

Lord of the Flies Key Facts

Writer: William Golding | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Full Title:** Lord of the Flies
- **Author:** William Golding (1911–1993)
- **When Written:** 1952–1953
- **Where Written:** Salisbury, England
- **When Published:** 1954
- **Literary Period:** Post–World War II; Modern Allegory
- **Genre:** Allegorical Novel; Adventure; Dystopian Fiction
- **Time Setting:** During an unspecified nuclear war (mid-20th century)
- **Place Setting:** An uninhabited tropical island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean
- **Climax:** When the boys, in a savage frenzy, kill Simon; and later when Jack's tribe hunts Ralph and sets the island on fire
- **Point of View:** Third-person omniscient (mainly focused on Ralph's perspective, but sometimes shifts to others like Jack or Simon)
- **Tone:** Dark, symbolic, ironic, and tragic

• Main Symbols:

The Conch Shell:

Order, law, and democracy

Piggy's Glasses: Reason, knowledge, and technology

The Beast: Inner human evil and fear

The "Lord of the Flies": The devil within humanity; pure savagery and corruption

The Signal Fire: Hope, civilization, and the boys' desire to be rescued

- **Protagonist:** Ralph
- **Antagonist:** Jack (and symbolically, human savagery itself)

- **Famous Line:**

"Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart."

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