

## Summer Reading 2010

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### All School Reading

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Greetings to you our new students and to our returning students, it is time to think about the books that we are asking you to read this summer. Typically, Waring students read at least three school related books each summer, the all school book, a choice book, and a book assigned by their humanities course. The all school reading for this summer is *The Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding.

We ask each student to read *The Lord of the Flies* this summer and to bring a copy of the book with them to camping trip. Along with this we ask that each student also bring a short piece of writing about *The Lord of the Flies*. For historical reasons such pieces of writing are called “notecards” at Waring. What we mean by this is a short (1/2 page) written response to the reading. This is not a book report but a piece of thoughtful writing. To help our younger students here are some questions that might make a good basis for a notecard. If you want to, choose one of the following and then write the answers that come to mind in complete paragraphs.

- Compare and Contrast Ralph and Jack as leaders. Which one is better? Why do people want to follow them? Do they follow them for the same reasons? What makes them similar, what makes them different?
- Throughout the book there are references to The Beast. Yes, there is a human corpse that is in some way The Beast, but it seems to be so much more. What is this Beast?
- Piggy seems to become Ralph’s friend. Why are they friends? What does each get out of the friendship?
- The Conch is a powerful symbol in the book. What does it represent to the boys? How does it come to mean what it means? How does that meaning change?
- Hunting is a way of getting food, but it seems to be more like a ritual for the boys who partake in it. Why do they do this ritual? What does it mean to them? What are the elements of the ritual?
- The boys have a great deal of freedom in this book. Do they all use their freedom in the same ways? When are they most free? When are they least free?
- The boys could be seen as forming societies, little communities, how do they do this? Are the societies the same? How are they different?

If you are a younger reader, you might want to watch the 1963 movie version of the book and then read the book. There is a later movie version but it is not very good; it is not worth watching. If you watch the movie a good notecard topic would be to compare and contrast the movie and the book. What did they do differently, why?

The notecards works best if your reading has been active. As you read, underline key ideas, circle words you need to look up (and look them up!), make notes in the margins of points you want to raise in your notecard or in class discussions.