

Sample Thesis Statement:

William Golding asserts that children are never innocent, only constrained by the limitations of societal expectations, through the power struggle between Jack and Ralph in his midcentury, dystopian novel, *Lord of the Flies*.

Sample Body Paragraph:

In *Lord of the Flies* a group of stranded, British school kids inhabit an island (without the supervision of adults) after their plane crashes. A microcosm of adult society, the children's actions (and inactions): decisions (and indecisions) parallel the adult world despite their youth. For example, Ralph holds the conch, a manifestation of the children's idea of power; therefore, Ralph becomes the leader even though the smarter and more qualified choice of leadership is Piggy, the object of humiliation and scorn (Golding 85). Ralph attempts to maintain order, but human nature gets in the way as factions form, disagreements blaze, and eventually tribal warfare erupts. Ironically, as the children sink deeper into their fighting, the adult world is completely distracted by their own world war.