

***LORD OF THE FLIES* RESEARCH PAPER**

Directions:

You will be writing a paper that integrates *Lord of the Flies* with historical research. The prompt for your paper is:

Analyze *Lord of the Flies* as an allegory for World War II and as a social commentary on this war.

To answer this prompt, you will read and analyze Golding's novel as a social commentary, as well as conduct independent research. You will select 2 of the following sub-topics to research, tie to the novel, and ultimately prove your thesis.

- ❖ Connect historical people to characters in the novel.
- ❖ Connect historical events to events in the novel.
- ❖ Connect historical symbols to symbols in the novel.
- ❖ Connect political or social issues to political or social issues in the novel.

The focus of your paper is to show how / why *Lord of the Flies* is considered a social commentary on WWII. Once the research component is complete, you will be prepared to start the writing process.

PARAGRAPH COUPLETS

You will write a "paragraph couplet" (or pair) for each sub-topic (2 paragraphs x 2 sub-topics = a total of 4 body paragraphs). The "paragraph couplet" will include a historical background paragraph, followed by a literary analysis paragraph.

The **first paragraph** of each couplet will be the **historical background** paragraph. This paragraph will cover historical information. Here you will cover the important/necessary historical facts and prepare the reader for the literary analysis paragraph. ****Use past tense here** (2 quotes for each historical paragraph)**

The **second paragraph** of the couplet will be the **literary analysis** paragraph. This paragraph will link the historical facts to the characters and/or the plot of *LOTF*, once again proving how/why the novel is a successful social commentary. ****Use present tense here** (2 quotes for each literary paragraph).**

<p>Sample Thesis Statements and Research Topics / Themes showing <i>Lord of the Flies</i> as a WWII social commentary.</p>
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- 1) The novel *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, utilizes symbolism and themes as a social commentary on World War II.

The Conch	Democracy and Order (Roosevelt, flags...)
Piggy's Glasses	Clear-sightedness, intelligence. The status of the social order.
Fire	Hope. Connection to civilization. The hearth and home. (The homefront)
Lord of the Flies	The symbol of evil in humanity (Swastika)
Mask	A means of disassociating oneself from one's actions: (Yellow star/ SSS Hitler Youth/ Uniforms)
Beast	(Jack) The dark side of human nature; the evil within. (Camps/ torture/ Dictators)
Island	A microcosm of the world/ war-torn countries
Darkness	Ignorance, fear (People not acting to save the Jews out of fear of reprisal)
Mountain	Perspective, power, truth (Hindsight? The aftermath of war)
Forest	Fear, violence, the unknown, hiding. (The Underground movement/ escapes)
Beach	Safety, openness, games, communication (Switzerland)
Castle Rock	Punishment, violence, restraint (Prison Camps)
Scar	Man's destruction, destructive forces (Pearl Harbor)
<i>Civilization vs. Savagery</i>	The conflict between two competing impulses that exist within all human beings. (Group mentality, chanting, etc.)
<i>Loss of Innocence</i>	In the progress from well-behaved, orderly children longing for rescue to cruel, bloodthirsty hunters who have no desire to return to civilization, they lose their sense of innocence. Painted savages vs. guileless children – as a result of being open to the innate evil that lies within.

- 2) In his novel *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding emphasizes the essential values of a democracy to the people on the island through Ralph's leadership style and goals.

RESEARCH IDEAS

- i) Franklin D. Roosevelt (Ralph)
 - ii) Winston Churchill (Piggy)
 - iii) US Military Presence Abroad
 - iv) The Soviet Union during WWII
 - v) Anglo-American cooperation during WWII
 - vi) The Council for Democracy and propaganda on the home front in 1940 –
- 3) Fear and intimidation play a significant role in the novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, just as coercion and terror played a large role in the lives the people ruled by the Axis Powers in WWII.

RESEARCH IDEAS

- i) Bombing of Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941) (The Scar)
 - ii) WWII Prisoners of War (Sam-n-Eric, Roger's behavior)
 - iii) Treatment of the Jews before/during WWII (Jack's Camp vs. Ralph's Camp)
 - iv) WWII War Crimes Trials
- 4) The actions and comments of [Jack] [Piggy] [Ralph] [Simon] or [Roger] in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding parallel the leadership of [?...] in WWII.

RESEARCH IDEAS

- i) The Rise of Hitler (his early life and coming into power) (Jack)
 - ii) Hitler: 1938-1945 (Jack/ the mask)
 - iii) President Franklin D. Roosevelt during WWII (Ralph)
 - iv) British Prime Minister Winston Churchill during WWII (Piggy)
 - v) Benito Mussolini (Italy's Dictator during WWII)
 - vi) Albert Einstein's reaction to WWII (Piggy)
- 5) The practices within Jack's camp in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding parallel some of the practices of the internment camps of WWII.

RESEARCH IDEAS

- i) Holocaust Survivors (the stories of at least two) (Ralph's story)
 - ii) Concentration camps (innocents taken/ torture)
- 6) Fear of invasion, attack and the possibility of disaster precipitate the actions and attitudes of many characters in Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*, just as they expedite the actions and processes of the military and governments during WWII.

RESEARCH IDEAS

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| i) Invasion of Normandy (D-Day, June 6, 1944) | vii) British Evacuation Programs |
| ii) "On the Beach" "growing fears over nuclear radiation" | viii) The U-boat campaign |
| iii) The Cranberry scare | ix) The Cold War |
| iv) The Cold War and Sports | x) The Battle of the Bulge |
| v) The Strategic bombing campaign | |
| vi) The theory and practice of psychological warfare during WWII | |