effect?
2. Compare and contrast Piggy and Roger as the seconds to the leaders.
3. Compare and contrast the deaths of Simon and Piggy.
4. What is the symbolic importance of the pig's head (title of the novel)?
5. According to Golding's novel, is evil intrinsic or extrinsic to humans?
6. What faults in society does Golding point out in the novel?
7. Why did *Lord of the Flies* speak to Simon instead of any of the other boys?
8. Explain the symbolism in the descriptions of the bodies of Simon and the pilot going out to sea.
9. Compare Jack's tactics to terrorist or gang activities. How are they similar?
10. In the struggle for power between Jack and Ralph, what advantages does Jack have? Ralph?
11. Traditionally children are portrayed as innocent. Are they in this novel? Explain.
12. "The [pigs] half shut eyes were dim with infinite cynicism of adult life." Explain this quote and how it relates to the novel.
13. If you were on the island with the boys, which character from the story do you think you would most likely be?
14. If you were the leader of the boys in the beginning of the story, what would you have done differently that may have caused a different outcome?

After the Seminar Reflection Questions: Write a reflection based on the following criteria.

1. Did the participants:
 - a. dig below the surface meaning?
 - b. speak loudly and clearly?
 - c. Cite reasons and evidence for their statements?
 - d. Use the text to find support?
 - e. Listen to others respectfully?
 - f. Stick with the subject?
 - g. Talk to each other and not just the leader?
 - h. Paraphrase accurately?
 - i. Avoid inappropriate language?
 - j. Ask for help to clear confusion?
 - k. Support each other?
 - l. Avoid hostile exchanges?
 - m. Question others in a civil manner?
 - n. Seem prepared?
 - o. Make sure questions were understood?
2. Name Specific people who did one or more of the above criteria well. Explain.
3. What was the most interesting question asked? Why was it interesting to you?
4. What was the most interesting idea to come from a participant? Why was it interesting to you?
5. What was the best thing you observed? Explain.
6. What was the most troubling thing you observed? Explain. How could it be corrected or improved?
7. Rate your own participation, what did you do well, what do you hope to do next time differently?