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MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Student's Worksheet: William Golding

Task One: Read the factfile.

	<u>William Gerald Golding</u>
Born	19 September 1911
Died	19 June 1993 (aged 81) of heart failure
Studies	Oxford University - Natural Sciences for two years before transferring to English Literature
Occupation	Teacher, writer of novels, plays and poems
Nationality	British
Marriage and family	Ann Brookfield, an analytic chemist, two children, Judith and David
War service	The Royal Navy in 1940, participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day At the war's end, he returned to teaching and writing.
Genres	Survivalist fiction, robinsonade, adventure, sea story, science fiction, essay, historical fiction, stage play, poetry
Notable work(s)	Lord of the Flies
Notable award(s)	Booker Prize 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature 1983



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Write a paragraph about Golding's life. Write it in sentences, try to use conjunctions. Then compare your text with your partner.

Task Two: Read the information about the book. Is there any new information for you?

Lord of the Flies is a novel by Nobel Prize-winning English author William Golding about a group of British boys stuck on an uninhabited island who try to govern themselves with disastrous results. Published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* was Golding's first novel. Although it was not a great success at the time, it soon went on to become a best-seller, and by the early 1960s was required reading in many schools and colleges. It has been adapted to film twice in English, in 1963 by Peter Brook and 1990 by Harry Hook.



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Task Three: Watch the video and put the events of the plot in the correct order.

- a) Ralph is hunted by Jack's tribe like an animal.
- b) The new tribe of savage hunters is finally formed around Jack. The bloody head of the first hunted pig is placed on a sharpened pole and is named the Lord of Flies.
- c) Suddenly the naval officer appears on the beach.
- d) Jack's and Ralph's views of the group goals differ completely: Jack is interested in hunting only; while Ralph thinks building shelters and maintaining a signal fire are more important. The anger between them grows.
- e) Jack's tribe kills Piggy and destroys the conch shell, the symbol of democracy.
- f) The election for leader takes place on the beach. Ralph is elected the leader and Jack is furious about his defeat.
- g) Simon meets "the beast" in the forest and realizes that it is a dead body hung up in the branches by a parachute. When Simon tries to tell it the other boys, they kill him savagely.
- h) As the rumour about "the beast" living on the island is being spread, the boys' fear grows, and as a result the boys divide slowly into two groups: one supporting Jack and another supporting Ralph.

Task Four: Watch the video again and answer the questions:

How does the novel begin? When does it take place?

Could you specify the genre?

What do the following things symbolize?

the conch shell

Piggy's glasses

the signal fire

the beast

the Lord of the Flies

Ralph

Jack

What is the main theme of the book?



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Task Five: Read the excerpt and answer the questions.

“We saw your smoke. And you don’t know how many of you are?”

“No, sir.”

“I should have thought,” said the officer as he visualized the search before him, “I should have thought that a pack of British boys—you’re all British, aren’t you?—would have been able to put up a better show than that—I mean—”

“It was like that at first,” said Ralph, “before things—” He stopped.

“We were together then—”

The officer nodded helpfully.

(...)

Ralph looked at him dumbly. For a moment he had a fleeting picture of the strange glamour that had once invested the beaches. But the island was scorched up like dead wood—Simon was dead—and Jack had. . . . The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. And in the middle of them, with filthy body, matted hair, and unwiped nose, Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.

The officer, surrounded by these noises, was moved and a little embarrassed. He turned away to give them time to pull themselves together; and waited, allowing his eyes to rest on the trim cruiser in the distance.

Which part of the novel does the excerpt come from?

Does the story end the way you expected? How? Why? Is this a happy end?

Why did the officer feel a little embarrassed? How do you understand to his words?

“I should have thought that a pack of British boys—you’re all British, aren’t you?—would have been able to put up a better show than that—I mean—”

What is Golding’s message?