

**DIRECTIONS:** While you are reading *Lord of the Flies*, you should maintain an active reader's journal of observations, ideas, notes, questions, and significant quotes. Use the prompts below to generate ideas for your journal entries; focus on just **three** or **four** prompts throughout the novel. Your reading journal may prove to be a valuable resource, since you may be able to use it for a timed writing assignment.

## ***Analytical Prompts***

- **Character Analysis** A novel's character can be described as either *dynamic* or *static*. A dynamic character is one that—in the course of the story—changes in a significant way, gaining a profound insight about life. On the other hand, a static character does not change in the novel's duration. Consider how the main character felt at the beginning of the selection...at the end of the selection. Think about a significant event that occurred in this selection and the character's response. Based on this knowledge evaluate this character. Is he or she dynamic or static?
- **Art Imitates Life?** Could this story really have happened? Consider what parts of the story seemed particularly realistic or unrealistic. Think about what makes these selections so realistic or unrealistic.
- **Why Bother?** Was this selection worth the time it took to read? In other words—in general—was reading this book a positive or negative experience? Discuss how any three (3) of the following criteria affected your experience: the plot, the relevancy to your life, the themes, the author's writing style, or the author's apparent attitude toward his or her subject (tone).
- **Bad Taste** Even when you have just finished a selection that you love, sometimes there is something in the book that leaves a bad taste in your mouth. You may not agree with the decision a character made or the way the author worked out a conflict. What are some things that disturbed you about this book?
- **Emotional Roller Coaster** Life is an emotional roller coaster. Things you face in life can make you feel happy, sad, frustrated, or even mad. As we read, things we encounter in books can provide insight to these same emotions. How did you feel as you read this selection? Identify the passage(s) that stirred up your emotions. Describe what the author did in these selections and how it made you feel.
- **A Perfect Fit** Have you ever picked up a book and thought to yourself, "That's a strange title. I wonder what it means?" Many times readers ask that question, and at the end of the book they are still not sure what the author intended the title to mean. Sometimes the title seems obvious, and titles do usually have a surface meaning. Moreover, there are often deeper connections between the title and the book. Does the book's title seem to fit? Discuss different connections that you find between the title and the story.
- **Hidden Messages** Sometimes authors use events, characters, or symbols to convey the theme to their readers. What type of message do you feel the author had in mind as he/she wrote the book? Is the theme easy to find (explicit), or do you have to really think about it (implied)? What in the book helped you find the themes?
- **Gone Fishing** Just as bait is meant to attract fish, the beginning of a book is meant to attract the reader's attention. What did the author do to get you "hooked" into the story? Why did this part "hook" you and catch your attention? Think about not only the story's plot, but also the author's diction (word choice). If the beginning of the story did not "hook" you, explain why this part failed to snag your interest.
- **Hurdles** Everyone has obstacles to overcome in life. Some have disabilities, others have emotional pain, and still others have a difficult home life. These hurdles can be difficult to deal with, but many people overcome them and enjoy a fulfilling life. What hurdle is the main character facing? How would you advise this character to deal with and conquer this difficult situation and similar hurdles in the future?