

Lord of the Flies- Pre-Reading Activity**I. Know the Code (25 points possible for Part I)**

Objective: Explore how codes of conduct guide our daily lives.

1. **Journal:** List as many 'rules to live by' as you can. Rules can come from religious codes of conduct, moral philosophy, experiences you have had, or any other source that has inspired you to behave in a certain way. **5 points**

2. Read the article, "A Cadet Hopes to Honor a Father Killed in Combat", and T4 it. **10 points**

3. Answer the following questions. **8 points**

- a. What happened when Jeremy D. Scott was ten years old?
- b. What was Jeremy's initial reaction?
- c. Which of the "Ten Commandments" does Jeremy feel has shaped his destiny?
- d. What is Scott doing to honor his father?
- e. What parts of his father's funeral does Scott remember?
- f. What did Scott do when he was 16?
- g. How have religion and military life helped Scott's family to cope with their loss?
- h. What are some of the examples of the "good morals" by which Scott abides?
- i. Look back at the bottom of the article, "About the Series" and answer the following questions: Why are codes created to regulate behavior? What role does the "Ten Commandments" play in our lives today? What are some "codes of conduct" that people have created to regulate an aspect of life? **2 points**

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 Learning Resources

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A Cadet Hopes to Honor a Father Killed in Combat

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WEST POINT, N.Y. — When Jeremy D. Scott was 10, his father, a United States Army helicopter pilot, was shot down by rebels in El Salvador and killed.

The boy played out his grief on the living room floor. He set up plastic soldiers that fired away at a pretend helicopter. Then he swooped down with his toy gunship to wipe out enemy troops. No helicopters crashed when he played. In his games the helicopter pilots always won. The soldiers, little green plastic men, always lay scattered about, only to be righted again for another battle.



Angel Franco/The New York Times

Jeremy D. Scott plans to go to flight school after West Point. His father's Army helicopter was shot down 12 years ago.

"Maybe I played a little rougher than other kids," Mr. Scott said. "Maybe my emotions were held in, coming out in big lump sums. Things built up. I was explosive. It was tough to watch fathers play with their sons. I don't know when I really got over it. Maybe when I began daily devotions."

He lived through a decade of anger and mistrust. Now 22, Mr. Scott said he still finds it difficult to cope with the fact that there are things about the mission the government cannot tell his family, such as where his father was flying and why he was in combat.

"I did not accept that my dad could be taken away," he said. "At first I was angry at the Army. I blamed the Army for taking him from me."

But the pull of devotion and the sense of duty would prove greater than his anger. For Mr. Scott, the struggle to rekindle the spark of his father's life and career translated into following the same path. Four years ago, it took him to West Point. This spring, Cadet Scott plans to graduate, then go on to flight school.

"My mother is a little wary about me going into aviation after what happened to her husband," he said. "But she has not opposed it. She just tells me it is dangerous."

He conceded that it has not been an easy journey; indeed, the twinges of pain are evident as he nervously wrings his hands as he speaks about the loss. But he sees his route as one that allows him to validate not only his own life but also that of his father. And giving in to anger, turning on the

military profession that led to his father's death, was a negation he was not prepared to endure. In the end, Cadet Scott found that one of the most straightforward of the commandments — one that many can fulfill without great sacrifice — profoundly shaped his destiny.

"I do believe that through my life I am honoring my father," Cadet Scott said. "For the most part I believe that any little boy growing up wishes to honor his father and make him proud. I remember my father telling myself and my mother that if I was to ever join the military to be an officer. Not only am I going to be an officer but I am graduating from a prestigious military academy. My father would be proud of my determination and ability to make it through West Point."

He carries in his wallet a high school picture of his father, Daniel S. Scott, a picture that his mother gave to him when his father died. In his desk he keeps copies of the military reports on the incident, filled with stilted jargon and cold descriptions of wounds and bodies. His father, according to a report dated Jan. 4, 1991, and issued by the Armed Forces Medical Examiners Office, "sustained blunt force injuries to the neck and chest resulting in incapacitation, unconsciousness and hypovolemic shock."

"CW4 Scott," the report reads, "died of injuries from the crash."

The two other American soldiers on board were executed by rebel gunmen after being pulled from the wreckage, the report stated.

"I don't speak about it much," Cadet Scott said. "A lot of the other cadets don't even know that my father passed away or the circumstances. I don't want to make them feel uncomfortable."

His father was a Christian who attended the Wyoming Bible Institute and Bob Jones University.

"He had a big booming voice," his son said, "a preacher's voice."

By the time his father was stationed in Central America, flying helicopters in El Salvador for American military advisers to the Salvadoran army, his contact with his son was mostly through letters. His father diligently wrote him two or three times a week and did the same for his mother and four sisters. The stacks of letters are now small personal treasure-troves.

"He called me Buddy," Cadet Scott said. "He would tell me to take care of my mother and sisters, that I was the man of the house. I was only 8 or 9 years old.

"The postcards he sent me were pictures of helicopters," Cadet Scott said. "I reread them a year ago."

But the cards and letters had asides and offhand comments that disturbed the son. His father mentioned that he could hear shooting in the streets near the air base. And in the last letter he described how one of the helicopters had limped back "full of bullet holes."

"He asked me to pray for him to have strength," Cadet Scott said.

He remembers flashes of the funeral service, like star bursts. The bright sunlight in the cemetery in San Antonio, the 21-gun salute, the array of

men in uniform, the casket with the flag and air medal for valor, the way everyone was hushed and quiet, and the effort by his grandfather and uncle, both preachers, to come to terms with the death.

"My grandfather said at the funeral that he was proud to be an American," Cadet Scott said, "and while it sounds like a cliché, that got to us. Those words hit my family pretty hard."

Even after what happened, Jeremy Scott liked war movies. He drew "dark pictures." His family, despite the loss, found structure and meaning in religious and military traditions.

These worlds offered an anchor, a sense of purpose, an unquestioned and noble call to duty, to God and country. For him, as for much of his family, these religious and patriotic demands were intimately intertwined.

"My grandfather and one of my uncles were marines," Cadet Scott said. "Even before my dad died I was sure I would enter the military. I always wanted to emulate my father."

When he was 16, able to put aside his anger at the Army, he went to the basement and tried on his father's old flight suit. His father was a large man, 6 feet 4 inches tall and 240 pounds. The flight suit hung on his son's thin frame like a bilious drape. The teenager put it back in the closet. In the spring, when Cadet Scott is scheduled to graduate from West Point and head to flight school, he will take it out again, he said.

He already has his father's flight glasses in his dormitory room. He is now 6-foot-3 and 206 pounds, or in his words "not quite there yet." But he is there enough to wear the suit. He is there enough to fly.

The peripatetic life of the Army, in which he and his family moved from base to base every few years, continued even after his father died. They seemed rootless, adrift, waiting in some sense to go home again.

"It was habit," he said. "We had to pick up and move. The Army gave all of us a sense of order, a lifestyle. Things were set down. You do not second-guess things in the military. It is a structured environment."

Cadet Scott defines himself as a Christian. He reads the Bible nearly every day and is part of the Bible study group at the academy. He trusts, he said, in the will of God and has learned to accept what happens in life as part of a divine plan. He said he is positive that his father is in heaven.

"I try to have good morals," he said. "I refrain from bad language. I do not believe in sex before marriage. I don't like this drive to push church out of society, to do things like take prayer out of schools."

In 1993, the rebel soldiers who shot down the helicopter and executed the two other crew members went on trial in El Salvador. No one from his family, despite invitations, felt like attending the trial. The men, sentenced and convicted, were later released as part of a general amnesty.

War, as it did for his father, looms over him. He said he knows that he, too, may have to fly into combat. He, too, may take hostile fire. But Cadet Scott said he was prepared to fulfill his duty to God and country, and live out what he considers his destiny.

"God took my father away for a reason," he said. "I might not have matured the way I did. I might not be here."

"It was God's plan."

ABOUT THE "TEN COMMANDMENTS" SERIES

The Ten Commandments are among the oldest codes established to regulate ethical behavior. They deal with the fundamental quandaries of human life. The three great monotheist faiths latched onto them for moral guideposts, and they resonate in a season when many take time to carve out sacred space in their lives.

This is the fifth of 10 articles that tell of personal struggles to comply with the directions of ancient laws in the modern world, reject them or simply cope with them.

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Lord of the Flies- Pre-Reading Activity

II. **Taking Age into Account (25 points possible for Part II)**

Objective: Explore the issue of the accountability of children and young adults for their crimes.

1. **Journal:** Which do you think is most appropriate for juveniles who have committed violent crimes: being tried strictly as adults, or being released at 18 or 21? **5 points**

2. Read the articles, "Convicted at 14" and "Boy Who Killed Teacher Is Found Guilty of Murder," and T4 them. **10 points**
3. Answer the following questions, after you read the second article. **8 points**
 - a. What was the verdict in Nathaniel Brazill's trial?
 - b. What could be his sentence?
 - c. For what act was Nathaniel tried?
 - d. What other 14-year-old-black boy has been tried and convicted of murder in a Florida court the year this article was published?
 - e. What act did this boy commit?
 - f. How did Nathaniel react to the verdict?
 - g. Why didn't the jury find him guilty of first-degree murder?
 - h. According to Nathaniel's lawyer, did he intend to commit this crime?
 - i. Do you think that it is fair to sentence a fourteen-year-old to life in prison, even if he may come to regret his crime when he grows up? What punishment would you consider fair in such a case? **2 points**



May 17, 2001

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Convicted at 14

By PATRICK T. MURPHY

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May 17, 2001

Convicted at 14

CHICAGO — Does it make sense to send a 14-year-old to prison for life?

That is what may happen to Nathaniel Brazill, the 14-year-old who was convicted yesterday of second-degree murder for the killing of his English teacher, Barry Grunow. Nathaniel faces 25 years to life in prison.

Nathaniel's trial follows that of another 14-year-old, in Florida. Lionel Tate was sentenced earlier this year to life in prison for killing a young playmate. At the time of the murder, Lionel was only 12 and said that he was imitating wrestling moves. He is awaiting a clemency hearing.

These two trials demonstrate that our legal system has not yet found the correct way to try juveniles charged with serious crimes. Certainly, Nathaniel Brazill is not the victim; Mr. Grunow and his family are. But how do you punish a 14-year-old convicted of a heinous crime?

So far, the debate has fallen into two predictable camps, neither of which provides satisfactory answers.

Those who push for ever more stringent punishment for child killers must be pleased with the results in Florida. But they ignore the fact that these are children. Time and life itself are almost alien concepts to 13-year-olds who can't think past the weekend. And society generally recognizes the limitations of childhood. Because of their immaturity and skewed judgment, we limit children's right to vote, drink, drive, join the armed forces, marry and enter into contracts.

On the other hand, those who argue for releasing the child at 18 or 21 ignore legitimate issues of punishment and deterrence. And what if the child is a hardened sociopath who will kill again?

So do we send Nathaniel Brazill away for 70 years, or do we release him at 18 or 21? There may be a way to avoid these extremes. First, juvenile

court judges, not prosecutors, should decide whether children charged with serious crimes should be charged as adults or minors. I also suggest multiple sentencing for child killers. Such a child could receive a 20-year-sentence at age 14. But at 21, he would appear again in court for resentencing. At this proceeding, the judge would hear evidence of the crime, testimony from the victim's family and information about any rehabilitation. The judge could reduce the sentence, leave it untouched or set a new sentencing hearing on the defendant's 25th birthday, at which time a final decision would be made.

In some ways, this would be like a parole hearing, but a judge would decide and both sides would have a chance to appeal. This rolling sentencing would also provide an incentive to the child to improve his life while behind bars. Most important, such a system would recognize that minors must be held responsible for their acts — while recognizing that they are indeed children. Patrick T. Murphy, public guardian of Cook County, Illinois, is author of "Drowning in Hot Water," a novel.



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Education

Boy Who Killed Teacher Is Found Guilty of Murder

By DANA CANEDY
Published: May 17, 2001

A jury convicted a 14-year-old boy of second-degree murder today for fatally shooting his favorite teacher. But the jury decided not to find the boy, Nathaniel Brazill, guilty of the most severe charge he faced, first-degree murder, thus sparing him a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

Nathaniel faces a sentence of 25 years to life in prison, though his lawyer, Robert Udell, said the judge could sentence him to "anything from zero to life." Nathaniel was also convicted of aggravated assault with a firearm for aiming the gun at another teacher and faces a sentence of up to five years for that offense.

Nathaniel, who was 13 at the time of the shooting, is the second 14-year-old black boy in South Florida in five months to be tried as an adult for first-degree murder. The first, Lionel Tate, was convicted of first-degree murder in January and sentenced to life for beating a 6-year-old playmate to death; he now awaits a clemency hearing.

Lionel's case drew national attention to laws that make it easier to try juveniles as adults.

Mr. Udell, who fought during the two-week trial to keep his client from facing the same fate as Lionel, declared only a partial victory.

"We won a little battle today," he said after the verdict. "We thought it should be manslaughter, but apparently the jury disagreed with us."

As the verdict was read, Nathaniel, who was composed during most of the trial, frowned and, soon after, leaned to speak to his lawyer.

"He turned to me and said, 'Not too bad,'" Mr. Udell said, adding that his client did not fully realize the sentence he faced.

But after being led out of court, Mr. Udell added, "He cried; he was very upset."

The family of the victim, Barry Grunow, 35, a popular English teacher at Lake Worth Middle School, was grim but silent when the verdict was read and left without comment.

The prosecutor, Marc Shiner, said he was satisfied.

"The jury returned a verdict that was just and right," Mr. Shiner said.

Nathaniel killed Mr. Grunow after he was suspended from school for throwing water balloons last May 26, the last day of classes. The boy returned with a .25-caliber handgun and shot Mr. Grunow after the teacher refused to let him into his classroom to say goodbye for the summer to two girls.

A juror, Antonia Kennedy Sellier, reached at her home in Delray Beach, said jurors decided to convict Nathaniel of second-degree murder instead of first-degree, which requires premeditation, after "a lot of discussion, soul-searching and reinvestigating testimony to see anything indicating first-degree murder."

Ms. Sellier said that, at the start of their deliberations on Monday, jurors polled themselves to see whether they favored conviction on first or second-degree murder; it was, she said, "split down the middle."

She said jurors never considered lesser charges and concluded that the killing was neither premeditated, as the prosecutor insisted, nor an accident, as the defense claimed.

Testifying last week, Nathaniel said he pulled the gun on his teacher to show he was serious about getting his way but claimed he never intended to kill Mr. Grunow.

In closing arguments, Mr. Shiner, an assistant state attorney, told jurors that Nathaniel's acts were not those of a boy whose prank went seriously wrong, but of a calculated killer who knew what he was doing.

"This is not the act of a child," Mr. Shiner said. "This is the act of a person determined to get what he wants at all cost."

But the jury agreed with Mr. Udell, who said that Nathaniel was guilty of a crime, but not of first-degree murder.

"He did not expect the gun to go off," Mr. Udell said. "He thought the safety was on."

Both the Brazill and Tate cases have prompted debate about trying of youthful offenders as adults, with critics demanding that Florida re-evaluate its juvenile-justice laws.

On Monday, State Senator Walter Campbell, a Democrat on the Legislature's Commission on Capital Cases and former vice-chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, called for changing Florida's laws on handling violent, youthful offenders.

A spokesman for the human rights organization Amnesty International, which had monitored both cases, said the group would write Gov. Jeb Bush urging an overhaul of Florida's policies concerning juvenile offenders.

Jim Lewis, the lawyer for Lionel Tate, said today that the outcome of the Brazill trial was perhaps an indication of at least one jury's reluctance to send violent youthful offenders to prison for life.

"It's a partial rejection of putting children this young in adult court," Mr. Lewis said, adding: "It bodes well for Lionel. It hopefully will make more sense for the governor and the cabinet to commute Lionel's sentence."

Mr. Udell said he was hopeful that his client would not be sent to prison for life when Judge Richard Wennet sentenced him on June 29.

"We don't expect this judge to pound on Nathaniel," Mr. Udell said.

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Questions for Group Discussions

Note: Tomorrow we will discuss these articles as a class, so here are some points to consider and take notes on so that you are prepared to discuss as a college level class.

“A Cadet Hopes to Honor a Father Killed in Combat”

1. Do the Ten Commandments play a role in your life? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. Why do you think cultures create rules of conduct for their members
3. Do you think that there is a difference between religious codes of conduct and secular (worldly/non spiritual) ones?
4. Do you think that you would have joined the military if you had experienced what Jeremy Scott did? Why or why not?
5. Think of a time in your life when you experienced a great loss. How did you cope with this event?
6. How do you “honor your parents” in your daily life? Are there ways in which you think you could improve in this area? Why do you think it is important to honor your parents?

“Convicted at 14” and “Boy Who Killed Teacher Is Found Guilty of Murder”

1. Do you think that young people are more or less violent than adults?
2. What role do you think parents play in raising a violent child?
3. Do you think parents should be blamed or punished for their children’s crimes?
4. Do you think that tougher sentences for juvenile crimes would deter children from committing them?
5. Do you think that the children and young adults who commit such crimes have a full understanding of what they are doing?
6. In the United States, at what age do you think a person is considered an adult? Is this age higher or lower than the age at which you think a person becomes an adult?