



LORD OF THE FLIES: FIRE: MODEL ANSWER

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LORD OF THE FLIES: FIRE: QUESTION

Explore How Golding presents fire as a symbol in the novel.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]





LORD OF THE FLIES: FIRE: 100% MODEL ANSWER OUTLINE

ESSAY OUTLINE

Introduction

<p>Hook</p> <p>(quote, question, metaphor, shocking fact/statistic)</p>	<p>'The fire is the most important thing on the island' – Jack.</p>
<p>Building sentences (some background/contextual info)</p>	<p>Lord of the Flies is often seen as an experiment with form which includes symbolic images and characters that explain the author's ideas. Explaining one such image Golding said, 'I felt a tremendous visional force behind the whole book. At the end, for example, there is a scene where Ralph is fleeing from the fire on the island, and the point is not just that the boy is being hunted down, but that the whole natural world is being destroyed.'</p>
<p>Thesis statement</p> <p>(your position on the argument you are presenting)</p>	<p>He went on to say 'that idea was almost as important to' him 'as Ralph himself: the picture of destruction' is 'an atomic one; the island has expanded to be the whole great globe. The book is concerned with what human beings were doing to each other and to the world in which they lived.'</p>

Body paragraph 1

<p>Topic sentence</p> <p>(introduce what this paragraph is about)</p>	<p>One of the ways fire is used is as a symbol of balance between destruction and survival.</p>
<p>Supporting sentences</p>	<p>For example, in chapter two, Golding's image of the boys pooling their efforts together to create a fire can be seen as symbolic of the scientific community's idea of man's early development and the revelatory discovery of fire. The theory suggests that humanity's introduction to fire was crucial to the development of</p>





<p>(your your analytical and contextual evidence)</p>	<p>human evolution. However, Golding was a man whose writings often alluded to Greek Mythology and religion (or perhaps, spirituality); the conflicting imagery of fire ultimately destroying this allegorical “Garden of Eden” in the denouement might, on one hand, give an impression of his own contrary feelings that science and religion should be balanced against each other. On the other hand, he could be saying that it is in fact humanity, which needs to be mindful about leaving religion and spirituality behind, while allowing science to dominate; like Mary Shelley in her seminal text Frankenstein, perhaps he is pointing out the dangers of science’s reliance on hard, cold facts and its lack of room for morals and spirituality. Just like fire, aeroplanes represent another revolutionary point in scientific progress; the ability to fly, to travel and to escape danger quickly; as the boys have had to do in the novel. “The flames coming out” from the side of the plane originated, according to Piggy in the opening chapter, from having been “attacked.” The imagery of the plane on “flames” escaping nuclear war, “coming down” and creating a “scar” on the island is metaphorically suggestive of Golding’s point about the juxtaposing mess man has put himself and nature into by not maintaining his awareness and morals over scientific advancement. The mess is juxtaposing because on one hand, humanity has become reliant on science while on the other hand it also appears to be destroying humanity as well as nature (as symbolised by Golding’s futuristic, nuclear ‘World War 3’ and the island on fire in the denouement). The situation the boys find themselves in also appears to highlight the dangers of diverging ideas and opinions in the application of science.</p>
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<p>Concluding sentence(s)</p> <p>(final thoughts this paragraph)</p>	<p>However, Golding does not appear to be wholly condemning science because he has allowed the boys’ to arrive miraculously via the aeroplane, safely and uninjured on the utopian island.</p>
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Body paragraph 2

<p>Topic sentence</p> <p>(introduce what this paragraph is about)</p>	<p>Furthermore, fire becomes a symbol of status, power, common sense and hope, such as when Ralph instigates the idea of building a signal fire in order to “... help them find us... otherwise they may not notice us,” he says.</p>
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<p>Supporting sentences</p> <p>(your your analytical and contextual evidence)</p>	<p>Golding makes Ralph use the pronouns “they” and “them” in order to refer to the adults who represent civilisation and he becomes determined to use the fire in order to accelerate the boys’ rescue. Additionally, Golding begins to use Ralph and fire as vehicles to reestablish a connection with humanity, as well as to unveil the novel’s overarching theme; ‘civilisation vs savagery’ or more simply, ‘good vs evil.’ The idea of Ralph cementing his status as leader, firstly with the “conch” and secondly by initiating a signal fire brings with it the respect of the boys, who “at once were on their feet”, perhaps, once again alluding the Ancient Greek myth of Prometheus stealing fire from the gods and giving it to humans. Additionally, Golding has constructed a cooperative situation by showing the boys to be “labouring” in order to create the fire. Perhaps Golding wishes to demonstrate how</p>
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	effective and efficient groups can be when they work in synchronization to achieve a good common cause. Conversely, Golding also shows the destructive side of groups through their division into two groups and the hunters becoming an evil, powerful force, partly by stealing Piggy's glasses in order to control the creation of fire.. Additionally, for the boys rushing around for firewood, "Life became a race with the fire," a phrase that quietly foreshadows Ralph's flight for his life at the end.
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Concluding sentence(s) (final thoughts this paragraph)	His idea to help reconnect the boys with humanity and civilization (adults), ironically backfires and takes him to the brink of death, when Jack attempts to use the fire as a tool to hunt and kill him; once again Golding focuses the reader on the conflicting position man finds himself in, with regards to scientific advancement.
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Body paragraph 3 (OPTIONAL)

Topic sentence (introduce what this paragraph is about)	
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Supporting sentences (your your analytical and contextual evidence)	
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Concluding sentence(s) (final thoughts this paragraph)	
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Conclusion

Restated thesis (your position of the argument you are presenting)	In conclusion, as Golding said, 'the picture of destruction' in the denouement is 'an atomic one; the island has expanded to be the whole great globe' and the 'book is concerned with what human beings were doing to each other and to the world in which they lived'.
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Summary of controlling concept	The loss of innocence and the reversion into savagery (especially towards the end of the novel) emphasises the power of inherent evil within humanity. The characters' inherent natural evil, as portrayed through Jack and his hunters, seems to overcome the power of the pure and innocent nature of Ralph, Simon and Piggy
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(central theme)	who act as contrasts to the Hunters; Simon and Piggy end up dead and Ralph is only saved from Jack's newfound power via the miraculous arrival of the sailor right at the end. Golding remarked that the scene at the end where Ralph is fleeing from the fire on the island is not simply about the boy being hunted down, but that the whole natural world is being destroyed. The picture of destruction is an atomic one where the destruction of the island represents the 'rape' that Golding believed man was doing to the whole great globe.
Author's purpose (why the author wrote the text)	Thus, the story is an illustration of Golding's concern at the brutality that human beings were subjecting each other and the world in which they live. However, when Ralph and the boys weep for the 'end of innocence' at the end, Golding is, perhaps, suggesting that, although the text may seem pessimistic, this new-found awareness of evil is actually the first step towards getting rid of it.
Final thought (What key idea(s) do we learn?)	Ralph and the little boys had not earlier wept, for they had not been fully aware of the nature of evil. Now that they weep for the end of innocence and for the darkness of man's soul, perhaps this represents a second chance for them and for civilisation all together, to recognise, in Golding's view, mankind's inherent evil, so that, in Golding's own words, 'we learn to see the rape of our planet for the preposterous folly that it is', so, perhaps, we can begin the search for the love that Golding believed humanity was in deperate need of.

MAKE SURE YOUR ESSAY CONTAINS ALL OF THESE QUALITIES

Tick these off when you have added them to your essay

- Methods - author's techniques
- ~~Context~~
- ~~Effects of the author's methods on the audience/reader~~
- Link to another part of the text - talk about the meaning of the connection
- Symbolism
- Themes
- Author's purpose

MCELSTA





LORD OF THE FLIES: FIRE: 100% MODEL ANSWER

Explore How Golding presents fire as a symbol in the novel.

'The fire is the most important thing on the island' – Jack. Lord of the Flies is often seen as an experiment with form which includes symbolic images and characters that explain the author's ideas. Explaining one such image Golding said, 'I felt a tremendous visional force behind the whole book. At the end, for example, there is a scene where Ralph is fleeing from the fire on the island, and the point is not just that the boy is being hunted down, but that the whole natural world is being destroyed.' He went on to say 'that idea was almost as important to' him 'as Ralph himself: the picture of destruction' is 'an atomic one; the island has expanded to be the whole great globe. The book is concerned with what human beings were doing to each other and to the world in which they lived.'

One of the ways fire is used is as a symbol of balance between destruction and survival. For example, in chapter two, Golding's image of the boys pooling their efforts together to create a fire can be seen as symbolic of the scientific community's idea of man's early development and the revelatory discovery of fire. The theory suggests that humanity's introduction to fire was crucial to the development of human evolution. However, Golding was a man whose writings often alluded to Greek Mythology and religion (or perhaps, spirituality); the conflicting imagery of fire ultimately destroying this allegorical "Garden of Eden" in the denouement might, on one hand, give an impression of his own contrary feelings that science and religion should be balanced against each other. On the other hand, he could be saying that it is in fact humanity, which needs to be mindful about leaving religion and spirituality behind, while allowing science to dominate; like Mary Shelley in her seminal text Frankenstein, perhaps he is pointing out the dangers of science's reliance on hard, cold facts and its lack of room for morals and spirituality. Just like fire, aeroplanes represent another revolutionary point in scientific progress; the ability to fly, to travel and to escape danger quickly; as the boys have had to do in the novel. "The flames coming out" from the side of the plane originated, according to Piggy in the opening chapter, from having been "attacked." The imagery of the plane on "flames" escaping nuclear war, "coming down" and creating a "scar" on the island is metaphorically suggestive of Golding's point about the juxtaposing mess man has put himself and nature into by not maintaining his awareness and morals over scientific advancement. The mess is juxtaposing because on one hand, humanity has become reliant on science while on the other hand it also appears to be destroying humanity as well as nature (as symbolised by Golding's futuristic, nuclear 'World War 3' and the island on fire in the denouement). The situation the boys find themselves in also appears to highlight the dangers of diverging ideas and opinions in the application of science. However, Golding does not appear to be wholly condemning science because he has allowed the boys' to arrive miraculously via the aeroplane, safely and uninjured on the utopian island.

Furthermore, fire becomes a symbol of status, power, common sense and hope, such as when Ralph instigates the idea of building a signal fire in order to "... help them find us... otherwise they may not notice us," he says. Golding makes Ralph use the pronouns "they" and "them" in order to refer to the adults who represent civilisation and he becomes determined to use the fire in order to accelerate the boys' rescue. Additionally, Golding begins to use Ralph and fire as vehicles to reestablish a connection with humanity, as well as to unveil the novel's overarching theme; 'civilisation vs savagery' or more simply, 'good vs evil.' The idea of Ralph cementing his status as leader, firstly with the "conch" and secondly by initiating a signal fire brings with it the respect of the boys, who "at once were on their feet", perhaps, once again alluding the Ancient Greek myth of Prometheus stealing fire from the gods and giving it to humans. Additionally, Golding has constructed a cooperative situation by showing the boys to be "labouring" in order to create the fire. Perhaps Golding wishes to demonstrate how effective and efficient groups can be when they work in synchronization to achieve a good common cause. Conversely, Golding also shows the destructive side of groups through their division into two groups and the hunters becoming an evil, powerful force, partly by stealing Piggy's glasses in order to control the creation of fire.. Additionally, for the boys rushing around for firewood, "Life became a race with the fire," a phrase that quietly foreshadows Ralph's flight for his life at the end. His idea to help reconnect the boys with





humanity and civilization (adults), ironically backfires and takes him to the brink of death, when Jack attempts to use the fire as a tool to hunt and kill him; once again Golding focuses the reader on the conflicting position man finds himself in, with regards to scientific advancement.

In conclusion, as Golding said, 'the picture of destruction' in the denouement is 'an atomic one; the island has expanded to be the whole great globe' and the 'book is concerned with what human beings were doing to each other and to the world in which they lived'. The loss of innocence and the reversion into savagery (especially towards the end of the novel) emphasises the power of inherent evil within humanity. The characters' inherent natural evil, as portrayed through Jack and his hunters, seems to overcome the power of the pure and innocent nature of Ralph, Simon and Piggy who act as contrasts to the Hunters; Simon and Piggy end up dead and Ralph is only saved from Jack's newfound power via the miraculous arrival of the sailor right at the end. Golding remarked that the scene at the end where Ralph is fleeing from the fire on the island is not simply about the boy being hunted down, but that the whole natural world is being destroyed. The picture of destruction is an atomic one where the destruction of the island represents the 'rape' that Golding believed man was doing to the whole great globe. Thus, the story is an illustration of Golding's concern at the brutality that human beings were subjecting each other and the world in which they live. However, when Ralph and the boys weep for the 'end of innocence' at the end, Golding is, perhaps, suggesting that, although the text may seem pessimistic, this new-found awareness of evil is actually the first step towards getting rid of it. Ralph and the little boys had not earlier wept, for they had not been fully aware of the nature of evil. Now that they weep for the end of innocence and for the darkness of man's soul, perhaps this represents a second chance for them and for civilisation all together, to recognise, in Golding's view, mankind's inherent evil, so that, in Golding's own words, 'we learn to see the rape of our planet for the preposterous folly that it is', so, perhaps, we can begin the search for the love that Golding believed humanity was in deperate need of.

