

KS4 English, Paranoia in Fiction: the set texts out to get you! 'Lord of the Flies' (all examination boards)

Curriculum relevance

This lesson addresses the following descriptor from the GCSE English Literature specification (for first teaching from September 2015):

Critical Reading: *"Using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation"* National Curriculum 2013.

Main teaching points

This set text was published in 1954 and it explores the socio-political concerns of the Cold War era. There are allusions within the text to the Cold War conflict between liberal democracy and totalitarian communism.

Activities

Watch the video clips selected from the resource for this lesson at coldwarflies.lgfl.net and encourage students to think about the following:

- Consider the characters of Ralph and Jack. Which one represents the liberal tradition and which one represents military dictatorship?
- Which character is the East and which one the West? Use the excellent interview footage to support your answers.
- Now view the augmented-reality artefacts "3D model of a 1963 Family Fallout Shelter" and "See what a nuclear detonation at Westminster would look like". Does this bring the situation to life for students – how would they feel to be living in this time?
- You may wish to ask students to construct similar tasks around the other augmented reality artefacts within the resource – see coldwarAR.lgfl.net for the full range.

Context writing task

- "Jaw, Jaw is better than war, war." Using this quote from Churchill, discuss ways in which this may relate to the 'conch' and the use of talk in Lord of the Flies?