

Why are we reading *Lord of the Flies*?

As all works that we include in VCS curriculum, *Lord of the Flies* is one of the classic fiction books of all time with universal themes that we can learn from when read through the lense of Christianity.

The theme of the book basically addresses the idea of whether man is inherently sinful or basically good--in fact, to some, the work is viewed as a Christian allegory. As Christians, we know that man's basic nature is inherently sinful and that without God and the guidelines of His Word, without government and laws, man will be unsuccessful in living a peaceful life --- this book basically illustrates this. To me, that is one of the most valuable aspects of literature in general, that it allows us to experience dilemmas and situations vicariously, to learn from the lives of characters without making the same mistakes.

In regard to graphic content, it is not overly so, considering that this book was written back in the 1950's during a time when everything was quite conservative. Here is an excerpt from the book when the character Piggy dies:

"The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist. Piggy, saying nothing, with no time for even a grunt, traveled through the air sideways from the rock, turning over as he went. The rock bounded twice and was lost in the forest. Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea. His head opened and stuff came out and turned red. Piggy's arms and legs twitched a bit, like a pig's after it has been killed. Then the sea breathed again in a long, slow sigh, the water boiled white and pink over the rock; and when it went, sucking back again, the body of Piggy was gone."

There are some other descriptions, for example, the animal head on a spear, but as the main characters of the story are children, that perspective colors the mood, tone, and suspense in the story.

As a parent, I encourage you to read it with your child, taking the time to discuss the events in the story, highlighting your individual and Christian views together as a family.

Sincerely, Mrs. Carr-Langford