



Lord of the Flies by William Golding

GLOSSARY

CHAPTER 1

creepers plants whose stems put out tendrils or roots by which the plants can creep along a surface.

Home Counties the counties nearest London.

stockings closefitting coverings, usually knitted, for the feet and, usually, much of the legs.

garter an elastic band, or a fastener suspended from a band, girdle, etc., for holding a stocking or sock in position.

sucks to your auntie a British slang expression of contempt; "forget your auntie" or "your auntie be damned."

Gib., Addis abbreviations for Gibraltar & Addis Ababa, respectively; refueling stops the evacuation plane made before crashing on the island.

matins orig., the first of the seven canonical hours, recited between midnight and dawn or, often, at daybreak; here, a morning church service at which the choir sang.

precentor a person who directs a church choir or congregation in singing.

shop here, conversation about one's work or business.

head boy an honorary title given to a student who has made the best all-around contribution to student life and maintains exemplary conduct.

wacco [Brit. Slang] excellent.

wizard [Brit. Informal] excellent.

smashing [informal] outstandingly good.

CHAPTER 2

Treasure Island Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel about a heroic boy's search for buried gold and his encounter with pirates.

Swallows and Amazons the first (1930) of a series of adventure books by Arthur Ransome, about a group of children on vacation.

Coral Island Robert Ballantyne's 1857 adventure tale about three boys shipwrecked on a Pacific island and their triumph over their circumstances.

caps of maintenance caps bearing a school insignia.

altos the boys who sing in the vocal range between tenor and soprano.

trebles the boys who sing the highest part in musical harmony.

CHAPTER 3

batty [Slang] crazy or eccentric.

crackers [Slang, Chiefly Brit.] crazy; insane.

queer differing from what is usual or ordinary; odd; singular; strange.

CHAPTER 4

dazzle paint British term for camouflage; the disguising of troops, ships, guns, etc. to conceal them, as by the use of paint, nets, or leaves to merge with the background.

accent a distinguishing regional or national manner of pronunciation; here, Piggy's manner of speech, characterized by his use of double negatives and informal contractions.

bloody [Vulgar Brit. Slang] cursed; damned.

Ha'porth contraction of "a halfpenny's worth," meaning a very small amount.

One for his nob a hit on his head.

Give him a fourpenny one hit him on the jaw.

CHAPTER 5

lavatory [Chiefly Brit.] a flush toilet.

taken short informal phrase for having diarrhea.

jolly [Brit. Informal] very; altogether.

bogie an imaginary evil being or spirit; goblin.

mucking about [Slang, Chiefly Brit.] wasting time; puttering around.

sod you vulgar slang phrase showing extreme contempt.

nuts a slang exclamation of disgust, scorn, disappointment, refusal, etc.

bollocks a vulgar slang exclamation expressing anger, disbelief, etc.

CHAPTER 6

waxy [Brit. Informal] enraged.

polyp any of various cnidarians, as the sea anemone or hydra, having a mouth fringed with many small, slender tentacles bearing stinging cells at the top of a tubelike body.

plinth a course of brick or stone, often a projecting one, along the base of a wall.

embroil to draw into a conflict or fight; involve in trouble.

diffident lacking self-confidence; timid; shy.

CHAPTER 7

dun dull grayish-brown.

coverts covered or protected places; shelters.

toilet the process of dressing or grooming oneself.

scurfy having a condition, as dandruff, in which the skin sheds little, dry scales.

brine water full of salt.

do us here, kill us.

bum [Brit. Slang] the buttocks.

rugger [Brit. Informal] rugby.

funk a cowering or flinching through fear; panic.

windy long-winded, pompous, boastful.

impervious not affected by something or not feeling the effects of something.

CHAPTER 8

prefect in some private schools, esp. in England, an older student with disciplinary authority.

rebuke to blame or scold in a sharp way; reprimand.

cracked [Informal] mentally unbalanced; crazy.

CHAPTER 9

derision contempt or ridicule.

phosphorescence a continuing luminescence without noticeable heat.

CHAPTER 10

gesticulate to make or use gestures, esp. with the hands and arms, as in adding nuances or force to one's speech, or as a substitute for speech.

torrid so hot as to be parching or oppressive; scorching.

Reds [Slang] Communists.

lamp standard lamppost.

barmy [Brit. Slang] crazy.

round the bend [Brit. Informal] crazy; insane.

bomb happy [Slang, Chiefly Brit.] crazy; insane.

crackers [Slang, Chiefly Brit.] crazy; insane.

pills [Vulgar Brit Slang] the testicles.

bowstave here, slightly curved arc like that of a bow.

CHAPTER 11

myopia nearsightedness.

propitiate win or regain the good will of; appease or conciliate.

pinnacles pointed formations; peaks, as at the tops of mountains.

pinch [Slang] to steal.

truculent fierce; cruel; savage; ferocious.

CHAPTER 12

pax peace, here meant as a call for a truce.

acrid sharp, bitter, stinging, or irritating to the taste or smell.

inimical hostile; unfriendly.

gibber to speak or utter rapidly and incoherently; chatter unintelligibly.

essay to try; attempt.

antiphonal sung or chanted in alternation.

ululate to howl, hoot, or wail.

cordon a line or circle, as of soldiers or ships, stationed around an area to guard it.

diddle [Informal] to move back and forth jerkily or rapidly; juggle.

mold here, loose, soft, easily worked soil.

white drill a coarse linen or cotton cloth with a diagonal weave, used for work clothes, uniforms, etc.

epaulette shoulder ornament as for military uniforms.

cutter a boat carried, esp. formerly, aboard large ships to transport personnel or supplies.

rating an enlisted man in the Navy.

stern sheets the space at the stern of an open boat.

"He lost himself in a maze of thoughts that were rendered vague by his lack of words to express them. Frowning, he tried again."

- William Golding
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