

Ethics Seminar
Fall 2019
Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Ethics! We will be learning about morality this semester, especially value systems and how we begin to assess good or bad actions. We will read a number of novels that have important ethical implications, and we will also read some of the most influential writings on moral philosophy.

Your summer assignment is to read *Lord of the Flies*.

<https://www.amazon.com/Lord-Flies-William-Golding/dp/0399501487>



It is a very enjoyable summer book, and we think you will like it if you haven't read it. (If you've read it, read it AGAIN and hope you get more out of it than you did in 7th grade) It is a reasonably quick read. HOWEVER, you should do the following:

1. **Annotate.** It will feel like an easy book, but there are several complex elements (i.e. Where does the plane go? What is "the scar"? What is a conch?). There is symbolism. There is conflict. There is motif. If you whip through the book, you will miss things—we promise. Annotating also ensures that you can find important passages again.
2. **Complete the one page writing assignment on the topic below. No more than one page—be concise.** (MLA, double-spaced, with a clear thesis sentence to begin). Have it printed and ready on day 1.

Topic

In *Lord of the Flies*, the boys are isolated from the morality of the society they come from. What does the novel have to say about the idea of an objective morality? To put it another way, what in the novel makes actions able to be judged as "good" or "bad" in the eyes of the boys? Society's norms? Personal conviction? Power? Religion? Choose a few moments (including one from the end) to support your discussion.