Please prepare for our Socratic Seminar discussion by looking over these questions. In order to participate fully in our class discussion you *must* be able to answer each of the following questions and provide some insight (understanding) and analysis. We definitely won’t cover all of the questions; however, we will try to get through as many as possible.

1) Who is the person most at fault for the events on the island? Base your decision using the text to support your answer.

2) What did you think of the ending? Explain. Why do you think Golding decided to end the story in such a way? Think about what has occurred in the novel. Explain your answer and use textual evidence.

3)Of all the characters, it is Piggy who most often has useful ideas and sees the correct way for the boys to organize themselves. Yet the other boys rarely listen to him and frequently abuse him. Why do you think this is the case? In what ways does Golding use Piggy to advance one of the novel’s theme: Man is inherently evil? Use textual evidence.

4)Is “fear the enemy of civilization?” Why? And does “fear prevent construction and progress?” Use examples from life, *Lord of the Flies*, and *The Most Dangerous Game.*

5) How would the book have been different if Jack never caught a pig? What does the act tell us about Jack? About human beings?

6) What is the purpose of masks for Jack and the hunters? What sorts of masks do you see in civilization? What message is Golding sending by making the masks such an important detail?

7) Look at the two characters of Ralph and Jack: what are the differences in their leadership? Answer with several examples from the text. What do Jack and Ralph symbolize? How do you know?

8) What does the Lord of the Flies symbolize? Look at the text, Simon’s encounter and how Jack first places the head on the spear and his reason for placing the head on the spear. Use textual evidence for your answer.

9) In Chapter 8, Ralph asks Piggy, “…what makes things break up like they do?” This is one of the central questions of this novel. Piggy suggests that it is people like Jack who make things “break up.” What do you think it is? Refer to the novel and *The Most Dangerous Game.*

10) In the works we have read, have the characters shown themselves to be inherently evil or good? How was the evil or goodness expressed? Choose one character: Rainsford, Zaroff, Ralph, Jack, Simon, or Piggy to support your answer.

11) Rainsford said: “Be a realist. The world is made up of two classes—the hunters and the huntees.” Have the stories proved this statement to be true or not? If so, in what ways? How does this explain the human condition?

12) If we do not go against making other people less than ourselves, what will we do with those who differ from us? What are the perceptions and actions of the characters in the stories that we read on this topic? Remember our discussion on “the other?”

13) “Is civilization largely a heroic struggle to build layer upon layer of varnish upon the rough and splintered raw material of humankind” (Golding, 1993)? How have the works we have read support or not support this question?

14) Golding said, “The defects of the society trace back to the defects of the individual.” In other words, all the wrong things individual people do in their personal lives actually leads to all the wrongs in the world. Is this statement true? What do you think? Think about *Lord of the Flies*, is this true about the boys and the island. What does the island represent? Why?

15) What world—the “real world” or “little worlds of our own making”—did the characters we have encountered live in? What problems arise for living in “little worlds of our own making?” Use textual evidence from *Lord of the Flies* and *The Most Dangerous Game*. Use your own experience also.

16) Explain the significance of the title: *Lord of the Flies*? Why do you think Golding Chose to name the novel this?

17) Why does Ralph cry at the end of the novel? Why had he never cried before?

18) Is the *Lord of the Flies* a good book for ninth graders to read? Why?

19) Jack and the hunters actually kill a sow, a mother pig that had baby pigs feeding off her in chapter eight. What does the sow symbolize? What, then, is Golding saying about society?

20) Why did Golding write the book with main characters as children?

21) In the end, what do you think was most important about this novel? Why?

22) In the novel, what was the greatest enemy? Did the boys overcome it? Why or why not?