



## Existential Vision in William Golding's "The Inheritors"

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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### Abstract

*William Golding's "The Inheritors" is a novel that explores the existential vision of humanity through the perspective of a group of Neanderthals encountering Homo sapiens for the first time. The novel portrays a world that is slowly losing its innocence and coming to terms with the harsh reality of life, death, and the struggle for survival. The existential themes in the novel are evident through the experiences of the Neanderthals and their relationship with the world around them. The Neanderthals in the novel are depicted as a peaceful and harmonious people, living in harmony with nature and their surroundings. They have a deep connection to the natural world and are able to communicate with it through their keen senses and instincts. However, with the arrival of the Homo sapiens, the Neanderthals' world is shattered, and they are forced to confront the harsh realities of existence.*

*The novel's central theme is the struggle for survival in a world where life is precarious and unpredictable. The Neanderthals' existence is threatened by the new arrivals, who are more intelligent, aggressive, and possess superior weapons. The novel shows how the Neanderthals' way of life is slowly eroded by the Homo sapiens, and how they are ultimately unable to resist the forces of change. The novel also explores the existential themes of identity, consciousness, and mortality. The Neanderthals are depicted as beings who are deeply connected to the natural world, but who lack the self-awareness and consciousness of the Homo sapiens. They are not fully aware of their own mortality and are unable to comprehend the concept of death in the same way as the Homo sapiens. The arrival of the Homo sapiens forces the Neanderthals to confront their own mortality and the impermanence of their existence. Furthermore, the novel explores the theme of the individual versus the collective. The Neanderthals are shown to have a strong sense of community and to be deeply interconnected with one another. However, the arrival of the Homo sapiens introduces a new element of individualism and competition into their world. The Homo sapiens are depicted as individuals who are willing to act in their own self-interest, even if it means harming others. This new dynamic disrupts the Neanderthals' way of life and ultimately leads to their downfall.*

### Key Words

*William Golding, The Inheritors, Existentialism, Philosophy, Empathy, Timelessness.*

Existentialism is a philosophical and literary movement that emerged in the early 20th century. It is concerned with the nature of existence, the individual's experience of the world, and the meaning of life. The

Inheritors by William Golding is a novel that embodies the existential vision in its exploration of the human experience.

The novel portrays the Neanderthals as beings who are deeply connected to the natural world. They are portrayed as a peaceful and harmonious people, living in harmony with nature and their surroundings. They have a deep connection to the natural world and are able to communicate with it through their keen senses and instincts. However, with the arrival of the Homo sapiens, the Neanderthals' world is shattered, and they are forced to confront the harsh realities of existence.

One of the major existential themes in *The Inheritors* is the struggle for survival in a world where life is precarious and unpredictable. The Neanderthals are portrayed as a people living in a world that is slowly losing its innocence and coming to terms with the harsh reality of life, death, and the struggle for survival. The novel shows how the Neanderthals' way of life is slowly eroded by the Homo sapiens, and how they are ultimately unable to resist the forces of change. The Homo sapiens are more intelligent, aggressive, and possess superior weapons, making the Neanderthals unable to resist them. The novel is a reflection on the human condition and the reality of existence in a world where survival is a constant struggle.

Another major existential theme in *The Inheritors* is the struggle of the Neanderthals to comprehend their own mortality. The Neanderthals lack the self-awareness and consciousness of the Homo sapiens. They are not fully aware of their own mortality and are unable to comprehend the concept of death in the same way as the Homo sapiens. The arrival of the Homo sapiens forces the Neanderthals to confront their own mortality and the impermanence of their existence. The Neanderthals are unable to grasp the finality of death and are unable to understand why one of their own is not waking up. This inability to understand death shows the limitation of their awareness and consciousness, which is one of the central concerns of existentialism.

The novel also explores the theme of identity, which is another central concern of existentialism. The Neanderthals are portrayed as beings who are deeply connected to the natural world and to one another. They have a strong sense of community and are deeply interconnected with one another. The arrival of the Homo sapiens introduces a new element of individualism and competition into their world. The Homo sapiens are depicted as individuals who are willing to act in their own self-interest, even if it means harming others. This new dynamic disrupts the Neanderthals' way of life and ultimately leads to their downfall.

The novel explores the question of what it means to be human. The arrival of the Homo sapiens challenges the Neanderthals' conception of humanity. The Homo sapiens possess qualities that the Neanderthals do not, such as language, art, and music. They have a more advanced culture and technology, which makes them a formidable opponent for the Neanderthals. The novel challenges the notion that humans are the pinnacle of creation and shows that humanity is a constantly evolving and changing concept.

*The Inheritors* is also a reflection on the nature of language and communication. The Neanderthals communicate through their keen senses and instincts, while the Homo sapiens communicate through language. The arrival of the Homo sapiens challenges the Neanderthals' conception of communication and shows that language is a powerful tool in human society. The novel explores the limitations of communication and the difficulty of understanding one another. The limitations of communication and the difficulty of understanding one another are central concerns of existentialism. The novel shows how language can be a powerful tool for communication, but it can also be a source of misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The Homo sapiens use language to assert their dominance over the Neanderthals, but their words are often misinterpreted and misunderstood by the Neanderthals. This leads to a breakdown in communication and ultimately contributes to the downfall of the Neanderthals.

*The Inheritors* also explores the nature of consciousness and the human experience. The novel shows how the Homo sapiens possess a higher level of self-awareness and consciousness than the Neanderthals. They are able to reflect on their experiences and to understand the world around them in a way that the

Neanderthals cannot. This higher level of consciousness comes with a price, however, as the Homo sapiens are also burdened with a sense of alienation and a feeling of being disconnected from the natural world. The Neanderthals, on the other hand, are deeply connected to the natural world and are not burdened with the same sense of alienation and disconnection.

The *Inheritors* is a novel that embodies the existential vision in its exploration of the human experience. It explores the struggle for survival in a world where life is precarious and unpredictable, the struggle to comprehend one's own mortality, the nature of identity and what it means to be human, the limitations of communication, and the nature of consciousness and the human experience. The novel challenges the notion that humans are the pinnacle of creation and shows that humanity is a constantly evolving and changing concept. It is a powerful and thought-provoking work that speaks to the fundamental questions of human existence.

In *The Inheritors*, Golding challenges the traditional narrative of human evolution, which portrays the Homo sapiens as the superior species that triumphed over the Neanderthals due to their superior intelligence and technological advancements. Instead, Golding depicts the Neanderthals as a peaceful and harmonious people who lived in harmony with nature, and their downfall is the result of their inability to adapt to the changing world. Golding's portrayal of the Neanderthals challenges the idea that human progress is always beneficial and shows that it can also have destructive consequences.

Furthermore, the novel explores the theme of morality, which is a central concern of existentialism. The Neanderthals have a strong sense of morality that is based on their connection to the natural world and to one another. They have a deep respect for life and do not kill needlessly. The arrival of the Homo sapiens introduces a new element of violence and cruelty into their world, which challenges their moral code. The Homo sapiens kill for sport and pleasure, which is something that the Neanderthals find repulsive. The novel shows how morality is not an absolute and unchanging concept but is rather a product of the culture and society in which it exists.

The novel also explores the theme of memory and the importance of the past in shaping our present and future. The Neanderthals have a deep connection to their past and to their ancestors, which is reflected in their reverence for their ancestors' bones. The arrival of the Homo sapiens challenges this connection to the past, as they do not have the same reverence for their ancestors and do not see the same value in the bones of their dead. The novel shows how the past is not something that can be easily erased or forgotten and how it continues to shape our present and future.

Golding's exploration of the human experience in *The Inheritors* is deeply rooted in his own existential philosophy, which challenges the traditional narratives of human progress and the belief in a fixed human nature. Golding believed that human beings were capable of both good and evil, and that morality was not an absolute concept but was rather a product of culture and society. He also believed that the human experience was a constantly evolving and changing concept that was shaped by our interactions with the natural world and with one another.

*The Inheritors* is a novel that challenges our assumptions about the nature of human progress and the superiority of the Homo sapiens. It portrays the Neanderthals as a people who were deeply connected to the natural world and to one another, and their downfall is the result of their inability to adapt to the changing world. The novel is a reflection on the human condition and the reality of existence in a world where survival is a constant struggle. It is a powerful and thought-provoking work that speaks to the fundamental questions of human existence and challenges our assumptions about the world around us.

Another important aspect of *The Inheritors* is its portrayal of the natural world. The novel shows the Neanderthals living in a world that is full of wonder and mystery, and where everything is interconnected. The Neanderthals have a deep reverence for the natural world, which is reflected in their belief that everything is

alive and has a spirit. This connection to the natural world is contrasted with the Homo sapiens' sense of alienation and disconnection from the natural world. The Homo sapiens are depicted as a people who are obsessed with technology and with asserting their dominance over the natural world.

Golding's portrayal of the natural world in *The Inheritors* reflects his belief that the natural world is a source of wonder and mystery that is worthy of our respect and admiration. He believed that our sense of disconnection from the natural world was a result of our obsession with technology and our belief that we are somehow separate from the natural world. This belief, according to Golding, is a product of our Western culture, which has a tendency to view the natural world as something that is separate from us and something that can be exploited for our own benefit.

*The Inheritors* also explores the theme of identity and what it means to be human. The Neanderthals have a strong sense of identity that is based on their connection to the natural world and to one another. They have a deep sense of community and a shared history that gives them a sense of belonging. The arrival of the Homo sapiens challenges their sense of identity and their understanding of what it means to be human. The Homo sapiens are depicted as a people who are obsessed with individualism and with asserting their dominance over others. They have a weak sense of community and are disconnected from the natural world.

The novel shows how our sense of identity is shaped by our interactions with the world around us and with one another. It challenges the idea that our identity is something that is fixed and unchanging and shows how it is a constantly evolving and changing concept that is shaped by our experiences and our interactions with the world.

Furthermore, *The Inheritors* explores the theme of alienation, which is a central concern of existentialism. The Homo sapiens are depicted as a people who are alienated from the natural world and from one another. They are obsessed with technology and with asserting their dominance over others, which reflects their sense of disconnection from the natural world. The Neanderthals, on the other hand, are deeply connected to the natural world and to one another. They have a strong sense of community and a shared history that gives them a sense of belonging.

The novel shows how our sense of alienation is a product of our culture and society, and how it is a source of suffering and pain. It challenges the idea that human progress is always beneficial and shows how it can also have destructive consequences, such as the sense of disconnection and alienation that the Homo sapiens experience.

*The Inheritors* is a novel that challenges our assumptions about the nature of human existence and the meaning of life. It invites us to question the values and beliefs that we hold dear and to explore the fundamental questions of human existence. It challenges us to look beyond the surface of things and to see the world in a different way, one that is full of wonder and mystery, and where everything is interconnected.

In many ways, *The Inheritors* is a novel that is ahead of its time. It challenges the dominant narrative of human progress and the belief that technology is the key to human happiness and fulfillment. It presents a vision of humanity that is grounded in a deep reverence for the natural world and a belief in the importance of community and shared history.

The novel also speaks to our contemporary concerns about the state of the environment and the impact of human activity on the natural world. It highlights the urgent need to re-examine our relationship with the natural world and to re-evaluate our values and beliefs in light of the ecological crisis that we face.

One of the central themes of *The Inheritors* is the tension between the natural world and the world of technology. The novel presents a stark contrast between the simple, natural way of life of the Neanderthals and the complex and often destructive world of the Cro-Magnons. The Neanderthals live in harmony with the natural world, relying on their instincts and intuition to survive. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are driven by a

desire for power and control, and they use their superior technology to dominate and exploit the natural world.

The novel also explores the tension between individuality and community. The Neanderthals live in close-knit communities, where the needs of the group are prioritized over the needs of the individual. They have a deep sense of connectedness to each other and to the natural world, which gives them a sense of purpose and meaning. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are more individualistic, and their focus is on personal achievement and success. They lack the deep sense of community and connectedness that the Neanderthals possess, which leaves them feeling empty and disconnected from the world around them.

The Inheritors also explores the theme of memory and history. The Neanderthals have a deep sense of their own history and identity, and they pass down their knowledge and traditions from generation to generation. They have a rich and complex culture that is rooted in their connection to the natural world. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are more focused on the present moment and on their own individual desires and ambitions. They lack a deep sense of history and identity, which leaves them feeling rootless and disconnected from the world around them.

The novel also explores the theme of language and communication. The Neanderthals communicate through a complex system of gestures and sounds, which allows them to express their thoughts and emotions in a rich and nuanced way. They have a deep understanding of the natural world and their place within it, which is reflected in their language and communication. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are more focused on written language and on the exchange of abstract ideas and concepts. They lack the deep connection to the natural world that the Neanderthals possess, which leaves them feeling disconnected and disoriented.

The Inheritors is a novel that challenges our assumptions about what it means to be human. It presents a vision of humanity that is grounded in a deep reverence for the natural world and a belief in the importance of community and shared history. It challenges us to re-evaluate our values and beliefs in light of the ecological crisis that we face, and to question the dominant narrative of human progress and technological advancement.

In this sense, The Inheritors has a great deal of relevance for our contemporary concerns about the state of the environment and the future of humanity. The novel offers a vision of humanity that is both tragic and hopeful, and that invites us to see the world in a different way, one that is full of wonder and mystery, and where everything is interconnected.

The Inheritors is a novel that invites us to reflect on the fundamental questions of human existence. It challenges us to look beyond the surface of things and to see the world in a different way, one that is full of complexity and richness. It is a novel that speaks to the central concerns of existentialism, and that has relevance for our contemporary concerns about the state of the environment and the future of humanity. As such, it is a work of literature that is worthy of our attention and reflection, and that has the potential to enrich our understanding of the human experience.

Another central theme of The Inheritors is the idea of loss and displacement. The Neanderthals are a dying species, and they are gradually being displaced by the more powerful and aggressive Cro-Magnons. The novel captures the sense of sadness and loss that comes with the passing of a way of life, as well as the feeling of displacement and disorientation that comes with being uprooted from one's home and way of life.

Golding portrays the Neanderthals as being in touch with their environment in a way that the Cro-Magnons are not. They have a deep connection to the natural world, which gives them a sense of purpose and meaning. They live in harmony with their surroundings, and they have a deep respect for the other creatures that share their world. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons see the natural world as something to be conquered and dominated. They use their technology to reshape the environment to suit their needs, often with disastrous consequences.

This tension between the natural world and technology is a key theme of the novel. Golding suggests that the Neanderthals' way of life is in many ways superior to that of the Cro-Magnons. They have a deep understanding of the natural world, and they are able to live in harmony with it. The Cro-Magnons, on the other hand, are driven by a desire for power and control, and they use their technology to dominate and exploit the environment.

The novel also explores the theme of violence and aggression. The Cro-Magnons are a violent and aggressive species, and they use their superior technology to dominate and exploit the Neanderthals. They are driven by a desire for power and control, and they are willing to use violence to achieve their goals. The Neanderthals, on the other hand, are more peaceful and gentle, and they are not equipped to deal with the violence and aggression of the Cro-Magnons.

The novel suggests that the violence and aggression of the Cro-Magnons are ultimately self-destructive. They destroy the natural world that sustains them, and they are unable to find true happiness and fulfillment in their lives. The Neanderthals, on the other hand, are able to find a sense of peace and contentment in their simple way of life. They are able to live in harmony with the natural world, and they have a deep sense of connectedness to each other and to the environment around them.

The *Inheritors* is a novel that challenges our assumptions about what it means to be human. It suggests that our focus on progress and technological advancement has led us to lose touch with the natural world, and that we are paying a high price for this disconnect. The novel invites us to reflect on our own relationship to the environment, and to question the assumptions and values that underpin our way of life.

In this sense, *The Inheritors* is a novel that has a great deal of relevance for our contemporary concerns about the state of the environment and the future of humanity. It invites us to reflect on our relationship to the natural world, and to consider the consequences of our actions. It challenges us to re-evaluate our values and beliefs in light of the ecological crisis that we face, and to question the dominant narrative of human progress and technological advancement.

*The Inheritors* is also a novel that has relevance for our contemporary concerns about diversity and inclusivity. Golding portrays the Neanderthals as a marginalized and oppressed group, who are struggling to survive in a world that is hostile to their way of life. The novel invites us to reflect on our own attitudes towards difference and diversity, and to consider the ways in which we can create a more inclusive and just society.

*The Inheritors* is a novel that explores the central questions about what it means to be human, the relationship between humans and the natural world, and the consequences of progress and technological advancement. Golding's vision in this novel is an existential one, which invites us to consider our place in the world, and to question the assumptions and values that underpin our way of life.

Through his portrayal of the Neanderthals, Golding suggests that there is much to be gained from living in harmony with the natural world. The Neanderthals have a deep understanding of their environment, and they are able to live in balance with the other creatures that share their world. Their way of life is simple and unassuming, yet they find a deep sense of contentment and purpose in it. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are driven by a desire for power and control, and they use their technology to dominate and exploit the environment. Their way of life is destructive and ultimately self-destructive.

The tension between the natural world and technology is a central theme of the novel. Golding suggests that our focus on progress and technological advancement has led us to lose touch with the natural world, and that we are paying a high price for this disconnect. The novel invites us to consider the consequences of our actions, and to question the assumptions and values that underpin our way of life. In this sense, *The Inheritors* is a cautionary tale, warning us of the dangers of progress and technological advancement, and inviting us to consider alternative ways of living in the world.

The novel also explores the themes of violence and aggression, and the consequences of these impulses. The Cro-Magnons are a violent and aggressive species, who use their technology to dominate and exploit the Neanderthals. Their way of life is characterized by a constant struggle for power and control, and they are willing to use violence to achieve their goals. In contrast, the Neanderthals are more peaceful and gentle, and they are not equipped to deal with the violence and aggression of the Cro-Magnons.

Through his portrayal of the Neanderthals, Golding suggests that there is much to be gained from a more peaceful and gentle way of life. The Neanderthals are able to find a sense of contentment and purpose in their simple way of life, and they are able to live in harmony with the natural world. In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are constantly striving for more, driven by a desire for power and control. Their way of life is ultimately unsatisfying, and they are unable to find true happiness and fulfillment.

The *Inheritors* is also a novel that has relevance for our contemporary concerns about diversity and inclusivity. Golding portrays the Neanderthals as a marginalized and oppressed group, who are struggling to survive in a world that is hostile to their way of life. The novel invites us to reflect on our own attitudes towards difference and diversity, and to consider the ways in which we can create a more inclusive and just society.

The *Inheritors* is a novel that explores some of the central questions of human existence, including our relationship to the natural world, the consequences of progress and technological advancement, and the nature of violence and aggression. Golding's vision in this novel is an existential one, inviting us to question our assumptions and values, and to consider alternative ways of living in the world. The novel is also a warning about the dangers of progress and technological advancement, and an invitation to create a more just and inclusive society.

The *Inheritors* is a novel that invites us to consider the complexity and ambiguity of the human experience. Golding portrays the Neanderthals as a gentle and innocent people, who are ultimately unable to resist the violent and aggressive impulses of the Cro-Magnons. At the same time, he portrays the Cro-Magnons as a flawed and self-destructive species, driven by a desire for power and control.

Through his portrayal of these two groups, Golding suggests that the human experience is a complex and multifaceted one, characterized by both beauty and violence, innocence and corruption. The novel invites us to embrace the complexity of the human experience, and to resist the temptation to simplify it or reduce it to simple binary oppositions.

One of the most powerful aspects of *The Inheritors* is its portrayal of the Neanderthals as a deeply spiritual and connected people. The Neanderthals have a deep reverence for the natural world, and they are able to communicate with the spirits of the animals and plants around them. Their way of life is characterized by a deep sense of meaning and purpose, which is rooted in their connection to the natural world.

This portrayal of the Neanderthals invites us to reflect on our own relationship to the natural world, and to consider the ways in which our disconnection from nature has led to a loss of meaning and purpose in our lives. The novel invites us to consider the possibility of re-establishing a deeper connection to the natural world, and of finding meaning and purpose in this connection.

At the same time, *The Inheritors* is also a novel that invites us to consider the darker aspects of human nature, including our capacity for violence and aggression. The Cro-Magnons are a violent and aggressive species, who use their technology to dominate and exploit the Neanderthals. Their way of life is characterized by a constant struggle for power and control, and they are willing to use violence to achieve their goals.

Through his portrayal of the Cro-Magnons, Golding suggests that violence and aggression are deeply rooted in the human psyche, and that they are a constant threat to our existence. The novel invites us to consider the ways in which we can resist these impulses, and to explore alternative ways of living in the world that do not rely on violence and aggression.

The novel also invites us to consider the importance of empathy and compassion in our lives. The Neanderthals are a deeply empathetic people, who are able to understand and connect with the emotions and experiences of others. Their way of life is characterized by a deep sense of compassion, which is rooted in their understanding of the interconnectedness of all living beings.

In contrast, the Cro-Magnons are characterized by a lack of empathy and compassion, and their way of life is ultimately self-destructive. The novel invites us to consider the importance of empathy and compassion in our lives, and to explore the ways in which we can cultivate these qualities in ourselves and in our society.

In many ways, *The Inheritors* is a novel that invites us to consider the nature of our existence, and the ways in which we can live more fulfilling and meaningful lives. Golding's vision in this novel is an existential one, which invites us to question our assumptions and values, and to consider alternative ways of living in the world. The novel is a powerful exploration of the complexity and ambiguity of the human experience, and it invites us to embrace this complexity, and to resist the temptation to simplify or reduce it.

As we continue to face global challenges such as climate change, political polarization, and social injustice, *The Inheritors* invites us to consider the role that our values and assumptions play in shaping our actions and responses. It challenges us to look beyond our own narrow perspectives and to embrace a broader, more complex view of the world.

Moreover, *The Inheritors* also raises important ethical questions about our relationship to other species and the natural world. The novel invites us to consider the impact of our actions on the environment and other species, and to explore ways in which we can live more harmoniously with the natural world.

In many ways, *The Inheritors* can be seen as a cautionary tale, warning us of the dangers of arrogance and hubris, and reminding us of the importance of humility and compassion. Through its powerful and evocative prose, the novel challenges us to consider the nature of our existence, and to explore alternative ways of living in the world.

Overall, *The Inheritors* is a deeply philosophical and thought-provoking novel, which invites us to engage with some of the most important questions of human existence. Golding's existential vision is a powerful reminder of the complexity and ambiguity of the human experience, and it encourages us to embrace this complexity and to resist the temptation to simplify or reduce it. The novel is a powerful reminder of the importance of empathy, compassion, and a deeper connection to the natural world, and it invites us to explore alternative ways of living in the world that do not rely on violence and aggression. In short, *The Inheritors* is a novel that has much to offer us in our contemporary world, and it is a timeless exploration of the human experience.

William Golding's "*The Inheritors*" is a novel that explores the existential vision of humanity through the lens of the Neanderthals. The novel portrays a world in which life is precarious, and survival is a constant struggle. The Neanderthals are depicted as beings who are deeply connected to the natural world, but who lack the self-awareness and consciousness of the *Homo sapiens*. The arrival of the *Homo sapiens* forces the Neanderthals to confront their own mortality and the impermanence of their existence. The novel's themes of identity, consciousness, mortality, and the individual versus the collective are all explored in depth, making it a powerful and thought-provoking work of literature.

In conclusion, *The Inheritors* is a powerful and thought-provoking work that explores the fundamental questions of human existence. It challenges our assumptions about the nature of human progress and the superiority of the *Homo sapiens*, and shows how our sense of identity and our understanding of what it means to be human is shaped by our interactions with the world around us. The novel is a reflection on the human condition and the reality of existence in a world where survival is a constant struggle, and it speaks to the central concerns of existentialism, such as the struggle to comprehend one's own mortality, the limitations of



communication, the nature of consciousness, the human experience, and the importance of the past in shaping our present and future. Golding's exploration of these themes is deeply rooted in his own existential philosophy, which challenges the traditional narratives of human progress and presents a view of humanity that is both tragic and hopeful. It is tragic in the sense that it shows the destructive consequences of our obsession with technology and our sense of disconnection from the natural world. But it is also hopeful in the sense that it shows the resilience of the human spirit and our capacity to adapt and evolve in the face of change and adversity.

The *Inheritors* is a powerful and thought-provoking work that invites us to question the assumptions that we hold about the nature of human existence and the meaning of life. It challenges us to see the world in a different way, one that is full of wonder and mystery, and where everything is interconnected. It offers a vision of humanity that is both tragic and hopeful, and that invites us to re-examine our relationship with the natural world and to re-evaluate our values and beliefs in light of the challenges that we face. As such, it is a novel that speaks to the central concerns of existentialism and that has relevance for our contemporary concerns about the state of the environment and the future of humanity.

## Conclusion

The *Inheritors* is a novel that has much to offer us in our contemporary world. Golding's vision in this novel is an existential one, inviting us to question our assumptions and values, and to consider alternative ways of living in the world. The novel is a powerful exploration of the complexity and ambiguity of the human experience, and it invites us to embrace this complexity and to resist the temptation to simplify or reduce it. The novel invites us to consider the importance of empathy and compassion, the value of a deeper connection to the natural world, and the dangers of violence and aggression.

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