

**Subject area/course:** English/Language Arts

**Grade level/band:** 9

**Task source:** Center for Collaborative Education (CCE); Author: John Olkovikas

## What Color Should It Be?

### STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

#### **A. Task context:**

Authors like to use patterns in their stories to help readers understand the theme, just like Ayn Rand used light and dark imagery to help the reader understand the evils of collectivism. For the novel *Lord of the Flies* you will track one color and one symbol, using Post-It notes, to understand one of the themes of the book.

#### Part 1: *The Lord of the Flies*, text and movie

- For the beginning part of the unit, your class will watch the 1964 version of *The Lord of the Flies* to preload comprehension of the novel, so the main characters and events are known prior to reading.
- You will then begin to read the novel.

#### Part 2: Study of color symbolism

- Participate in a class discussion about color symbolism in culture.
- Continue reading the novel and use Post-it notes to mark text sections that contain symbolic uses of color (white, green, red, black, pink) and an object (the sea/water, island/rocks, pig, fire, conch).
- Early on in the text, your instructor will provide you with a copy of the passage and practice using INSERT codes. As the novel progresses, you should choose and provide passages for your classmates to code, allowing them to take ownership of which passages are important.

#### Part 3: Searching for data

- Enhance your evidence collection by searching the online PDF of the novel for color symbolism: [http://gv.pl/pdf/lord\\_of\\_the\\_flies.pdf](http://gv.pl/pdf/lord_of_the_flies.pdf)

#### Part 4: Writing the emails/reflections

- Your instructor will provide information about composing a professional email: correct address, subject line, diction, and form.
- At the end of each chapter, you will write one 200-300-word draft email to a classmate, identifying the use of color and symbol, and explaining what the color and symbol mean in that chapter. You should copy the instructor in your emails.
- You will then write a 150-250-word response to a classmate's email, reacting to your classmate's ideas. Again, copies should go to your instructor.



- When the book is finished, you will choose one email to revise, and will write a formal final analysis essay of the color and symbol, explaining how each one develops one of the novel's themes. The final analyses should be submitted to the instructor as an attachment to an email.

**B. Final product:**

After reading *Lord of the Flies*, you will write a final analysis of a color and symbol of your choice, explaining how each one develops one of the novel's themes. You will work on this task independently.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**C. Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

You will know:

- Color symbolism of red, blue, green, pink, white, black
- Themes: Loss of innocence and the darkness of the human heart
- *The Lord of the Flies*

You will be able to:

- Cite evidence
- Combine informational text to support a literary analysis
- Utilize technology for communication, collaboration, and finding evidence
- Compose a literary analysis using the writing process

**D. Materials needed:**

- Access to the internet
- *The Lord of the Flies* (text)
- Color symbolism and culture: <http://www.incredibleart.org/lessons/middle/color2.htm>
- *The Lord of the Flies* (online PDF): [http://gv.pl/pdf/lord\\_of\\_the\\_flies.pdf](http://gv.pl/pdf/lord_of_the_flies.pdf)

**E. Time requirements:**

You will have four weeks to complete this task. Your teacher will build in checkpoints for peer and teacher feedback.

**F. Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the QPA Common Literary Analysis rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.