LotF Socratic Seminar Questions Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prepare for all twelve questions by giving written responses. You may write your responses or type them. Full points will be given for thorough, thoughtful answers.

1. What is Golding's overall message about the meaning, place, and role of government and politics? How does Golding use specific characters and symbols to convey his ideas?
2. What is the Lord of the Flies? What is it talking about, and why? What role does it serve in the narrative?
3. Comment on the symbolism of the conch—its purpose and its fate. What does it represent? How do different characters interact with it?
4. “‘Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!’ said the head. For a moment or two the forest and all the other dimly appreciated places echoed with the parody of laughter. ‘You know, didn’t you? I’m part of you? Close, close, close! I’m the reason why it’s no go? Why things are what they are?” (143). Discuss the symbol of the beast. What does it represent in humanity? Support your response with information from the novel as well as references to philosophers and historical figures covered in class.
5. Comment on the way that the boys are saved. How are they rescued and what is ironic about the situation?
6. “…The officer, surrounded by these noises, was moved and a little embarrassed. He turned away to give them time to pull themselves together; and waited, allowing his eyes to rest on the trim cruiser in the distance” (202). What is ironic about this quote? Why does Golding choose to end the novel here?
7. Trace the changes of the protagonists throughout the novel in terms of Freudian ideas and psyche. How does Golding utilize these ideas to add to the depth, meaning, and symbolism of each character?
8. What leads to Piggy’s death and what is the aftermath? What does his death represent?
9. The murder of Simon occurs at the peak of devolution for the boys. Through the characters of Ralph, Piggy and Samneric, Golding introduces the theme of mob mentality. Do you think all the children should be punished for their actions on the island or only Jack and his close followers? Keeping in mind the historical context of this novel, where do you think Golding stands on this issue of responsibility and blame?
10. Does Golding’s novel present the idea that human beings are inherently good or evil? What enlightenment philosopher’s ideologies do you see reflected in the novel? How are these philosophies supported or disproved by the narrative?
11. Comment on how the boys are physically characterized and what these details reflect about their characters.
12. Is it significant that the characters are male? are British? If so, why?