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

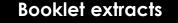
Ralph: The novel's protagonist (main character) is a twelve-year-old English boy who is elected leader of a group of boys marooned (stuck **alone)** on an island. Ralph tries to get the boys on the island to work together.

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

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.



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.



PIGGY





SIMON

Key narrative elements

Term 1 recap Adjective types:

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.

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

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

place.

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. <u>Do</u> this work, <u>sit down</u>, <u>let's</u> go

Present tense: used to describe things that are happening now

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

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

Conjunctions: • Coordinating conjunction – A conjunction which joins 2 main clauses FANBOYS – for, and,

most exciting

one - e.g. while, as, because, since, if Term 2 grammar

nor, but, or, yet and so

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

• 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,

Superlative – An adjective ending in –est or with 'most' in front of it. e.g. biggest, fastest,

Subordinating conjunction – A conjunction which joins a subordinate clause to a main

• Frequency: describes how often something happens e.g. sometimes, never, usually

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

Reminder!

e.g.

- 1. The film isn't **that** good. (that = **adverb**)
- 2. Give me that. (that = pronoun)