

## Part 1: *Lord of the Flies* -- William Golding

**NOTE: It will work better if you read this novel closer to school starting – no earlier than August 1.**

This book is short and very easy to read. Don't be insulted by its simplicity; we will use the novel as a basis for training for the AP Literature essay.

- Read the novel, annotating the text as you read.
- There will be a **READING TEST** on the novel after you begin school in August. Study questions that will help you focus on plot, setting, and main character details are posted online.
- **PRODUCT:** On a sheet of paper, **TYPE answers** to the following questions. **NUMBER THEM as you answer.**
  1. What is the main **CONFLICT** in the novel? How does this conflict **DEVELOP** throughout the piece? Use examples from beginning, middle, and end of the text.
  2. What major **THEME IDEA** is found throughout the novel? (Power, Friendship, Love, and similar ideas) What is the author's message about this idea with respect to the **HUMAN CONDITION?** (E.g. "Friendship is as destructive as it is uplifting.")
  3. Identify the protagonist. Identify 3 personality traits along with text examples to support your descriptors.
  4. Write the last sentence in the novel. Explain how the conclusion of the novel leads up to that sentence.
  5. With which character do you most identify? Explain, giving specific examples. If you identify with none of the characters, explain the differences between yourself the most "opposite" character from you, again providing examples.

*Product is due:* **THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS**, so be sure you have it with you.

*Grades are* -- Completeness

*based on:* -- Thought and insight found in your discussions

-- Following all directions concerning formatting the document

-- All work is your own. (*Honestly, if you need Sparknotes for Lord of the Flies, you might want to re-think the whole "AP English" thing. It'll be a long year.*)

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## Part 2: Self Select – OPTIONAL for an additional grade, not as a substitute for *LotF*.

***"It's OPTIONAL, Mrs. Turner. So what's in it for me? Why should I do this?"***

At the end of the year, you're going to be required to KNOW 3 books so well that you can write an essay on any prompt -- literally **any prompt**.

If you have trouble with what we teach in school – you despise Shakespeare; or everybody understood *To Kill a Mockingbird* except you; or you slept through *Waiting for Godot* – then consider this part a chance to read something you can make yours and use it on the exam in May.

If you're not going to really DO this – if you're going to Sparknote it or otherwise try to convince me you read if you didn't -- please save yourself (and me) the trouble. This should be something that works for you, and making me grade something that's not your work to begin with only irritates me and invites me to give you a hard time. Just don't.

**Novels that work** – You don't have to choose one of these, but again, the goal is to get something you can use in May. If you read a piece of pulp fiction, you wasted energy on a project that will yield no payoff in May. If you have a book in mind, but you don't know if it's "good" for the assignment, email me. (cturner@mesquiteisd.org)

**Note** that while these novels have all appeared at least once on the AP Exam, I make no claims regarding their content. Research the synopsis of any book before you purchase or read it if you're worried about being offended by the subject matter.

*Beloved* (Morrison)  
*The Bluest Eye* (Morrison)  
*Catch-22* (Heller)  
*The Color Purple* (Walker)  
*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (Foer)  
*The Kite Runner* (Hosseini)  
*A Lesson Before Dying* (Gaines)  
*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* (Edwards)

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* (Marquez)  
*The Poisonwood Bible* (Kingsolver)  
*The Secret Life of Bees* (Kidd)  
*Sister of My Heart* (Divakaruni)  
*Sula* (Morrison)  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Hurston)  
*The Things They Carried* (O'Brien)  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Hosseini)

**PRODUCT:** Do the exact same thing you did – using the exact same 5 questions – for your self-select as you did for *Lord of the Flies*.

*Product is due:* **THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS**, so be sure you have it with you.

*Grades are* -- Completeness

*based on:* -- Thought and insight found in your discussions

-- Following all directions concerning formatting the document

-- All work is your own – especially since this is optional.

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## Let's Recap --

Here's what you owe me during the first week of school:

- 5 answered questions over *Lord of the Flies* **due – TYPED -- on the first day of class**.
- You'll take a **reading test** over *Lord of the Flies* before the first week of school is over.
- An optional 5 answered questions over a self-selected novel **due – TYPED -- on the first day of class**. Since this part is optional, there's no late work. If it's not here on the first day, no credit will be given.

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If you need to contact me over the summer, you can reach me at [cturner@mesquiteisd.org](mailto:cturner@mesquiteisd.org).