

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 AT JEAN WETZEL'S AND ON ZOOM
NEW TIME 2 p.m.

WILLIAM GOLDING, *LORD OF THE FLIES* (1954)

Discussion Questions

1. Your own comments and questions.
2. Remarks about the author and his times.
3. Elements of the book's style, structure, language, number of characters, narrative technique.
4. What kind of a novel is this?
5. What aspects of the novel are explained by the physical location of the boys?
6. How does the fact that it takes place during what we imagine is the Second World War affect the action?
7. What determines who becomes the leader of the boys in the earlier and the later parts of the novel?
8. What is your opinion of Piggy, Ralph, Simon and Jack? Any others who stand out to you?
9. What is the function of the youngest boys?
10. Can we generalize about the boys' fears? What do the characters do to assuage them for themselves and for the group?
11. Other symbols in the text, for example, the conch shell, the pig's head?
12. What do you think the title signifies? Is it of great importance or not so significant in your opinion?
13. What is your interpretation of the ending?

14. Do you think Golding should have received the Nobel Prize for Literature? Is this book a classic? Do children still read it in school?
15. In the final analysis, what is the books most important theme?
16. Do you agree with the author's estimation of human nature? Why or why not?