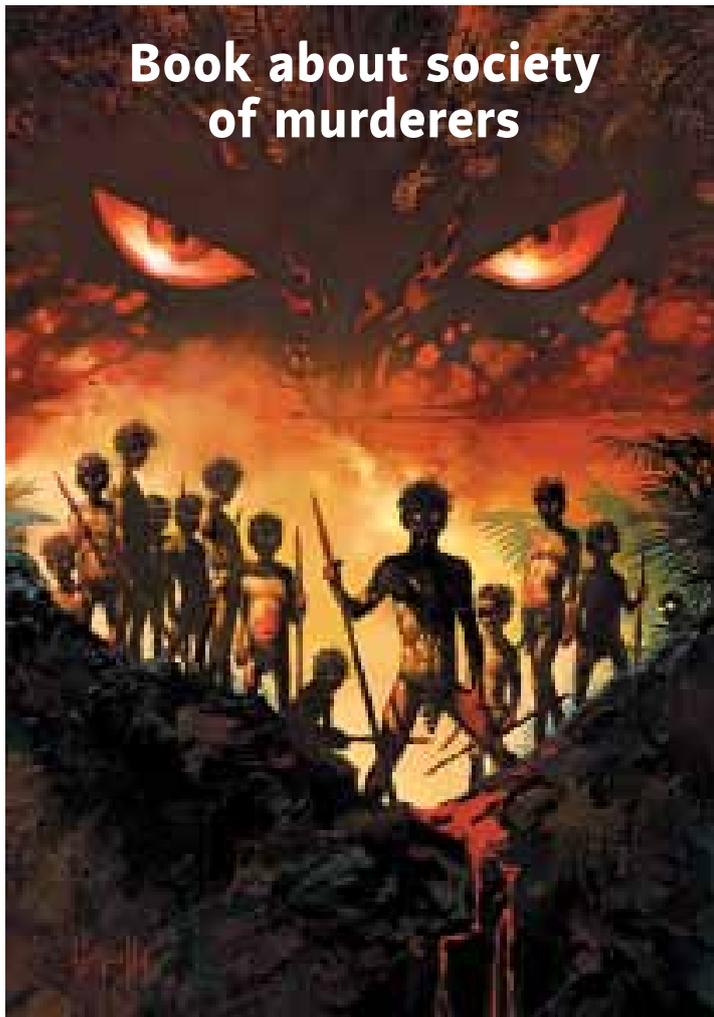


LORD OF THE FLIES GETS YOU!



Book about society of murderers

William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* seems to be a classic story about a group of boys stranded on an island and their survival there. However, if you expect a Robinson Crusoe-type of story, you will be disappointed. The main theme is the conflict between order and anarchy.

A plane with British public school² boys crashes on a deserted island. There are no adults around and the boys have to form a society in order to survive. Ralph becomes the leader thanks to a combination of his charisma, natural leadership and rationality³. He organizes the boys into different groups based on certain tasks. Ralph is often guided by fearful but

intelligent "Piggy" – a nickname based on the boy's fat build⁴.

Two different groups

The boys have to deal with the typical tasks of survival – how to find something to eat and how to keep a fire burning to attract the attention of passing ships. They also start to fear a mysterious creature simply called "the beast".

Their anxiety⁵ and laziness⁶ provide a perfect opportunity

for the more aggressive Jack to challenge⁷ Ralph's leadership and gain command. Jack is the head of the group of "hunters". Rather than gather food and keep the fire burning, Jack wants to hunt for fun. The boys under his command

Boys don't hesitate to torture and murder.

gradually give in⁸ to their violent⁹ instincts. Later they turn into a savage¹⁰ tribe¹¹ lacking any signs of civilisation.

The beast unleashed

Finally, they turn their aggression on the rest of Ralph's group, especially on Piggy who remains the most civilized of all. They don't hesitate to harass¹³ the others, stealing Piggy's glasses and finally committing murder. (If you want to find out who, check the website for the extract.) The final confrontation¹⁴ is not only between two groups of boys, but also between civilisation and barbarism.

The first major theme of *Lord of the Flies* is the fragility¹⁵ of civilization. The second is the conflict between rational living bound by rules¹⁶ versus a savage tribal one ruled by the law of jungle. Golding shows that without basic rules, people will degenerate¹⁷ into an almost animal state. They will choose laziness instead of work and use violence instead of reason.

Ryan Scott (Australia)
Josef Šorm (CR)

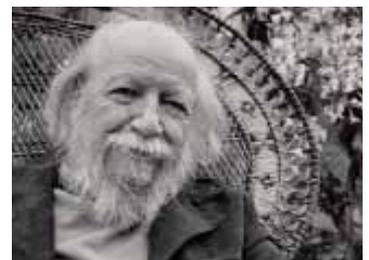


KILL THE BEAST!

The extract from the book was so violent that we could not print it! However, we know you also want to give in to your animal instincts so we have a bonus on our web page. There is an extract recorded by our aggressive native speaker plus one sadistic exercise for you just as well. So GO-CHECK-IT-OUT!



www.bridge-online.cz/studenti



WILLIAM GOLDING (1911–1993)

While a student at Oxford, William Golding published a collection of poetry, which failed to arouse¹⁸ much interest. For the next two decades, he worked as a schoolmaster. His first book, *Lord of the Flies*, was initially rejected¹⁹ by publishers. When it was eventually published it was an immediate success.

VOCABULARY

¹ to be stranded [strændɪd] – zůstat trčet

² public school – britská soukromá střední škola

³ rationality [ræʃə'nælɪti] – racionálnost

⁴ build – postava

⁵ anxiety [æŋ'zaiəti] – úzkost

⁶ laziness ['leɪzɪnəs] – lenost

⁷ to challenge ['tʃælɪn(d)ʒ] – vyzvat

⁸ to give in – podlehnout

⁹ violent ['vaɪələ(ə)nt] – násilný

¹⁰ savage [sævɪdʒ] – divoký

¹¹ tribe [traɪb] – kmen

¹² to unleash [ʌn'li:ʃ] – vypustit

¹³ to harass ['hærəs, hə'ræs] – obtěžovat

¹⁴ confrontation [kɒnfrən'teɪʃ(ə)n] – konflikt

¹⁵ fragility [frə'dʒɪlɪti] – křehkost

¹⁶ bound by rules [baʊnd] – svázán pravidly

¹⁷ to degenerate [dɪ'dʒenəret] – zvrhnout se

¹⁸ to arouse [ə'raʊz] – vyvolat

¹⁹ to reject [rɪ'dʒekt] – odmítnout