

J.M.J.T.

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“We ourselves shall be loved for a while and forgotten. But the love will have been enough; all those impulses of love return to the love that made them. Even memory is not necessary for love. There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.”

– Thornton Wilder, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*

Dear Seniors,

You will be reading *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder this summer. Please use the version: ISBN 978-0-06-075750-2.

The Bridge of San Luis Rey was Thornton Wilder's second novel, published when he was just thirty years old. It won him the Pulitzer Prize in 1928.

The story is set in Lima, Peru, in 1714, right at the end of the time period known as the end of the Scientific Revolution. Brother Juniper, a Franciscan friar, witnesses the collapse of a bridge that has stood for over a century and was thought to be indestructible, killing the five people on it. Deeply affected by the tragedy, the friar becomes determined to develop a scientific method for answering the questions that surge through the minds of all who are faced with the mystery of death, namely, “Why this person? Why now?” As a result, this dedicated friar spends years compiling data about each victim in order to draw his conclusions.



The reader, on the other hand, is led into a tangle of circumstances within the lives of each of the characters, while constantly crossing paths with the other four characters. In short, the story is a puzzle and all the pieces don't completely fit together until each chapter is combined to complement each other. So stay alert!

Finally, please be prepared to discuss the questions below in depth upon your return to school in the fall by thoughtfully annotating the text. I will be checking your books to make sure this has been done before we begin.

Godspeed,
Mr. Lang

J.M.J.

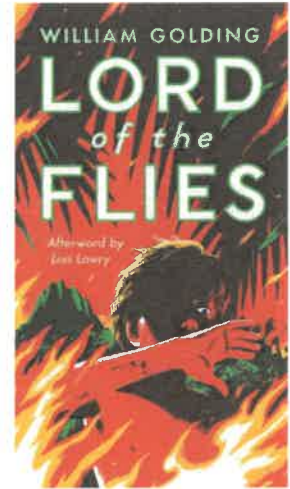
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Dear Juniors,

Your summer reading is a novel by William Golding, *Lord of the Flies* (ISBN-13: 978-0399501487).

William Golding was born in 1911, just before WWI started in 1914. This war shattered people's faith in reason, science, human progress, and most importantly, in the inherent goodness of mankind that prevailed in the late 19th century. This shift in thinking, together with Golding's own experience serving in World War II, is reflected in his novel, *Lord of the Flies*.

In preparation for our discussion on *Lord of the Flies*, please gather textual support that will help you answer the following questions. Although direct quotations are encouraged, references to specific plot elements, characters, etc. in the text will suffice. Remember that the ultimate goal of the discussion is to enhance your knowledge of the work itself, so focus your attention on what occurs in the text rather than speculation drawn from the events in the text.



God bless you!

1. Compare and contrast Ralph and Simon. Both seem to be “good” characters, but is there a difference in their goodness?
2. Of all the characters, it is Piggy who most often has useful ideas and sees the correct way for the boys to organize themselves. Yet the other boys rarely listen to him and frequently abuse him. Why do you think this is the case? In what ways does Golding use Piggy to advance some of the novel's themes about human nature?
3. Discuss the symbolism of Piggy's glasses.
4. What, if anything, might the dead parachutist symbolize? Does he symbolize something other than what the beast and the Lord of the Flies symbolize?
5. How does Golding use the beast, as a whole, in the novel? What does the beast symbolize? How do the boys' ideas about the beast change? What effect does the beast have on the boys?
6. The sow's head and the conch shell each wield a certain kind of power over the boys. In what ways do these objects' powers differ? In what way is *The Lord of the Flies* a novel about power? About the power of symbols? About the power of a person to use symbols to control a group?

7. What role do the littluns play in the novel? In one respect, they serve as gauges of the older boys' moral positions, for we see whether an older boy is kind or cruel based on how he treats the littluns. But are the littluns important in and of themselves? What might they represent?
8. The children stranded on the island are all boys, and female characters are rarely discussed. Does this matter, and why?
9. What is the role of the naval officer? Why do you think Golding chose to end the novel this way?
10. How does Golden view and treat evil? Are any of the characters evil?
11. Discuss the psychology of Jack and Ralph. Would the story have been different had Jack been elected chief at the beginning?
12. What circumstances, events and psychological forces cause the deterioration of the brief society on the island?
13. Comment on the lack of deep background of the characters. Why does Golding choose to leave out their histories, religious affiliations, etc.? What effect does it have on the allegorical nature of the novel?
14. Does the novel present a realistic vision of human nature? Or, is Golding's view too cynical?

Dear Sophomore Class,

Please choose one prompt from the three below to answer in essay-form after finishing your reading of *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis. Here is a link to a recommended copy of the book! If you already own another copy of it, or of a different edition of the same book (from a sibling, for instance) that is fine too.

https://www.amazon.com/Till-We-Have-Faces-Retold/dp/0062565419/ref=sr_1_1?crid=375U96FZLRX9M&keywords=till+we+have+faces&qid=1656428582&srefix=til+l+we+have+fa%2Caps%2C526&sr=8-1

Helpful Hint: To help the process, you may from the beginning of the book take notes on/underline or annotate your text, leave bookmarks, etc., on passages that seem relevant to come back and visit afterwards as you are writing your essay.

Details: Essays should be ONE PARAGRAPH long. These essays are to be collected for credit at the start of school. Please ensure that your submission-copy is typed; you are advised to use spell-check, and highly encouraged to get a skilled reader/editor to look at your work before submitting it, as you receive credit for the effort to have a clear and correctly expressed essay.

Focus on doing the following in your essay:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the prompt and answer it completely.
2. Demonstrate that you have fully read, and at least tolerably understood the meaning of the book in regards to the question.
3. Correctly/insightfully apply examples from the book in context to support your essay's point or answer.

Keep in mind while writing that perfection is not demanded, but your serious engagement of these ideas is the point.

Prompts (Choose One):

- A. Orual states that "the gods are jealous." The Fox thinks otherwise. Contrast their view of the gods. Who is more correct, and how can you show it? Is the Christian God jealous?**
- B. How do Redival, King Trom, and Orual each betray Psyche in their own ways? What are their respective motives for doing so?**
- C. Contrast the Fox and the Priest of Ungit. How are their approaches to life (and to what makes it meaningful) different? Is either of them more wrong or right? In what areas and how?**