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**An Analysis of the Themes in William Golding's**  
***Lord of the Flies***

A Research Submitted to the Council of College of Basic  
Education/ Department of English in Partial Fulfilment of the  
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

{هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسُ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا وَقَدَرَهُ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْجَسَابَ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ ذَلِكَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ يُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ }

صدق الله العلي العظيم

{سورة يونس، الآية ٥}

## **Dedication**

I dedicate my humble research to my sweet and  
loving Father and Mother.

Whose affection, love, encouragement and prayers  
of day and night make me able to get such  
success and honor.

Along with all hard working and respected  
instructors.

I dedicate my research to all my friends.

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## Abstract

This paper is mainly intended to reveal the themes in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. These themes include civilization vs savagery, loss of innocence, the nature of evil, childhood, morality, and leadership. This is a descriptive research that tries to describe the themes in *Lord of the Flies*. The assumption of that humans are saveges by their nature, and that assumption had been reflected by the behaviours of the schoolbos on the island after the destroyed of their airplane. The result of this research shows that, *Lord of the Flies*, a novel written by William Golding reflects the themes of the savage nature of humans in the absence of laws, regulations and civilization. The paper displays the author's perception of the humans' nature and its tragic implications on the characters of the novel.

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## Introduction

*Lord of the Flies* is the 1954 debut novel of British author William Golding. The plot concerns a group of British boys who are stranded on an uninhabited island and their disastrous attempts to govern themselves. The novel's themes include morality, leadership, and the tension between civility and chaos. *Lord of the Flies* was Golding's first novel. Golding got the idea for the plot from *The Coral Island*, a children's adventure novel with a focus on Christianity and the supposed civilising influence of British colonialism.

The novel's title is a literal translation of Beelzebub, a biblical demon considered the god of pride and warfare. Golding, who was a philosophy teacher before becoming a Royal Navy lieutenant, experienced war firsthand, and commanded a landing craft in the Normandy landings during D-Day in 1944. After the war ended and Golding returned to England, the world was dominated by the Cold War and the threat of nuclear annihilation, which led Golding to examine the nature of humanity and went on to inspire *Lord of the Flies* .

## Chapter One

### 1.1 William Golding's Biography

Sir William Gerald Golding is considered one of the most famous British novelists, playwright, and poet. He Was born on 19 September 1911. One of the most famous works of William Golding was the novel *Lord of the Flies* (1954), he was awarded the Booker Prize for *Rites of Passage*, the first novel in what became his sea trilogy, *To the Ends of the Earth*. He was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize in Literature.

William is the son of Alec Golding, a science master at Marlborough Grammar School (1905 to retirement), and Mildred ,née Curnoe ,William Golding was born at his maternal grandmother's house, 48 Mount Wise, Newquay, Cornwall. The house was known as Karenza, the Cornish word for love, and he spent many childhood holidays there. The Golding family lived at 29, The Green, Marlborough ,Wiltshire, Golding and his elder brother Joseph attending the school at which their father taught. Golding's mother was a campaigner for female suffrage; she was Cornish and was considered by her son" a superstitious Celt , "who used to tell him old Cornish ghost stories from her own childhood .In 1930 Golding went to Brasenose College ,Oxford, where he read Natural Sciences for two years before transferring to English for his final two years.

Golding was engaged to Molly Evans, a woman from Marlborough, who was well liked by both of his parents.However, he broke off the engagement and married Ann Brookfield, an analytical chemist, on 30 September 1939. They had two children, David (born September 1940) and Judith) born July 1945). (Kevin McCarron, 'Golding, Sir William Gerald (1911–1993)

During World War II, Golding joined the Royal Navy in 1940. He served on a destroyer which was briefly involved in the pursuit and sinking of the German battleship *Bismarck*. Golding participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, commanding a landing craft that fired salvoes of rockets onto the beaches. He was also in action at Walcheren in October



and November ,1944 during which time 10 out of 27 assault craft that went into the attack were sunk. Golding rose to the rank of lieutenant. (William Golding: Life and Background Springer Link. Retrieved August 20, 2023.)

In 1985, Golding and his wife moved to a house called Tullimaar in Perranarworthal, near Truro, Cornwall. He died of heart failure eight years later on 19 June 1993. His body was buried in the parish churchyard of Bowerchalke near his former home and the Wiltshire county border with Hampshire and Dorset. (Golding, William (1996). *The Double Tongue* .London: Faber. ISBN 978-0-571-17803-2.(.

## 1.2 William Golding's Works

His first novel, *Lord of the Flies* film, 1963 and 1990; play, adapted by Nigel Williams, 1995), describes a group of boys stranded on a tropical island descending into a lawless and increasingly wild existence before being rescued. *The Inheritors* (1955) depicts a tribe of gentle Neanderthals encountering modern humans, who by comparison are deceitful and violent. His 1956 novel *Pincher Martin* records the thoughts of a drowning sailor. *Free Fall* (1959) explores the issue of freedom of choice .The novel's narrator, a World War Two soldier in a German POW Camp, endures interrogation and solitary confinement. After these events and while recollecting the 5 experiences, he looks back over the choices he has made ,trying to trace precisely where he lost the freedom to make his own decisions .*The Spire* (1964) follows the construction (and near collapse) of an impossibly large spire on the top of a medieval cathedral (generally assumed to be Salisbury Cathedral). (William Golding *Flies* classic holds true 60 years on ."BBC News. 16 September 2014. Retrieved 22 December 2020).

Golding's 1967 novel, *The Pyramid* ,consists of three linked stories with a shared setting in a small English town based partly on Marlborough where Golding grew up. *The Scorpion God* (1971 (contains three novellas, the first set in an ancient Egyptian court") *The Scorpion God* ;("the second describing a prehistoric African hunter-gatherer group") *Clonk, Clonk* ;("and the third in the court of a Roman emperor ")*Envoy Extraordinary* .

originally published in 1956, was reworked by Golding into a play, *The Brass Butterfly*, in 1958. From 1971 to 1979, Golding published no novels. After this period he published *Darkness Visible* (1979): a story involving terrorism, paedophilia, and a mysterious figure who survives a fire in the Blitz, and appears to have supernatural powers. In 1980, Golding published *Rites of Passage*, the first of his novels about a voyage to Australia in the early nineteenth century. The novel won the Booker Prize in 1980 and Golding followed this success with *Close Quarters* (1987) and *Fire Down Below* (1989) to complete his 'sea trilogy', later published as one volume entitled *To the Ends of the Earth*. In 1984, he published *The Paper Men*: an account of the struggles between a novelist and his would-be biographer. (F. Regard (ed.), *Fingering Netsukes: Selected Papers from the First International William Golding Conference*, 1995).

## Chapter Two

### 2.1 Historical Background

William Golding was born on September 19, 1911, in Cornwall, England. Although he tried to write a novel as early as age twelve, his parents urged him to study the natural sciences. Golding followed his parents' wishes until his second year at Oxford, when he changed his focus to English literature. After graduating from Oxford, he worked briefly as a theater actor and director, wrote poetry, and then became a schoolteacher. In 1940, a year after England entered World War II, Golding joined the Royal Navy, where he served in command of a rocket-launcher and participated in the invasion of Normandy.

Golding's experience in World War II had a profound effect on his view of humanity and the evils of which it was capable. After the war, Golding resumed teaching and started to write novels. His first and greatest success came with *Lord of the Flies* (1954), which ultimately became a bestseller in both Britain and the United States after more than twenty publishers rejected it. The novel's sales enabled Golding to retire from teaching and devote himself fully to writing. Golding wrote several more novels, notably *Pincher Martin* (1956), and a play, *The Brass Butterfly* (1958). Although he never matched the popular and critical success he enjoyed with *Lord of the Flies*, he remained a respected and distinguished author for the rest of his life and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983. Golding died in 1993, one of the most acclaimed writers of the second half of the twentieth century.

*Lord of the Flies* tells the story of a group of English schoolboys marooned on a tropical island after their plane is shot down during a war. Though the novel is fictional, its exploration of the idea of human evil is at least partly based on Golding's experience with the real-life violence and brutality of World War II. Free from the rules and structures of civilization and society, the boys on the island in *Lord of the Flies* descend into savagery. As the boys splinter into factions, some behave peacefully and work together to maintain order and achieve common goals, while others rebel and seek only anarchy and violence. In his portrayal of the small world of the island, Golding paints a broader portrait of the fundamental human struggle

between the civilizing instinct—the impulse to obey rules, behave morally, and act lawfully—and the savage instinct—the impulse to seek brute power over others, act selfishly, scorn moral rules, and indulge in violence.

Golding employs a relatively straightforward writing style in *Lord of the Flies*, one that avoids highly poetic language, lengthy description, and philosophical interludes. Much of the novel is allegorical, meaning that the characters and objects in the novel are infused with symbolic significance that conveys the novel's central themes and ideas. In portraying the various ways in which the boys on the island adapt to their new surroundings and react to their new freedom, Golding explores the broad spectrum of ways in which humans respond to stress, change, and tension.

Readers and critics have interpreted *Lord of the Flies* in widely varying ways over the years since its publication. During the 1950s and 1960s, many readings of the novel claimed that *Lord of the Flies* dramatizes the history of civilization. Some believed that the novel explores fundamental religious issues, such as original sin and the nature of good and evil. Others approached *Lord of the Flies* through the theories of the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, who taught that the human mind was the site of a constant battle among different impulses—the id (instinctual needs and desires), the ego (the conscious, rational mind), and the superego (the sense of conscience and morality). Still others maintained that Golding wrote the novel as a criticism of the political and social institutions of the West. Ultimately, there is some validity to each of these different readings and interpretations of *Lord of the Flies*. Although Golding's story is confined to the microcosm of a group of boys, it resounds with implications far beyond the bounds of the small island and explores problems and questions universal to the human experience.

## **2.2Plot Summary of *Lord of the Flies***

*Lord of the Flies* explores the dark side of humanity, the savagery that underlies even the most civilized human beings. William Golding intended this novel as a tragic parody of children's adventure tales, illustrating humankind's intrinsic evil nature. He presents the reader with a chronology of events leading a group of young boys from hope to disaster as they attempt to survive their uncivilized, unsupervised, isolated environment until rescued. In the midst of a nuclear war, a group of British boys find themselves stranded without adult supervision on a tropical island. The group is

roughly divided into the "littluns", boys around the age of six, and the "biguns", who are between the ages of ten and twelve. Initially, the boys attempt to form a culture similar to the one they left behind. They elect a leader, Ralph, who, with the advice and support of Piggy (the intellectual of the group), strives to establish rules for housing and sanitation. Ralph also makes a signal fire the group's first priority, hoping that a passing ship will see the smoke signal and rescue them. A major challenge to Ralph's leadership is Jack, who also wants to lead. Jack commands a group of choirboys-turned-hunters who sacrifice the duty of tending the fire so that they can participate in the hunts. Jack draws the other boys slowly away from Ralph's influence because of their natural attraction to and inclination toward the adventurous hunting activities symbolizing violence and evil.

The conflict between Jack and Ralph and the forces of savagery and civilization that they represent is exacerbated by the boys' literal fear of a mythical beast roaming the island. One night, an aerial battle occurs above the island, and a casualty of the battle floats down with his opened parachute, ultimately coming to rest on the mountaintop. Breezes occasionally inflate the parachute, making the body appear to sit up and then sink forward again. This

sight panics the boys as they mistake the dead body for the beast they fear. In a reaction to this panic, Jack forms a splinter group that is eventually joined by all but a few of the boys. The boys who join Jack are enticed by the protection Jack's ferocity seems to provide, as well

as by the prospect of playing the role of savages: putting on camouflaging face paint, hunting, and performing ritualistic tribal dances. Eventually, Jack's group actually slaughters a sow and, as an offering to the beast, puts the sow's head on a stick. Of all the boys, only the mystic Simon has the courage to discover the true identity of the beast sighted on the mountain. After witnessing the death of the sow and the gift made of her head to the beast, Simon begins to hallucinate, and the staked sow's head becomes the *Lord of the Flies*, imparting to Simon what he has already suspected: The beast is not an animal on the loose but is hidden in each boy's psyche. Weakened by his horrific vision, Simon loses consciousness. Recovering later that evening, he struggles to the mountaintop and finds that the beast is only a dead pilot/soldier. Attempting to bring the news to the other boys, he stumbles into the tribal frenzy of their dance. Perceiving him as the beast, the boys beat him to death.

Soon only three of the older boys ,including Piggy, are still in Ralph's camp. Jack's group steals Piggy's glasses to start its cooking fires, leaving Ralph unable to maintain his signal fire .When Ralph and his small group approach Jack's tribe to request the return of the glasses, one of Jack's hunters releases a huge boulder on Piggy, killing him. The tribe captures the other two biguns prisoners, leaving Ralph on his own. The tribe undertakes a manhunt to track down and kill Ralph, and they start a fire to smoke him out of one of his hiding places, creating an island-wide forest fire. A passing ship sees the smoke from the fire, and a British naval officer arrives on the beach just in time to save Ralph from certain death at the hands of the schoolboys turned savages. (William Golding Flies classic holds true 60 years on ."BBC News. 16 September 2014 .Retrieved 22 December 2020.)

## **2.3Characters of *Lord of the Flies***

### **Ralph**

The novel's protagonist, a twelve-year-old English boy. Marooned on a tropical island with a group of boys when their transport plane is shot down, Ralph is elected leader of the group and attempts to coordinate efforts to build a miniature civilization on the island. Ralph represents the civilizing instinct within human beings, as opposed to the savage instinct symbolized by Jack.

### **Jack**

The novel's antagonist, one of the older boys stranded on the jungle island. On the island, Jack is the leader of the hunters, but he longs for total power and becomes increasingly wild, barbarous ,and cruel as the novel progresses. He is also adept at manipulating the other boys. Jack represents the instinct of savagery within human beings, as opposed to the civilizing instinct represented by Ralph.

### **Simon**

Simon is in some ways the only naturally“ good” character on the island. He behaves kindly toward the younger boys and is willing to work for the good of their community. Moreover, because his motivation seems rooted in his deep feeling of connectedness to nature, Simon is the only character whose sense of morality does not

seem to have been imposed by society. Simon represents a kind of natural goodness, as opposed to the unbridled evil of Jack and the imposed morality of civilization represented by Ralph and Piggy.

### Piggy

Ralph's lieutenant. A whiny, intellectual boy, Piggy's inventiveness frequently leads to innovation, such as the makeshift sundial, which the boys use to tell time. Piggy represents the scientific, rational side of civilization .

### Roger

Jack's lieutenant. A sadistic, cruel older boy who brutalizes the littluns and eventually murders Piggy by rolling a boulder onto him.

### Sam and Eric

A pair of twins closely allied with Ralph, Sam and Eric are always together and are often treated as a single entity by the other boys; they are frequently referred to as "Samneric." They are young and easily excitable, and are subject to manipulation and coercion by Jack and his cronies.

## Chapter Three

### The Themes of *Lord of the Flies*

William Golding shedded the light on some important themes in the *Lord of the Flies*. These themes include the following

#### 3.1 Theme of Civilization Vs Savagery

The central theme of *Lord of the Flies* is the conflict between two competing impulses that exist within all human beings: the instinct to live by rules, act peacefully, follow moral commands, against the instinct to gratify one's desires, act violently to obtain supremacy over others. This conflict might be expressed as civilization vs. savagery, order vs. chaos, or good vs. evil. Throughout the novel, Golding associates the instinct of civilization with good and the instinct of savagery and the desire for power. The viewpoint of Golding about the innate evil in human beings is known; he is often regarded as a pessimist having a negative way of looking at life, though he repeatedly refuses that he is not a pessimist. His view of human civilization that appears largely in the background of the children's world on the island, apparently offers no flicker of hope. The different aspects of the adult's world as reflected in *Lord of the Flies* may be discussed in the following way: first, there was the atomic war that presupposed the school children dropped on an uninhabited island; secondly, occasional references to bomb, firing and so on, that point at the cruelty of the grown-up people; thirdly, the fluffy suggestions of the boy's unhappy family life and lastly, the presentation of chauvinism as the remains of colonial feelings mirrored in the naval officer's speech at the end.

With the progress in the story, Golding shows how different people feel the influences of the instincts of civilization and savagery to different degrees. Piggy, for instance, has no savage feelings, while Roger seems barely capable of comprehending the rules of civilization. Generally, however, Golding implies that the instinct of savagery is far more primal and fundamental to the human psyche than the instinct of civilization. Golding sees moral behaviour, in many cases, as something that civilization forces upon the individual rather than a natural expression of human individuality. When left to their own devices, Golding implies, people naturally revert to cruelty, savagery, and barbarism. This idea of



innate human evil is central to Lord of the Flies. Among all the characters ,only Simon seems to possess innate goodness in him.

### **3.2 Theme of Loss of Innocence**

As the boys on the island progress from well-behave orderly children to cruel, bloodthirsty hunters who have no desire to return to civilization, they naturally lose the sense of innocence that they possessed at the beginning of the novel. The painted savages who have hunted ,tortured, and killed animals and human beings .But Golding does not portray loss of innocence as something that is done to the children; rather, it results naturally from their increasing openness to the innate evil and savagery that has always existed within them. Golding implies that civilization can mitigate but never wipe out the innate evil that exists within all human beings. The forest glade in which Simon sits in symbolizes this loss of innocence. At first, it is a place of natural beauty and peace, but when Simon returns later in the novel, he discovers the bloody sow's head impaled upon a stake in the middle of the clearing.

### **3. 3Theme of the Nature of Evil**

“ Lord of the Flies” Tries to explore the answers of the following questions: Is evil innate within the human spirit, or is it an influence from an external source? What role do societal rules and institutions play in the existence of human evil? Does the capacity for evil vary from person to person, or does it depend on the circumstances each individual faces? A complex articulation of man's potential for evil has been presented. Through detailed depictions of the boys' different responses to their situation.

Golding has made this exposition of cruelty in his novel probably to make his readers aware of what he deemed the real nature of the human mind. He may be believed that World War II did not present us with issues such as fighting-, nationalism, politics, and freedom ;it corrupted the nature of human beings. Perhaps Golding also believed that the earth is mangled by men and can be saved only if men become aware of his nature and changes it .According to the viewpoint of Golding, the most alarming quality of evil is

that it can attract most of the people towards it, because most people are attracted to the joys of life and are loath rational thinking. Golding also relates evil with fear which often causes risky activities .

### 3.4 Theme of Childhood

*Lord of the Flies* is a novel about the activities of some schoolboys who ranged between six and twelve and who had been dropped by an airplane on an uninhabited island. The subject matter of the novel shows similarities with the adventurous stories written in the 19th century. Those stories are romantic tales which stress on the discovery of the unknown land by the boys who are away from the Christian notion of original sin. But *Lord of the Flies* is a reconstruction of Ballantyne's *Coral Island* in which three British-school boys find an uninhabited island which becomes a paradise for them.

Golding does not share the romantic ideas that portray children to the status of innocent angels. According to him ,children possess both good qualities and bad ones as do grown-ups. And in both cases only a few possess good qualities like love, fellow feeling, sympathy ,and pit. In this novel, Simon alone is called innocent. He is full of love ,pity and sympathy for others. He brings ripe fruit for the littluns, offers his own share of meat to Piggy to whom it was denied and thinks that the supposed beast might be some ill man who could not even chase the boys that went so near him. But the other boys, even Ralph and Piggy who are noted for rationality and intelligence, do not possess the characteristic qualities of Simon.

### 3.5 Theme of Morality

Morals guide people throughout life and its challenging circumstances. People rely on their sense of morality to remain constant so that they can determine what is good and what is evil. However, the ever changing environment provides new circumstances that often conflict with a person's seemingly unbreakable morals. The boys in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding undergo traumatic experiences that put their morality to the test. In *Lord of the Flies*, the struggle of Ralph, Jack, the hunters, Piggy, and Simon to resist evil and remain good while on the deserted island proves how the novel is a moral allegory because their internal conflicts add another level to the story. Morals guide people throughout life and its challenging circumstances. People rely on their sense of

morality to remain constant so that they can determine what is good and what is evil. However, the ever changing environment provides new circumstances that often conflict with a person's seemingly unbreakable morals. The boys in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding undergo traumatic experiences that put their morality to the test. In *Lord of the Flies*, the struggle of Ralph, Jack, the hunters, Piggy, and Simon to resist evil and remain good while on the deserted island proves how the novel is a moral allegory because their internal conflicts add another level to the story

### **3.6 Theme of Leadership**

Leadership is the action of leading a group of people or an organization. It is present everywhere, in countries, corporations, and maybe even our own households. But, there is a capacious difference in being a leader and a good leader. In fact, a good leader requires many outstanding traits. Some of these qualities include being honest and having integrity. This is an extremely important trait if the leaders themselves can't have good values, beliefs, and morals, then what example will that serve the followers? Consequently, they would follow their leader's example and not have honesty, or integrity. Furthermore, confidence is a vital trait, for people need to feel trust and security when following someone, and if you don't believe in yourself and your decisions, no one else will either.

To continue, good communicating skills are key. A good communicator can inspire and motivate people to go beyond their capacities. Leaders need to have the potential to translate their ideas and thoughts to people in a way that makes the leader trustworthy. Moreover, a proper leader can in no way lack of commitment. In order to motivate others to give their bests and go beyond their capabilities, a leader will also have to do the same. The leader needs to serve as an inspiration to others, and if he does not have any commitment, then its followers won't either. In addition, open-mindedness is a quality any good leader should acquire. A leader should learn how to accept other people's ideas, thoughts, and points of views. This is necessary, for if they only listen to themselves instead of listening to other ideas, even if they are superior to his own, then he is preventing his followers from developing. Furthermore, charisma is requisite, for a leader needs to inspire others, to make them feel confident, and be an influence. Charisma can help awaken followers to come together in order to pursue an objective collectively. Finally, a good leader should always have extraordinary decision-making capabilities. This is one of the most important traits for a

leader, for it's their decisions that influence everyone around them, and in some cases the whole world. A leader should be able to make the right decision and stand by it.

*Lord of the Flies* is a dystopian novel, written by William Golding. It tells the story of a group of British boys stranded on a deserted island, after their plane crashed, during World War II. The book also abundantly focuses on the theme of leadership. It is portrayed through the main character, Ralph, who is elected leader soon after the group's arrival in the island. Noticeably, he possesses many qualities of a good leader. He is very civilized, charismatic, has obvious common sense, and is intelligent. Most importantly, he has a long term focus, which is to be rescued as soon as possible. This is demonstrated when he states, "Listen everybody. I've got to have time to think things out. I can't decide what to do straight off. If this isn't an island we might be rescued straight away. So we've got to decide if this is an island." The quote also exhibits Ralph's decision-making skills and maturity, for he decides that instead of making a hurried decision that will badly affect the group, just so he could get it over with, he will take his time and carefully think about it. Furthermore, after the discovery that they are in an island, Ralph's focus drifts towards keeping the fire going, so if there are ships, planes, or any type of rescue close, they will see the fire and rescue the boys from the island.

To continue, Jack, who has been given the role as the leader of the hunters, is, in the novel, the biggest representation of savagery and violence. He has a strong desire for power, therefore always trying to overpower Ralph and take the leadership of the group. Soon after the boys arrive on the island, Jack starts to turn to a more savage and violent side. "Jack himself shrank at this cry with a hiss of indrawn breath; and for a minute became less a hunter than a furtive thing, ape-like among the tangle of trees." Rather than getting rescued, he is primarily focused on hunting pigs. Slowly Jack starts to lure the rest of the boys away from their civilized manners, to his cannibalistic ways. Unlike Ralph, Jack is a self-proclaimed leader and a dictator.

## Conclusion

Throughout the main themes in the novel *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding succeed in reflecting the true nature of human beings. He aimed to trace society's flaws back to their source in human nature. By using a group of English schoolboys to fend for themselves on a remote jungle island, Golding creates a kind of human nature laboratory in order to examine what happens when the constraints of civilization vanish and raw human nature takes over. In *Lord of the Flies*, Golding argues that human nature, free from the constraints of society, draws people away from reason toward savagery.

The themes of *Lord of the Flies* showed collapses of the children under the weight of their innate savagery: rather than follow rules and work hard, they pursue fun, succumb to fear, and fall to violence. Golding's underlying argument is that human beings are savage by nature, and are moved by primal urges toward selfishness, brutality, and dominance over others. Though the boys think the beast lives in the jungle, Golding makes it clear that it lurks only in their hearts.

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