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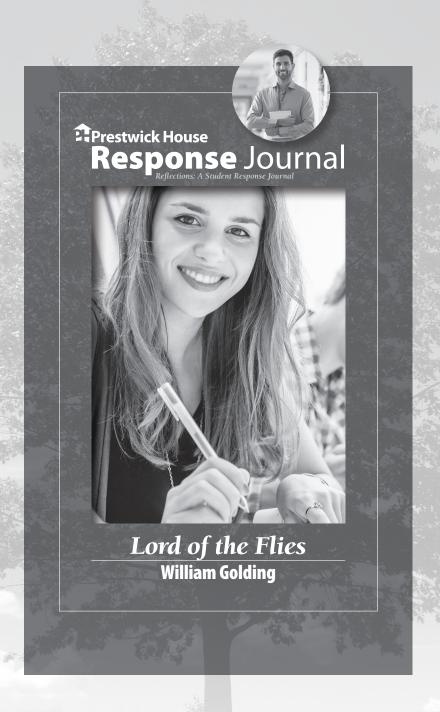
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Response Journal

To The Student

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. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Chapter One The Sound of the Shell

- 1. Have you ever fantasized about being stranded on an uninhabited island? If not, consider it for a moment. If so, write a short scenario about what you can envision. Can you imagine some good and bad things about the experience?
- 2. If you can understand why Ralph is so happy when Piggy suggests there probably are no adults on the island explain it to a friend who doesn't understand why some kids would be happy with no adults around.
- 3. When Piggy reveals the name the kids at school called him, he is placing his trust in Ralph not to tell anyone else. When did you realize that this trust in Ralph was a mistake? Were you surprised that Ralph mishandled Piggy's trust?
- 4. Describe a scene from a movie or an incident in life in which someone betrayed a trust as Ralph had done.
- 5. When Jack and the choir arrive in their uniform cloaks with insignias, we are told, "Piggy, asked no names. He was intimidated by this uniformed superiority and the off-hand authority in Meridew's voice." Relate an incident from your life when you or someone you know felt intimidated by a person who gave the appearance of authority.

Chapter Two Fire on the Mountain

- 11. Because everyone is talking at once, Ralph says that they'll have to have rules. "We'll have to have 'hands up' like at school." Shortly after, Jack says, "We'll have rules...Lots of Rules! Then when anyone breaks em—." The implication is that punishment for breaking rules will be severe. Write an entry in your diary describing this scene and explain what you think it reveals about Jack.
- 12. Fascists are said to have too many rules when they govern, and anarchists believe there should not be any rules. How do you feel about the number of rules you face in your home, school, or where you live?
- 13. As Ralph is trying to convince the others that there is no beast on the island, we are told, "Ralph was annoyed and, for the moment, defeated. He felt himself facing something ungraspable." Relate a time that you felt frustrated or saw someone else feeling frustrated because of an inability to get an idea across to others.
- 14. Amid the anxiety and fears of the group of boys, Ralph says, "We want to be rescued; and of course, we shall be rescued." And then we are told, "The simple statement, unbacked by any proof but the weight of Ralph's new authority, brought light and happiness."

 Why do you suppose it is important for a leader of a group in a bad
 - Why do you suppose it is important for a leader of a group in a bad situation to always keep a positive attitude, whether he or she really feels that way or not?

27. Complete this dialogue:

You: Roger really wanted to hit Henry with those stones he threw.

Friend: No, he didn't. He was just teasing Henry. If he was trying to hit the kid, he's the world's worst stone thrower. Every stone missed Henry by three or four feet.

You: That's the point, he really wanted to, but something held him back.

Friend: What proof do you have for that?

You:

- 28. Some readers think that in this chapter we see Jack turning into a savage. Why do you suppose they say that?
- 29. Some authors suggest that in the human heart, savage impulses may just bubble up. Describe a time that you felt a savage impulse. How did you handle the feeling?

- 34. Ralph considers giving up being chief. Piggy says to Ralph, "If you give up, what'd happen to me?" Piggy needs his alliance with Ralph to protect himself from Jack. Consider how you would feel if you were Ralph, and an unpopular classmate needed your help to keep from being hurt by the other students. How would you handle the situation?
- 35. Piggy wishes for grownups on the island. He believes grownups would "meet and have tea and discuss. Then things 'ud be all right —." Relate an incident from your life, a movie, or the news where grownups fail to solve a problem because they do not behave in the logical, civilized way Piggy describes.

Chapter Six Beast From Air

- 36. Sam and Eric are frozen with terror when they first see the beast from the air. Describe a scene from a book or a movie that was so frightening that you, like Sam and Eric, felt petrified by fear.
- 37. Complete this dialogue:

First Student: Piggy is a wimp. All he does is clean his glasses and cling to Ralph.

Second Student: Yeah, but he does seem to know more than the other boys.

Third Student: This book is full of symbolism. Maybe Piggy's glasses symbolize something.

You: I think you're right. Piggy's glasses could be a symbol for ...