Lord of the flies –novel questions- Each question must be answered in full sentences and with reasons, examples and explanations specific to the novel, using quotes if necessary.

1. Why does Golding end *Lord of the Flies* with the rescue of the boys? Does this ending change the realistic nature of the novel?
2. Would this story have been different in any important ways if there had been both boys and girls on the island? In other words, is this a story about the capacity of humans for violence, or is it a story about the male capacity for violence?
3. How are the characters in *Lord of the Flies* presented as both “heroic and sick”? As both sane and insane? As both good and evil?
4. How does fear play a major role in *Lord of the Flies*? What are the effects of fear on the boys as the story progresses?
5. Compare and contrast Ralph and Simon. Both seem to be “good” characters. Is there a difference in their goodness?
6. How does Jack use the beast to control the other boys?
7. Of all the characters, it is Piggy who most often has useful ideas and sees the correct way for the boys to organize themselves. Yet the other boys rarely listen to him and frequently abuse him. Why do you think this is the case? In what ways does Golding use Piggy to advance the novel’s themes? Why do you think we never find out his real name?
8. What, if anything, might the dead parachutist symbolize? Does he symbolize something other than what the beast and the Lord of the Flies symbolize?
9. The sow’s head and the conch shell each wield a certain kind of power over the boys. In what ways do these objects’ powers differ? In what way is *Lord of the Flies* a novel about power? About the power of symbols? About the power of a person to use symbols to control a group?
10. What role do the littluns play in the novel? In one respect, they serve as gauges of the older boys’ moral positions, for we see whether an older boy is kind or cruel based on how he treats the littluns. But are the littluns important in and of themselves? What might they represent?
11. What is important about the title? Is there a reference in the novel that explains the title?
12. If you were the leader of the boys in the beginning of the story, what would you have done differently that might have made things come out differently in the end?
13. Traditionally, children are portrayed as innocent. Are they in *Lord of the Flies*? Explain how so or how not.
14. Suppose the naval officer had not come along in the end, and Ralph had been murdered. How would that have changed the meaning of the story?
15. What faults in our society does William Golding point out in *Lord of the Flies*?
16. Compare and contrast the deaths of Simon and Piggy. How do Piggy and Ralph attempt to rationalize their participation in the death of Simon? Contrast that with Jack and his group's reaction to their own participation.
17. In the struggle for power between Jack and Ralph, what advantages does Jack have? Ralph? Compare Jack's tactics to terrorist and gang tactics. How are they similar?
18. According to Mr. Golding, is evil intrinsic or extrinsic to humans?
19. What is the symbolic importance of each of the following: Piggy's glasses, the conch and the fire, the shelters, the sand castles, the boys' physical appearances, the beastie and the pig's head?
20. Are the characters in *Lord of the Flies* stereotypes? If so, explain why William Golding used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.