

Please respond to one of the following essay prompts. Please use MLA format and in-line citation for direct quotations and paraphrasing. You do not need a works cited page.

1. Assigning symbols to represent either tangible objects or intangible ideas is an activity that has been practiced since the very beginnings of communication. It has been said that human languages, myths, religions, sciences, and arts are symbolic forms by which we project our reality and come to know and understand it. Symbolism is shorthand by which we communicate.

Webster says that a symbol is “That which stand for or suggests something else by reason of relationship, association, convention or accident but not intentional resemblance; especially, a visible sign of something invisible, as an idea, a quality or a totality such as state of a church.” As a literary device, symbolism is shorthand by which the writer can communicate an idea. It allows the writer to share a secret with the reader and, in the sharing of the secret, engage the reader’s imagination. Once engaged, the reader is more firmly bonded to the writer.

However, the business of using symbolism is not a one-thing-equals-one-idea kind of prospect. Even in the event where the symbol used is universally accepted—such as a rose to represent love—the twist the author gives to the symbol may alter its meaning entirely. It is through the presentation of the symbol that the author not only defines the symbol, but also defines the intangible contextual variations that the symbol represents.

Choose four symbols from the list that follows and show how they changed as life on the island changed: the island, the conch, the platform, Piggy, Piggy’s glasses, fire, the Beast, the sea, and Simon.

2. Sigmund Freud was the first psychoanalytic theorists to suggest that the human personality could be divided into three parts. Freud theorized that, in early years, people are ruled by the *id*, which governs the individual’s behavior by a primitive directness. The *id* seeks its pleasures and vents its destructive impulses on the world without restraint or regret. Eventually, disapproving adults alter the behavior through outside punishment and censure. In time, the rules of the adults are internalized in the child and become his or her own controls for behavior. Freud called this phenomenon the *superego*. In addition, Freud speculated that a balance had to be struck between the unreasoning urges of the *id* and the rigid unreasoning controls of the *superego*. He labeled this part of the personality the *ego*, likening it to an intelligent administrator concerned with find ways in which the system could survive in face of the conflicting demands of the *id* and the *superego*.

Ralph, Piggy, and Jack are very different people who seem to be ruled by very different forces. How does each of the boys fit into Freud’s theory? How can you explain Simon’s existence *outside* this analysis?

3. How is *Lord of the Flies* an allegory for the Garden of Eden and Fall of Humanity?
4. Discuss the conflict of *Lord of the Flies* and its resolution in terms of bourgeoisie and proletariat.
5. Discuss if *Lord of the Flies* is a Marxist, or anti-Marist, examination of power versus authority. Does Golding seem to support a Marxist or an anti-Marxist view? Why?
6. On an archetypal and a psychoanalytic level, what is the Beast?