YEAR 9 ENGLISH · LORD OF THE FLIES

The Ending

What kind of ending does Golding give us?

Online lesson · 60 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson you will…

Describe

the type of ending in Lord of the Flies

Explain

how far the ending works and why

Evaluate

what type of ending Golding employed for his text and why

SUCCESS CRITERIA

What good work looks like

Level	You can…
All	name the type of ending and describe what happens in it
Most	explain how far the ending works, with evidence and reasons
Some	evaluate why Golding chose this ending, linking it to the message of the whole novel

STARTER · 5 MINUTES

What makes an ending satisfying?

Think of a film, book or game with an ending you loved or hated. Type its name in the chat and one reason why.

TYPES OF ENDING

Five ways a story can finish

Closed

Every question is answered. Nothing is left hanging.

Open

Some questions stay unanswered. The reader decides.

Twist

A surprise at the end changes how we see the story.

Circular

The story returns to where it began.

Ironic

The outcome is the opposite of what we expect.

An ending can be more than one type at once.

KEY VOCABULARY

Words to use today

resolution · how the problems of a story are settled

irony · the opposite of what you expect

circular · ending where it began

rescue · being saved from danger

innocence · lack of knowledge of evil

allegory · a story with a hidden meaning

satire · mocking something to make a point

cynical · expecting the worst of people

hypocrisy · saying one thing and doing another

RECAP · 7 MINUTES WITH THE READING

How does the novel end?

Ralph is hunted across the island, and the island is on fire.

He reaches the beach and finds a naval officer.

The officer sees the boys as children playing a game.

Ralph is overcome, and the other boys break down too.

Type one word for how the ending made you feel.

QUICK CHECK · 2 MINUTES

Did you follow the ending?

1. Who arrives on the beach?
2. What does he think the boys have been doing?
3. What is the officer’s own situation, away from the island?
4. How does Ralph react at the very end?

TASK 1 · DESCRIBE · 10 MINUTES

What type of ending is it?

Type	Fits?	Evidence from the ending
Closed		
Open		
Twist		
Circular		
Ironic		

Write Yes, Partly or No for each. Choose any short quotation from your own copy of the novel.

TASK 1 · DESCRIBE THE ENDING

Choose your starter

Support

The ending is… because… At the end, Ralph…

Core

Golding ends the novel with a ___ ending. This can be seen when ___. It is also ___ because…

Stretch

Although the ending appears ___, it is more accurately described as ___ because the rescue only…

Word bank: closed · ironic · circular · resolution · rescue · irony · contrast

TASK 2 · EXPLAIN · 11 MINUTES

How far does the ending work?

Does it…	Rating 1–5	Why?
settle the plot?		
surprise the reader?		
link back to the opening?		
deliver Golding’s message?		
leave a strong feeling?		

1 means it does not work, 5 means it works completely. Give a reason for every rating.

DISCUSS · 3 MINUTES

The rescuer is an officer from a world at war. Is the boys’ rescue really a happy ending?

Share your idea in the chat or unmute to speak.

TASK 2 · WRITE TO EXPLAIN

How far does the ending work, and why?

Support

The ending works well because… It does not work as well because…

Core

The ending works because ___. For example, ___. However, it is less effective because…

Stretch

By ending with ___, Golding forces the reader to ___. This works to a large extent, although…

Use two criteria from your table and one short quotation from your own copy.

TASK 3 · EVALUATE · 17 MINUTES

Why did Golding choose this ending?

Message
What does it say about human nature?

Adults
What does it say about the grown-up world?

Reader
How do we feel about the “happy” rescue?

Alternatives
Would a different ending have worked better?

Write your **verdict** in one sentence: Golding’s ending is mainly ___ because…

WRITE · 8 MINUTES

What type of ending did Golding employ, and why?

Support

Golding uses a ___ ending. I think he does this because… This shows that…

Core

Golding chooses an ending that is both ___ and ___. This is effective because it makes the reader realise… On the other hand…

Stretch

By pairing a conventional rescue with an ironic outlook, Golding suggests that… A different ending would have…

Check your paragraph

I named the type of ending clearly.

I used a short quotation from my own copy of the novel.

I explained why Golding chose this ending.

I weighed up more than one view.

Stretch: I linked the ending to the message of the whole novel.

Tick each one yourself while the teacher gives feedback.

EXIT TICKET · 4 MINUTES

Finish these three sentences

1. The ending of Lord of the Flies is…
2. It works well / less well because…
3. Golding chose this ending because…

HOMEWORK · ABOUT 20 MINUTES

How effective is the ending of Lord of the Flies?

Write two paragraphs with **one short quotation** in each and **one technique** named.

Stretch: suggest how a different ending would change the message of the novel.