

Lord of the Flies Knowledge Organizer

| Philosophies of Human Nature | | Common References to Christianity/Bible | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Human Nature: qualities and characteristics that humankind possesses at birth | | Garden of Eden | Paradise; where Adam, was created and later, Eve, from Adam's rib. They were free to eat from any tree except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. | | |
| Thomas Hobbes (d. 1679) | Human beings are selfish and "in a constant state of war." Life is "nasty, brutish, and short." | | | | |
| John Locke (d. 1704) | Humans are a "blank slate" at birth (<i>tabula rasa</i> , in Latin). Naturally reasonable, yet selfish; shaped by experiences. | | The Serpent | Religious symbol of deception and evil. Seduced Eve into eating a piece of forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge or good and evil. | |
| Jean-Jacques Rousseau (d. 1778) | Humans are inherently good and peaceful in a "state of nature" In this state man is "isolated, timid, peaceful, and mute." | | | | |
| Key Quotes about Human Nature | | | | | |
| <i>"Maybe there is a beast... What I mean is, maybe it's only us."</i> (p. 88) | | | | | |
| <i>"Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy."</i> (p. 202) | | | | | |
| Characteristics of Civilization | | | | | |
| Hierarchy | Rank determines authority, status, and submission to those above | | | | |
| Respect for Authority | To show appreciation and obedience to those in a position of power | | | | |
| Rule of Law | Individuals and government obey law crime is met with punishment, in order to enforce proper behavior | | | | |
| Shared Values | Individuals in a society share fundamental beliefs and principles, helping them to keep faith in their society | | | | |
| Respect for Traditions | Show commitment to the established customs of a society and transmit beliefs from generation to generation | | | | |
| Key Quotes about Civilization | | | | | |
| <i>"We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages. We're English, and the English are best at everything."</i> (p. 42) | | | | | |
| <i>"Which is better—to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?"</i> (p. 180) | | | | | |
| Key Symbols | | | | | |
| Ralph | Democracy and order | | | | |
| Jack | Dictatorship and savagery | | | | |
| Piggy | Intelligence and logic | | | | |
| Simon | Saintliness and wisdom | | | | |
| The Scar | The first appearance of humans in nature or "paradise" | | | | |
| Conch Shell | Power of civilization and ordered society | | | | |
| Piggy's Specs | Power of science and reason, the ability to see things clearly | | | | |
| The Beast | Power of evil and human immorality | | | | |
| Signal Fire | Connection to modern society and civilization | | | | |
| Castle Rock | Purgatory: Place of suffering inhabited by souls of sinners who are being purified of their sins before entering Heaven | | | | |
| The Sea | Heaven: Home of God, the angels, and the good after their death | | | | |
| | | The Fall (of Man) | The fall of Adam and Eve from innocence and obedience to God into betrayal and guilt, bringing eternal wounds upon humanity. | | |
| | | | Original Sin Inherited from Adam and Eve, the innate tendency to sin in all humans. | | |
| | | Jesus Christ | First century Jewish preacher. Believed to be the son of God and messiah (or savior) to humanity. | | |
| | | Judas | One of Jesus' Twelve Disciples. Betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, leading to Jesus' crucifixion. | | |
| | | Beelzebub | Another name for Satan. Portrayed as a "fallen" angel and believed to cause destruction through tyrants. | | |
| Key Literary Terms | | | | | |
| | | Term | Definition | <i>Lord of the Flies</i> Example | |
| | | Allegory | A narrative that uses characters or events to represent ideas or events | | |
| | | Allusion | A reference to a significant historical, literary, cultural, or political figure or idea | | |
| | | Archetype | A classic example of a character or thing that recurs throughout literature | | |
| | | Foil | A character that contrasts another character in order to highlight particular qualities | | |
| | | Hyperbole | Extreme exaggeration used to create emphasis | | |
| | | Dramatic Irony | Situation in which a reader's awareness of a situation exceeds the characters | | |