**Lord of the Flies**

**Chapter 8 – Close Read**

**Close Read**: Read the following selection below. Choose three of the five symbols from the Close Read Symbol chart below to do a close read of the text. (This means that you will underline the part you want to put a symbol next to, and put the symbol in the margin next to what you underlined.)

\*\*\*You must respond to the highlighted box!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Symbol** | **Comments/Question/Response** | **Language Support** |
| ? | o Questions I have  o Confusing parts for me | • My question about this part is:  • I’m confused about this part because… |
| + | o Ideas/statements I agree with | • I agree with this character because |
| - | o Ideas/statements I disagree with | • I disagree with this character because … |
| \* | o Significant ideas | • I think this part is significant because … |
| ! | o Shocking statements or parts  o Emotional parts | • I was shocked to read that … (further explanation)  • The part about \_\_\_ made me feel … |
| O | o Ideas/sections you connect with  o What this reminds you of | • This section reminded me of…  • This experience connects with my own experience in that… |

Here, struck down by the heat, the sow fell and the hunters hurled themselves at her. This dreadful eruption from an unknown world made her frantic; she squealed and bucked and the air was full of sweat and noise and blood and terror. Roger ran round the heap, prodding with his spear whenever pig flesh appeared. Jack was on top of the sow, stabbing downward with his knife. Roger found a lodgment for his point and began to push till he was leaning with his whole weight. The spear moved forward inch by inch and the terrified squealing became a high-pitched scream. Then Jack found the throat and the hot blood spouted over his hands. The sow collapsed under them and they were heavy and fulfilled upon her. The butterflies still danced, preoccupied in the center of the clearing.

At last the immediacy of the kill subsided. The boys drew back, and

Jack stood up, holding out his hands.

“Look.”

He giggled and flicked them while the boys laughed at his reeking palms. Then Jack grabbed Maurice and rubbed the stuff over his cheeks.

Roger began to withdraw his spear and boys noticed it for the first time.

Robert stabilized the thing in a phrase which was received uproariously.

“Right up her ass!”

“Did you hear?”

“Did you hear what he said?”

“Right up her ass!”

This time Robert and Maurice acted the two parts; and Maurice’s acting of the pig’s efforts to avoid the advancing spear was so funny that the boys cried with laughter.

At length even this palled. Jack began to clean his bloody hands on the rock. Then he started work on the sow and punched her, lugging out the hot bags of colored guts, pushing them into a pile on the rock while the others watched him. He talked as he worked.

Questions:

As we have studied Lord of the Flies, we have discussed the novel as a work of allegory. Combine the knowledge that you have of Lord of the Flies as an allegory with what you just read about Kitty Genovese and the Bystander Effect and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think that Golding might have been trying to suggest about society through this passage where the sow is killed?
2. Think about what we have discussed the pigs being a symbol for. Given that context, what do you think the butterflies might symbolize in this passage?
3. How you think the scene in which the sow is killed compares to the scene in which Simon is killed.
4. How do you think that the boys are able to be so brutal as to kill one of their own?
5. After watching the video if we as humans allow ourselves to do savage things because we are caught up and are not behaving as we normally would, are our actions excusable? Why/why not?