



Pushing the Limits of Community Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

Through this theme, you'll explore the importance of community in the face of large-scale challenges like natural disasters, pandemics, and climate change. As individuals, how vulnerable are we against these dangers? Chances are, we stand a better chance of surviving as a unified force. So, people are coming together, maximizing their capabilities as a community to - literally - weather the storm.

Lord of the Flies

William Golding, Fiction. On one level, it's a book about a group of young boys who get to try living completely free of grown-ups. On another level, it's an allegory for the nature of the human race. From both perspectives, the story takes a downward spiral into a dark, barbaric landscape.

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. With no adult supervision, their freedom is something they celebrate. This far from civilization, they can do anything they want. Anything. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night and terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued. *amazon.com*

- What do you feel Golding's vision of humanity is? Do you think he believes we are born with an instinct for peace and cooperation...or for dominance and savagery? Does his vision accord with your own?
- What do you think about the rules of civilization? Do they free us and enable us to rise to our best selves? Or do the rules constrain a bad nature that lies within us?
- If you were facing this situation, how might you use "old school" technologies or approaches to help solve problems? Have you read other survival-type books that implemented old technologies?
- What does hunting mean to Jack...at the beginning, and then later? What happens to his mental state after he kills his first pig?
- What is ironic about the naval officer who arrives to "rescue" the boys? How does Ralph feel about returning to the safety of civilization? Why does he weep - is it relief, or something else?

