Lord of the flies

1. Identity card

Title: *Lord of the Flies*

Author: William Golding

Date of publication: 1954

Genre: Allegorical novel / Psychological fiction

Historical and Cultural Context: Written after the Second World War, the novel reflects Golding's belief that violence and cruelty are part of human nature. Influenced by his wartime experience, he questions the idea that civilisation alone makes people good.

2. Plot summary

In a nutshell: a group of British schoolboys are stranded on a deserted island after a plane crash. At first, they try to organise a democratic society under Ralph's leadership. However, fear, violence and the desire for power divide the group. Jack creates his own tribe, and the island descends into chaos, leading to tragic consequences.

Key Moments:

- ➜ The boys elect Ralph as chief.
- ➜ Jack forms his own hunting tribe.
- ➜ Simon discovers the true nature of the "beast."
- ➜ Piggy is killed and the conch is destroyed.
- ➜ Ralph is rescued as the island burns.

3. Main characters

Name	Role	Symbol
Ralph	elected leader	civilisation, order
Jack	hunter and rival leader	power, savagery
Piggy	Ralph's friend	intelligence, reason
Simon	thoughtful boy	goodness, truth
Roger	member of Jack's tribe	violence, cruelty
Sam and Eric	twin brothers	loyalty, conformity

4. Major themes and links to the LLCER program

Première – Imaginations: utopia and dystopia

How does the novel illustrate this theme?

- Collapse of an ideal society.
- Conflict between civilisation and savagery.
- Fear and violence destroy democracy.

Key examples

- The conch as a symbol of order.
- The "beast" spreading fear.
- The island turning into chaos.

Terminale – Arts and debates of ideas

How does the novel illustrate this theme?

- Reflection on human nature.
- Criticism of violence and abuse of power.

Key examples

- Simon's death.
- Piggy's murder.
- Jack's dictatorship.

5. Key quotes and key words

"Maybe there is a beast... maybe it's only us."

civilisation – savagery – power – fear – human nature – violence – democracy

6. Author's message

- Evil exists within every human being.
- Civilisation is fragile and must be protected.
- Fear can lead to violence and dictatorship.
- Reason and cooperation are essential for society.