

Year 8 Term 2: 'Civilised Society'

The basic definition of 'society' that we're looking at here refers to all **groups of people in a country who share the same laws & rights and often have common traditions**. If it's '**civilised**', then those groups of people are treated fairly.

This term, you will be exploring how writers present us with societies that aren't civilised.

The main text that you will read is *Lord of the Flies*, written by William Golding in 1954. A group of British schoolboys end up stranded on a deserted island after their plane crashes. They attempt to create a civilised society but things go badly wrong.

Lord Of The Flies context

Golding's experience in **World War II** had an extreme effect on his view of people and the evils which they were capable of.

Writing in the time following WWII known as the '**atomic age**', Golding made use of a general panic over nuclear war and man's habit of doing something which caused destruction.

Although *Lord of the Flies* is an **allegorical (symbolic)** novel, it takes ideas from adventure literature, a genre that sets humans against nature to explore the qualities necessary for the survival of humans..

Motifs and symbols

Motifs: Biblical (from the bible) parallels; natural beauty; the bullying of the weak by the strong; the symbols of savagery (face paint, spears, totems, chants)

Symbols: The conch shell; Piggy's glasses; the signal fire; the beast; the Lord of the Flies



Lord Of The Flies themes

- Civilization vs. savagery
- Loss of innocence
- Struggle to build civilization
- Danger of mob mentality
- War and future of mankind



Dystopian fiction

Dystopian Fiction hints that suffering and unfair treatment is inevitable.

Utopian fiction hints that a perfect world is possible.

Because *Lord of the Flies* presents the characters as living in a nightmarish, terrible society as a result of their **flawed** natures, it is also an example of **dystopian** fiction.

Lord Of The Flies characters



RALPH

Ralph: The novel's **protagonist (main character)** is a twelve-year-old English boy who is elected leader of a group of boys **marooned (stuck alone)** on an island. Ralph tries to get the boys on the island to work together.



PIGGY

Piggy: Ralph's "lieutenant." A **whiny, intellectual (clever) boy**, Piggy's cleverness often leads to good ideas, such as the makeshift sundial that the boys use to tell time.



JACK

Jack: The novel's **antagonist (enemy)** is one of the older boys stranded on the island. Jack becomes the leader of the hunters but longs for **total power** and becomes increasingly wild, vicious, and cruel as the novel progresses.



ROGER

Roger: Jack's "lieutenant." A **sadistic (enjoys hurting others)**, cruel older boy.



SIMON

Simon: A shy, sensitive boy in the group. Simon, in some ways is **the only naturally "good" character** on the island; he behaves kindly toward the younger boys and is willing to work for the good of their community.

Booklet extracts

A Christmas Carol: Scrooge, an uncaring, selfish moneylender, sees for himself the results of his greed and ignorance upon others in society.

Brave New World: Mustapha Mond explains how, in this new society, people have been trained to not feel anything too strongly but if they do, they can simply take a tablet so that they don't have to deal with anything unpleasant.

Animal Farm: In this extract we see that the pigs have changed the rules so that they are seen as more important than others even though everyone was supposed to be equal in this new society, which had freed itself from humans.

1984: Winston Smith, the main character, realises that the Party controls what people think by persuading them not to trust what they see and hear but only to trust what Big Brother tells them to believe.

The Hunger Games: The narrator explains how the wealthy capitol of Panem selects a boy and girl from each of the surrounding 12 poor, starving districts (areas) to fight to the death. Prizes (mostly food) is gifted to the district that produces the one survivor. All of this is used to frighten people from fighting back against an unfair society.

Key narrative elements

Linear structure: The story (narrative) is written in the time sequence that it took place.

Narrator: The story is told by a narrator who shares the events of the novel with the reader without commenting on the action or intruding into the story.

Point Of View: The narration is in 3rd person (he/they) and mostly focuses on Ralph's point of view but follows Jack and Simon in certain scenes. The narrator is **omniscient** as the reader is allowed to see what any of the characters are doing/thinking at any time or place.

Protagonist: Ralph

Setting: A deserted tropical island

Tone: Dark; violent; pessimistic (negative); tragic



Y7 grammar recap

Noun types:

- **Concrete** – A noun we can see, hear, touch, smell or taste
- **Abstract** – A noun which we cannot experience with any of the 5 senses e.g. happiness, tension
- **Proper** – A noun which is the name or title of something and is capitalised
- **Collective** – A singular word used to group together a plural e.g. a group, a herd, a class

Subject: Does the action in a sentence or clause

Verb types:

- **Imperative** – A commanding verb e.g. Do this work, sit down, let's go
- **Modal** – A verb expressing possibility or probability e.g. will, should, could, can, must

Past tense: used to describe things that happened in the past

Present tense: used to describe things that are happening now

Term 1 recap

Adjective types:

- **Descriptive** – An adjective which describes factual characteristics e.g. big, green
- **Evaluative** – An adjective expressing an opinion, can be disagreed with e.g. great, boring, amazing
- **Emotive** – An adjective which makes the reader feel a strong emotion e.g. shocking, starving, dangerous
- **Comparative** – An adjective ending in -er or with 'more' in front of it. e.g. bigger, faster, more exciting
- **Superlative** – An adjective ending in -est or with 'most' in front of it. e.g. biggest, fastest, most exciting

Conjunctions:

- **Coordinating conjunction** – A conjunction which joins 2 main clauses FANBOYS – for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so
- **Subordinating conjunction** – A conjunction which joins a subordinate clause to a main one – e.g. while, as, because, since, if

Term 2 grammar

Adverb: words that describe a verb, adjective or another adverb

- **Manner:** tell us how something happens e.g. slowly, angrily
- **Time:** tell us when something happens e.g. tomorrow, yesterday
- **Place:** where something happens e.g. above, outside
- **Degree:** describe the intensity of an action or quality e.g. extremely, very, too
- **Frequency:** describes how often something happens e.g. sometimes, never, usually

Reminder!

ALWAYS check what the word is doing in the sentence as many words have different functions! e.g.

1. The film isn't **that** good. (that = **adverb**)

2. Give me **that**. (that = **pronoun**)