EXTRA WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - Lord of the Flies

Interpretation
1. From what point of view is the story told? How does that affect our understanding of the story?

2. If you were to rewrite Lord of the Flies as a play, where would you start and end each act? Explain why.

3. Are the characters in Lord of the Flies stereotypes? If so, explain why William Golding used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.

4. Where is the climax of the story? Justify your answer.

5. Explain the importance of the setting in Lord of the Flies. Could this story have been set in a different time and place and still have the same effect?

6. In what ways does William Golding try to make the story believable? Is he successful; is the story believable?

7. Describe the meetings the boys had. When and why did they stop having meetings?

8. What are the conflicts in the story, and how is each resolved?

Critical
9. Compare and contrast Ralph and Jack.

10. What is the symbolic importance of the pig's head?

11. What is the symbolic importance of the shelters, the sand castles, the boys' physical appearances, and the beastie?

12. Evaluate William Golding's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?

13. According to Mr. Golding, is evil intrinsic or extrinsic to humans?

14. What is the symbolic importance of each of the following: Piggy's glasses, the conch and the fire?

15. Why did the Lord of the Flies speak to Simon instead of any of the other boys?
16. Explain how the title relates to the events of the novel and the themes of *Lord of the Flies*.

17. Compare Jack's tactics to terrorist and gang tactics. How are they similar?

18. In the struggle for power between Jack and Ralph, what advantages does Jack have? Ralph?

19. Why did the boys consider Simon to be an animal as they made him their prey?

20. How do Piggy and Ralph attempt to rationalize their participation in the death of Simon? Contrast that with Jack and his group's reaction to their own participation.

21. How is *Lord of the Flies* two stories told at the same time?

22. Is *Lord of the Flies* a tragedy? If so, how? If not, why not?

23. Compare and contrast Piggy and Roger as the seconds to the leaders.

24. Explain the symbolism in the descriptions of the bodies of Simon and the pilot going out to sea.

25. Why did the boys build the fire on the mountaintop, and how could this have been symbolically important?

26. What symbolic relationship could the forest and Rock Castle have?

27. "'Run away,' said the head silently, 'go back to the others, It was a joke really -- why should you bother? You were just wrong, that's all. A little headache, something you ate, perhaps. Go back, child,' said the head silently." What does that mean?

28. "The [pig's] half-shut eyes were dim with the infinite cynicism of adult life." Explain.

29. Compare and contrast the deaths of Simon and Piggy.

30. Why did the "little boy who wore the remains of an extraordinary black cap on his red hair and who carried the remains of a pair of spectacles at his waist" start forward, then change his mind and stand still? Who was that boy? Why were the details of a black cap and red hair included?

31. Eating meat was important to the boys. Why? How was it symbolically important?
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32. What is a parable, and how is *Lord of the Flies* one?

33. Ralph answers, "Yes" to the naval officer when he asks if a war is going on. Explain what the war is about and who the rival sides are.

34. Which characters in the book die? Who is responsible for each of their deaths?

Critical/Personal Response
35. What faults in our society does William Golding point out in *Lord of the Flies*?

36. Suppose the naval officer had not come along in the end, and Ralph had been murdered. How would that have changed the meaning of the story?

37. Traditionally, children are portrayed as innocent. Are they in *Lord of the Flies*? Explain how so or how not.

38. Whose fault was it that things didn't work out on the island?

39. In what way does the fact that the people on the island are children affect the story?

Personal Response
40. Did you enjoy reading *Lord of the Flies*? Why or why not?

41. If you were the leader of the boys in the beginning of the story, what would you have done differently that might have made things come out differently in the end?

42. If you were on the island with the boys, which character from the story do you think you would most likely be?

43. Suppose the story had been written in the first person narrative from Simon's point of view. How would it have been different?