



## **Through the Looking Glass**

*Using philosophy as a lens for exploring  
Lord of the Flies*

### **Essential Question: What is our nature?**

- What would Freud, Nietzsche, and the Social Darwinists have to say about LotF? About us?
- How and why do we read a novel through the lens of philosophy?

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### **Themes:**

- Power and leadership
  - Society, order and chaos
  - Human behavior and motivation
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### **Thinkers:**

#### **Friedrich Nietzsche**

- Theory of ‘The Superman’
- “Beyond good and evil”
- Master v. Slave morality

#### **Charles Darwin**

- Theory of Evolution
- Survival of the fittest
- Social Darwinism

#### **Sigmund Freud**

- Theory of the Sub-conscious (Id, Ego, Super-Ego)
  - Dreams as a passage to the sub-conscious
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**Subject area/course and Grade level:** ELA, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Task source:** NH Task Bank

**Original Author:** Jeanne Sturges

**Reviewed and Revised by:** NH PA Network Review Team (CCE, NCIEA, NHDOE, NH educators)

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## Through the Looking Glass Final Exhibition: Persona Letter

*What would your chosen philosopher say about humanity/human nature after experiencing life on the island?*

- Show the connections between one primary philosopher and the novel.
- Explain the events on the island and the characters using the philosopher's theories.
- Write a letter from the point of view of a philosopher. Use "I" and "you."
- Use specific examples (DRT) from the book and the philosophy texts.
- Discuss "your fellow philosopher's" ideas as well (compare and contrast ideas).
- 2-3 pages, double spaced, typed, 1" margins, 12 pt font

### Checkpoints

✓ When complete	What	When
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Draft – Hard copy – due in class</b>	
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Draft – Electronic copy - due by 8:00pm:</b>	
	<b>Individual Writing Conference</b>	
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Draft</b>	
	<b>Reflection</b>	

### Academic Learner Expectations

#### Complex Thinker

- Crafts a clear perspective of the philosopher's ideas.
- Explains the events in the novel from the perspective of the philosopher.
- Shows an understanding of the other philosophers' ideas.
- Makes connections between the ideas of the different philosophers.
- Shows understanding of the novel on a symbolic and metaphorical level.

#### Knowledgeable Person

- Demonstrates understanding of the philosophy chosen (references big ideas and details of the philosophy)
- Uses the events, characters, setting and dialogue in the novel to support your philosophical ideas.

#### Effective Communicator

- Introduction gives sufficient background info. on the philosophy and the novel.
- The conclusion leaves the reader with new reflections and ideas to consider.
- Consistently uses the voice of the philosopher.
- Uses proper conventions and formatting.

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