

Stranded boys struggle to survive in *Lord of the Flies* trailer

[embedded content]

BBC One has adapted William Golding's classic 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies* into a new miniseries and just dropped the first trailer. The book has been adapted for film three times since its publication and also inspired the Emmy-nominated TV series *Yellowjackets* (renewed for its fourth and final season this year). This BBC miniseries apparently has the support of the Golding family and is expected to hew quite closely to the novel.

(Spoilers for the 1954 novel below.)

Golding was inspired to write *Lord of the Flies* by a popular, pro-colonialism children's novel called *The Coral Island*, whose central theme was the civilizing influence of British colonial efforts and Christianity on a "savage" people. Golding wanted to write a book about children on an island who "behave the way children really would behave."

In *Lord of the Flies*, a British airplane evacuating a group of young boys from war-torn England crashes on an isolated, uninhabited island. A boy named Ralph finds a conch shell and uses it as a horn, commanding enough respect for the boys to look to him as their chief. Initially, Ralph's leadership helps the stranded boys establish sufficient order to survive and keep a signal fire going, thanks to the lenses in Piggy's glasses. But that tenuous order soon begins to fray, with the community splitting into two tribes, the second led by the

wilder Jack. Violence inevitably breaks out, resulting in the deaths of two of the boys. Eventually, the survivors are rescued by a British naval ship, and the boys are forced to confront the “end of innocence.”

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