SYMBOLISM IN
LORD OF THE FLIES
Definition of Symbolism:

- **Symbolism** is the use of a concrete object to represent an abstract concept such as freedom, danger, betrayal.
- Authors use symbols just like they use theme: to convey a deeper message to an audience.

- Let’s analyze some common symbols together:
What do the following images symbolize?
What do the following images symbolize?

- Tiananmen Square, China, 1989
Analyzing Symbols in LOTF---

- You should observe important symbols throughout the novel as you are reading;
- Take notes or use sticky-notes to remind you;
- Research the meaning of the symbols from a variety of credible sources;
- Now, develop a thesis statement about the symbol you chose from the list provided;
- Support your analysis with quotes from the novel and from credible outside research;
- Demonstrate your analysis of each quote by providing commentary.
LOTF Symbolism Project----

- **Due date:** Tuesday, October 28th, 2014
- **Point Value:** See below for value of each completed project requirement, including a Works Cited page
- **(90 pts. total)**

- **Project must be:**
  - Clearly labeled, with well-organized structure, and attention to detail
  - Well-edited, spell-checked, using MLA format
  - Not just a summary, with student’s commentary and analysis
  - Well-researched using credible sources & textual references from the novel
Project Point Value:

- Thesis Statement (5 pts)
- Colorful, detailed, well-crafted illustration of the symbol (5 pts)
- THREE quotes from LOTF, with chapter & page numbers provided to support thesis in MLA format (15 pts)
- TWO researched outside sources, including analysis and in-text citations for each quote provided to support thesis in MLA format. (20 pts)
- Thoughtful analysis and detailed commentary (explanations) provided for each quote (5 total) that supports thesis (25 pts)
- Works Cited page, typed, follows MLA format (10 pts)
- Clear evidence of proof-reading on project: all elements clearly labeled; work is well-edited & spell-checked, reflects quality, thoughtful, well-researched work. (10 pts)
Choose **one** of the following topics as the focus of your project to analyze: (Each symbol may only be used twice in each class.)

- The Plane Crash (scar)
- The island
- Piggy’s Eyeglasses
- The Signal Fire
- Ralph
- Simon
- Killing of the Pigs
- “The Beast”
- The “Lord of the Flies”
- The boys’ uniforms
- The Existence of Evil
- Piggy
- Jack
For Your Sources---

FIRST-read the novel

- Research the symbol you are analyzing for your project.
- You need to use credible sources for your project, such as book reviews from: *The NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *NPR*, *Sacramento Bee*, or the *Chicago-Sun Times*, for example
- May not use Internet cites such as…. *Wikipedia*, *Shmoop*, *Bookrags*, *Grade Saver*, *Sparknotes*, *Cliff’s Notes*
Provide a Title, such as *Conch as Democracy*. NOT a Topic: *Piggy’s Glasses*

Provide: Evidence and Commentary

- “Him with the shell. Let him be chief with the trumpet-thing“ (Golding 93).
- **Example**—*(Quote from the novel)*
- **(Commentary)** Here the boys are attempting to establish a democracy.
- “The conch, which is used by the boys to call assemblies and to represent the right of speech, symbolizes democracy, order, and authority in the novel. However, the conch loses its influence as the story progresses, and thus the boys begin to follow their animalistic desires into savagery and chaos.“ (Smith 229) **Example**—*(Outside research)*
- I’ll give the conch to the next person to speak” (Golding 102). —*(Quote from the novel)*
- **(Commentary)** Ralph establishes “the rules” of the conch, which is an orderly speaking pattern. “The conch that called and decided who spoke in assemblies represented democracy and order. Without order and democracy the island became a mass of chaos and absolutism. We see this from the change of the environment and way of life of the boys on the island. Order helps us lead an efficient and less difficult world to live in. For without order in our government system the United States would be run carelessly and the chaos would lead to a difficult life” (Epstein 12). **Outside research**
- Jack, as the “savage” instinct on the island, is the one who suggests that they don’t need the conch—they know who should speak and who should not.
- This occurs later in the book, when there is a division in the group. As Jack stops following the rules, he gives in more and more to his savage side. **(Commentary)**

**Provide a Thesis:**
The conch represents order and democracy, and as the boys revert to their human instincts, use of the conch falls away.

****BE SURE TO PROVIDE YOUR OWN COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS FOR EACH QUOTE!!****
Include a Works Cited in MLA format

- Use MLA format for the Works Cited page, refer to our class notes and handouts, or go to the
- Use Owl @Purdue website for additional review, provided on our class webpage.

- Do quality work and finish Term II strong! 😊
- Again---No late passes accepted for this assignment!