

# Writing Assignment

## 2008-09 English 2 Honors

Although we may read a novel, play or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher-thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. Choose **two** of the four prompts below and expand, explicate, and articulate in **500 words each**.

1. *Lord of the Flies* has been called “a fable in which the characters are symbols for abstract ideas.” Explain this statement by analyzing each of the major characters (Ralph, Jack, Piggy, Simon, and Roger) in terms of his distinctive character traits and the human quality he might symbolize.
2. Defend and/or criticize Ralph’s actions as leader. What were his motivations? Did he contribute to the tragedy in any way? Could he have acted to prevent any of the deaths? What would you have done differently in his situation?
3. Describe the religious imagery in *Lord of the Flies*: the forces of good and evil, a fall from grace, a savior, and eventual redemption. How does Golding’s depiction of the island compare to the Garden of Eden? (<http://www.bibleontheweb.com/Bible.asp> [search Genesis 1-3])
4. Some readers of *Lord of the Flies* have argued that each and every one of the boys’ actions is nothing more than an attempt to survive in difficult conditions. Think about the mounting of the sow’s head, Simon’s ascent up the mountain, and the murder of Piggy in particular, as well as any other key scenes that stand out for you. Is it fair to say that the boys’ actions were merely the result of the human survival instinct? Why or why not? If so, can you use these examples to draw some general conclusions about the human instinct to survive?