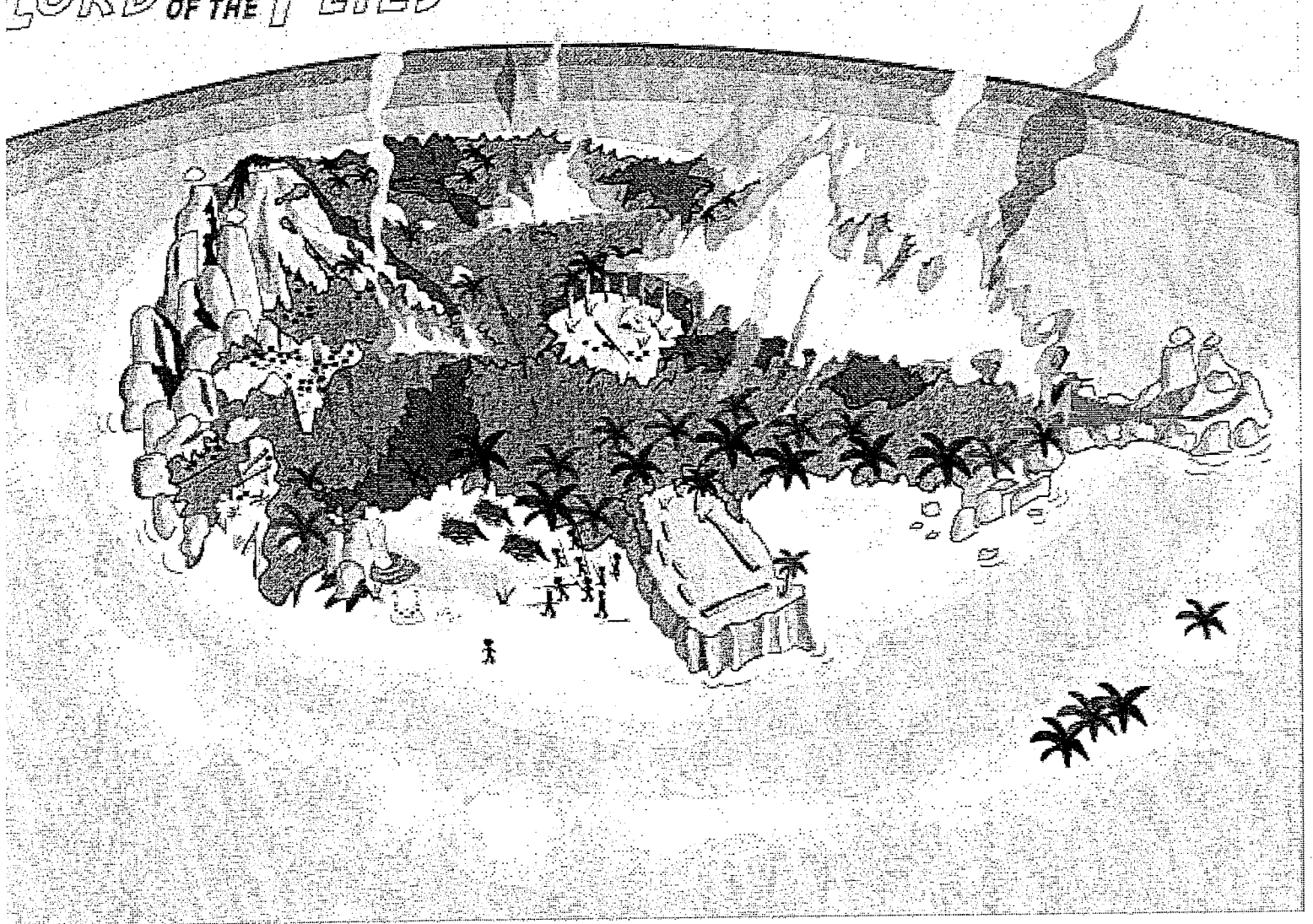


# LORD OF THE FLIES STUDY GUIDE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## LORD OF THE FLIES





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lord of the Flies: An Introduction



## About the Author – William Golding

- born in 1911 in \_\_\_\_\_
- father a distinguished school master
- studied anthropology/archaeology as well as classical lit.
- served five years with navy (was at Normandy for \_\_\_\_\_)
- about the war:

*"We saw a hell of a lot in the war that can't be accounted for except on the basis of original \_\_\_\_\_."*

- became a school teacher
- produced series of novels/short stories with little success
- decided to write for himself rather than for interests of others
- *Lord of the Flies* was the result
- his purpose:

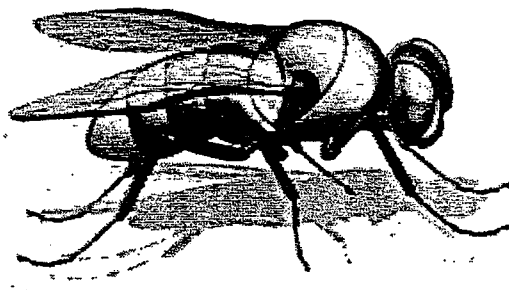
*"...to get people to understand their own humanity, in order that we may be able to deal with the true \_\_\_\_\_ of our inner selves."*

- died June 1993 in England

## Literary Elements/Concerns

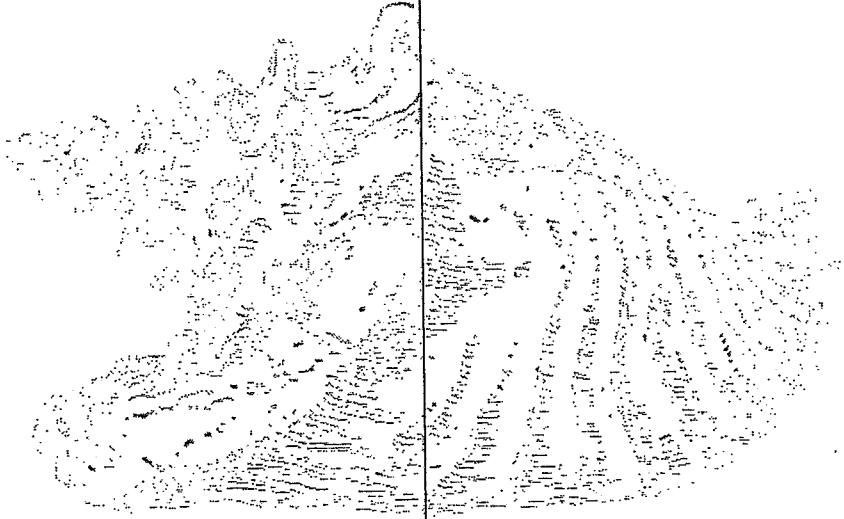
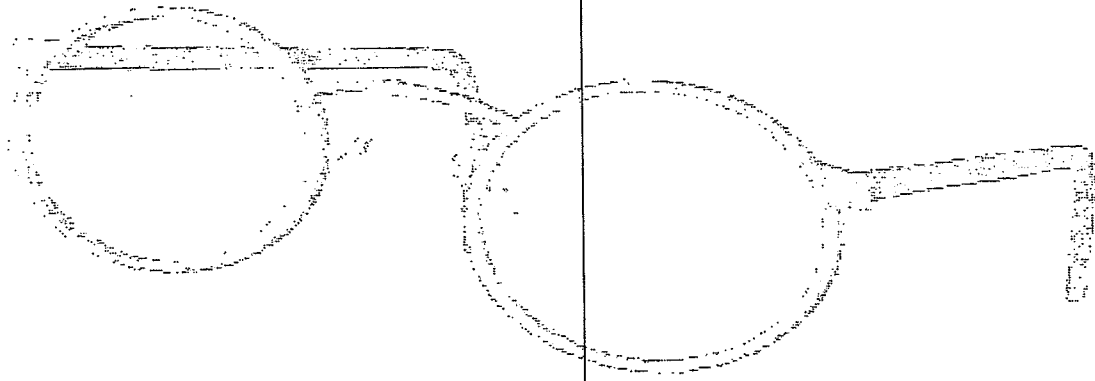
- Theme/Purpose
  - novel investigates man's \_\_\_\_\_ and the nature of evil
  - strip away the trappings of \_\_\_\_\_ to see what happens
  - *"The theme is an attempt to trace the defects of society back to the defects of human nature."*
  - Question: are we basically good or evil?
- Setting
  - \_\_\_\_\_ desert island
  - existence not an issue (self-sustaining)

- two sides = dual nature
- Question: why is an island necessary?
  
- Characters
  - British school \_\_\_\_\_
  - no girls (no possibility of survival)
  - Question: why use \_\_\_\_\_ instead of adults?
  
- Symbolism
  - setting, characters, events, everything in this novel can be seen as \_\_\_\_\_ of something else
  - traditional symbolism is used as well
  - Question: why bother? Why not just as the question?
  
- Title
  - Beelzebub = Hebrew for "lord of the insects"
  - another word for the \_\_\_\_\_
  - specifically, the fallen angel in *Paradise Lost* that argues for the overthrow of God
  
- Allegory
  - a narrative in which characters, action, even setting are created not only to make sense in themselves, but also to signify a second corresponding order or \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Lord of the Flies* functions on various allegorical levels with central characters representing corresponding concepts and plot events demonstrating different theses
  - levels include \_\_\_\_\_, moral, \_\_\_\_\_, and anthropological (more on these later!)



**Lord of the Flies Ch 1-2 Initial Analysis**

Two important symbols are introduced in these chapters: the conch shell and Piggy's glasses. Search through your text to find quotations that mention these items, and then write a statement discussing what abstract ideas, symbols or concepts you believe each represents in that moment.

Conch Shell Quotations	Statement of Meaning
	
Piggy's Glasses Quotations	Statement of Meaning
	

**Qualities of Leadership**

In the chart that follows, decide which of the qualities listed you associate with Ralph, Jack, both boys or neither boy. Then, write down any supporting portion from the text that you used to reach this conclusion.

Quality	Jack and/or Ralph	Supporting Text
Physical attractiveness	Ralph	"You could see now that he might make a boxer, as far as width and heaviness of shoulders went, but there was a mildness about his mouth and eyes that proclaimed no devil" (pg 5)
Violent nature		
Mature		
Authoritative		
Controlling		
Fair		
Intimidating		
Arrogant		
Peaceful		

# *Lord of the Flies*

## Study Guide Student Copy

### Chapter One - The Sound of the Shell

#### Vocabulary

altered – changed

irrelevance – utter unimportance

apprehension – suspicion; fear

lodgment – a place

askew – out of line

loitered – lingered

bastion – the projecting part of a fortification

lolloped – dropped

clambering – awkwardly climbing

motif – recurring element

decorous – proper

multitude – a great number

efflorescence – blossoming

pallidly – dully

effulgence – brilliance

pallor – paleness

pliant – flexible

enmity – ill will

proffer – offer

fledged – covered

foliage – leaves and brush

ranged – set in a row

furtive – stealthy

specious – deceptive; false

gorging – greedily eating

speculated – wondered

hiatus – a hesitation or gap

strident – loud; harsh

incredulous – skeptical

surmounted – topped

interposed – set between

swathing – enveloping

1. What is the fair boy's attitude when he realizes that there may be no grown-ups on the island?
2. How did the boys come to be on this island?
3. Ralph, the fair boy, seems to delight in being on the island, and he swims and plays in the lagoon. What seems to be the concern of the other boy?
4. Why does Ralph's talk of rescue sound naive or innocent?
5. Describe the other boy, Piggy.
6. What do they spot in the sand, and what is the first reaction of the boys?
7. In what sense do Ralph and Piggy make one whole boy while dealing with the conch?



8. Who are the boys that appear out of the jungle, and what do they do?
  
9. Who is Merridew, and what is our first impression of him?
  
10. When Jack Merridew finds out that there are no adults on the island, why does he reject the name Jack?
  
11. How can we see that Jack is used to commanding?
  
12. How do we know that Piggy's place in this island society is going to be similar to his status in England? What do you suppose his situation was there?
  
13. Although Piggy seemed to be the smartest, and Jack is an obvious leader, why is Ralph elected chief?
  
14. In what two ways does Ralph disappoint Piggy?

15. What do the boys determine at the top of the mountain? How do they seem to feel about this?
  
16. What is the first act of willful destruction? What is their reaction?
  
17. Jack wants his choir to be the hunters, but he fails to kill the piglet. Why?
  
18. What implied vow does he make?
  
19. At this point, what is the relationship between Ralph and Jack?
  
20. The island is described as being "roughly boat shaped." What does this image bring to mind regarding the boys?

## Chapter Two - Fire on the Mountain

### Vocabulary

assented – consented

borne – held aloft

confirmation – agreement

ebullience – enthusiasm; liveliness

errant – aimless

festooned – decorated

fluently – easily; fluidly

gesticulated – gestured

induced – persuaded

martyred – self-sacrificing

officious – meddling

quota – proportional part

recrimination – an accusation in response to another accusation

tumult – commotion

1. What function has the clearing by the lagoon, described as a platform, seem to have assumed?
2. How does the conch become the visible symbol of authority?
3. What are Jack's feelings about rules?

4. With its benign climate, fresh water, and abundant fruit, this place could seem to be a Garden of Eden until the little boy comes forward. What element does he introduce? How does he describe it? How does the descriptive phrase, "the small boy twisted further into himself" hint at a theme?
  
5. What does Piggy reluctantly contribute to the fire?
  
6. In what ways is Piggy the voice of reason?
  
7. On what ominous note does this chapter end?

## Chapter Three - Huts on the Beach

### Vocabulary

abyss – nothingness; a deep area

antagonism – opposition

avidly – eagerly; greedily

clarity – clear understanding

compulsion – deep impulse

contrite – apologetic

founded – collapsed

gaudy – showy; colorful

inscrutable – not easily interpreted

susurrations – murmur

tacit – unspoken but understood

unheeding – ignoring

vicissitudes – changing circumstances

1. Why is Ralph getting frustrated?
2. In addition to being a shelter from the weather, in what symbolic way does Ralph think that the shelters are important?
3. When Jack is hunting or talking about hunting, what kind of look does he have? What does this seem to signify?

4. What is causing friction between Ralph and Jack?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What conclusion does Jack reach about the pig, and what plan does he formulate? What confusion do Jack and Ralph have?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does the narrator describe the relationship between Jack and Ralph?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Of Simon, Ralph says: "He's queer. He's funny." In what way is Simon different from the others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What literary term is used in this quotation: "They [Jack and Ralph] walked along, two continents of experience and feeling..."?

## Chapter Four - Painted Faces and Long Hair

### Vocabulary

appalled – shocked; weakened  
belligerence – aggression  
blatant – obvious; glaring  
chastisement – scolding  
compelled – driven; forced  
detritus – debris, waste  
dispersing – breaking up; drifting in different directions  
dubious – doubtful  
gouts – gushes  
impalpable – unable to be touched  
incursion – a raid  
inevitably – predictably; unavoidably  
malevolently – spitefully  
myriad – uncountable number  
obscurely – vaguely  
omission – the condition of being left out  
opalescence – iridescence  
preposterous – contrary to reason  
ravenously – desperately hungrily

1. Why do Roger and Maurice kick over the sand castles of the younger children?
2. Why does some sort of excuse come to Maurice's mind?
3. What is symbolized by the distinction in Golding's coined words "biguns" and "littluns"?
4. What literary terms are used in the following quotation: "The sun gazed down like an angry eye"?

5. Why, according to the narrator, does Roger not throw the rocks to hit Henry? What comment is made about civilization? How is it foreshadowing?
  
6. In what sense does putting on the paint free Jack? Why might this liberation bode ill for the others?
  
7. What creates the barrier between Jack and Ralph?
  
8. What bloodthirsty chant has become part of the hunting ritual?
  
9. What two worlds does the narrator say that Jack and Ralph depict?
  
10. What happens to Piggy?
  
11. What is significant at the end of the chapter?



## Chapter Five - Beast from Water

### Vocabulary

rendered – made

lamentably – woefully

ludicrous – ridiculous

derisive – scornful

effigy – a likeness

sough – moaning; sighing

perilous – dangerous

decorum – proper behavior

discursive – rambling

incantation – chanting

1. How has Ralph changed?
2. In this assembly, Ralph acts like the leader he is. What are some of his concerns that he brings up, and how do the boys react?
3. How does Jack deal with the fear?
4. What does Piggy represent in his speech at the assembly?
5. The second littlun, Percival, has lost his connection to the previous world. What does his fear precipitate?

6. What theme does Simon express at the meeting? What is the reaction?
  
7. The meeting breaks down in confusion and fear. Jack defies the rules and starts talking without having the conch. When Ralph shouts to Jack, "You're breaking the rules," Jack responds, "Who cares?" What is Ralph's response?
  
8. What does Ralph mean by that comment and why is it significant?
  
9. What is Ralph's dilemma?
  
10. Why does Piggy desperately want Ralph to stay on as chief?
  
11. Find an example of irony dealing with adults in this section.
  
12. In what sense are Ralph, Piggy, and Simon in conflict with the rest of the boys?

## Chapter Six - Beast from Air

### Vocabulary

chasms – marked divisions, separations, or differences

emphatic – forceful; emphasized

guano – seabird droppings

interminable – endless

leviathan – a giant creature

mutinously – rebelliously

plinth – a square rock serving as a base

tremulously – tremblingly

1. What is the beast from the air?
2. What has Ralph fixed his mind on, that the others seem to think of very little? Why do they not seem to share his concern?
3. Why is exploring the castle-like rock formation a scary proposition, and who does it? What is Simon's function here?
4. Why does Ralph go first?
5. Ralph insists they check the mountaintop for the beast and relight the fire. What is it that the other boys want to do?
6. Everyone wants to be rescued, so why do the other boys not work harder at it?

## Chapter Seven - Shadows and Tall Trees

### Vocabulary

bravado – a false show of bravery

brine – saltwater

coverts – thickets

dun – drab, dull

impervious – incapable of being disturbed or affected

scurfy – flaky with residue

traverses – crossings

1. What is Ralph's opinion of his appearance as the chapter begins? What does his feeling indicate?
2. Simon says twice to Ralph, "You'll get back all right." Is there a reason he singles Ralph out, rather than saying: "We'll all get back all right"?
3. At this point, what contrast is presented by Ralph's daydream?
4. How does Ralph get caught up in the irrational lust to injure and kill?



## Chapter Eight – Gift for the Darkness

### Vocabulary

demure – reserved; modest

fervor – dedicated energy

palled – no longer inspired interest

rebuke – to scold

vexed – troubled

1. How does Jack view the hunters? How does Ralph view them?
2. Several pages into this chapter why does Jack leave the group?
3. Given the situation, what idea does Simon put forth, and what simple idea does Piggy have?
4. Why do most of the bigger boys go off with Jack?
5. What is significant in the following quotation: “The skirts of the forest and the scar were familiar, near the conch and the shelters...”?
6. The author says, “They [the hunters] agreed passionately out of the depths of their tormented private lives.” Why do you suppose Golding uses the words “tormented” and “private” to describe them?

7. What is Jack's plan to get more of the bigger boys from Ralph's camp? What does he plan for the beast?
8. What effect does the pig hunt, the kill, and its aftermath have on Jack and the hunters?
9. For what expressed purpose does Jack say, "Sharpen a stick at both ends"?
10. Where is Simon?
11. After getting over the initial scare, how do most of the boys feel about the raid by the hunters?
12. What indication is there that the savages have begun to respect and fear their new boss?
13. Ralph asks Piggy why everything broke up, and Piggy says it is Jack's fault. What is it, though, that the pig's head tells Simon is the reason that "it's no go. Why things are what they are?" Interpret the conversation between the Lord of the Flies and Simon

## Chapter Nine - A View to a Death

### Vocabulary

abominable – despicable

buffet – a forceful hit

ceased – stopped

corpulent – bulky

furrowing – wrinkling

inquisitive – curious

prospered – flourished

protruded – stuck out

succulent – juicy

ungainly – clumsy; hard to handle

1. Explain Simon's actions.
2. In this chapter, what are signs of Jack's power?
3. Find an example of personification in this description.





## Chapter Ten - The Shell and the Glasses

### Vocabulary

tórrid – scorching

assimilating – absorbing

dredged – dug for; searched

conviction – certainty

1. Piggy says that the killing of Simon was an accident, not murder and that they are not to blame. To what extent do you think this is true?
2. When Ralph says, "I'm frightened. Of us," what does he mean that frightens him?
3. Are Sam, Eric, Ralph and Piggy being truthful about killing Simon? What is Jack's rationale?
4. What is an example of Jack's abuse of power? What words are used to emphasize the hunter's sociological status?
5. What trappings of religion do Jack and the boys seem to have appropriated?
6. How can this type of behavior and thinking be explained?
7. In the raid, why are Piggy's glasses taken but not the shell?

## Chapter Eleven - Castle Rock

### Vocabulary

cessation – stopping

myopia – nearsightedness

pinnacles – lofty peaks

propitiatingly – in an effort to restore good will

truculently – savagely

1. What is it that Samneric fear about the savages' warpaint?
2. What does Piggy's speech reveal about his lack of understanding of life on the island?
3. Why does Ralph refuse to paint their faces?
4. Trace the progression of Roger's savagery in this chapter.



## Chapter Twelve - Cry of the Hunters

### Vocabulary

antiphonal – sung alternately

cordon – a line of troops enclosing an area to prevent passage

crepitation – crackling

distended – swollen

elephantine – massive

ensconce – to conceal

epaulettes – ornaments worn on shoulders of a uniform

essayed – attempted

excruciatingly – extremely

fathom – a measurement of sea depth (1 fathom = 6 feet)

goaded – spurred

inimical – hostile

ululation – a howl; wail

1. Why does Ralph believe that the savages will not let him alone?
2. Although he does not like the idea of savages, why does Ralph have such a strong desire to spend the night with them at Castle Rock?
3. When Ralph asks Samneric what the savages plan to do with him if they catch him, what is the boys' response? What does the response suggest?
4. Why does Ralph have a hard time believing that the savages plan to do him serious physical harm?
5. What tactic do the savages use to get Ralph out of the tangled undergrowth?

6. What does Ralph note about the self-destructive nature of his pursuers?
7. Find the metaphor and alliteration in the same sentence describing Ralph.
8. To the officer, what does it appear that the boys were doing? Why is he disappointed in them?
9. After condemning the boys for their behavior, the author points out that the officer eyes his boat at anchor. After taking the boys on board, what will be the cruiser's job?
10. A microcosm is a miniature world that mirrors the larger world. Consider the two previous questions and state how the island turns out to be a microcosm.
11. In the miniature island world, what do the following boys represent: Ralph, Piggy, Jack, Roger, and Simon?
12. In the next to last paragraph, we are told that Ralph cries. Put into your own words the reason Ralph is crying.

MARY MACKEY (born 1945)

*When I Was a Child I Played with the Boys*

when I was a child  
I played with the boys  
and (because I was only a girl)  
they made me  
be  
the Indians

my name was Fox Woman  
and they hunted me  
like dogs

my name was  
White Bird  
and I flew to escape them

my name was  
Last Star  
the last  
of my people

my name was  
Sunset  
for they caught me  
and burned me

my name was  
Won't Talk  
for I never  
betrayed us

time after time  
the boys shot me down  
and I came back  
Red Witch  
wild and chanting

came back  
Ghost Dance  
came back  
Can't Forget  
and Crazy-With-Grief

I know where they went  
those boys with their guns  
they're still hunting Indians

look  
you can see  
their names are  
Spills Blood  
and Kills-Without-Mercy

