

## The Lord of the Flies

## Chapter Questions

All reading questions for each chapter set **must be completed on a separate sheet of paper, in complete sentences, using quotes and page numbers to support your points.**

### Chapter 1: "The Sound of the Shell"

1. After reading chapter one, describe the circumstances that stranded the boys on the island. Where are they from? What is going on in the world? Why did their plane crash?
2. Who is Ralph? Brainstorm some adjectives that describe the way he is presented in the chapter. Find at least two quotes that you believe are important to his character development.
3. How does Ralph treat Piggy? Explain what this shows about his character.
4. Who is Jack? Brainstorm some adjectives that describe the way he is presented in the chapter. Find at least two quotes that you believe are important to his character development.
5. Who is Piggy? Brainstorm some adjectives that describe the way he is presented in the chapter. Find at least two quotes that you believe are important to his character development.
6. Piggy accepts Jack telling him to "Shut up, Fatty." Why?
7. Why do Piggy and Ralph blow on the conch shell?
8. On page 31, Ralph, Jack and Simon go in search of a pig to eat, but find themselves unable to kill it. Golding describes, "They knew very well why [Jack] hadn't [killed the piglet]; because of the enormity of the knife descending and cutting into living flesh; because of the unbearable blood." What does this quote reveal about the boys on the island at this point?
9. Why is this chapter called 'The Sound of the Shell'?

### Chapter 2: "Fire on the Mountain"

1. At the beginning of chapter 2, Ralph glances at Piggy before saying anything at a meeting. What might he want or need from Piggy?
2. What might the conch shell symbolize? Think about the way the conch is presented through the entire chapter. Find at least one quote to support.
3. What is the purpose of rules for Jack?
4. Why do Piggy's eyeglasses become communal property?
5. If the choir takes responsibility for the fire as well as for hunting, how does the power shift in the group of children?
6. Piggy says, "How can you expect to be rescued if you don't put first things first and act proper?" What does this quote show about his character?
7. At the end of the chapter, the boys notice that the mulberry-faced boy has disappeared. He will never be seen again. Why is this a significant event?

### Chapter 3: "Huts on a Beach"

1. What problem do Ralph and Jack identify in the first pages of Chapter 3?
2. Why does Ralph find Jack's quest for a pig so unsettling?
3. How is Simon different from Ralph, Jack and Piggy? Find at least one quote to support your point.

### Chapter 4: "Painted Faces and Long Hair"

1. "Roger gathered a handful of stones and began to throw them. Yet there was a space round Henry, perhaps six yards in diameter, into which he dare not throw. Here, invisible yet strong, was the taboo of the old life. Round the squatting child was the protection of

- parents and school and policemen and the law. Roger's arm was conditioned by a civilization that knew nothing of him and was in ruins" (63). Explain the importance of this quote to the chapter.
2. On pages 62-63, Jack constructs a mask for himself. What does the mask allow him to do? How does Jack feel with the mask on? Find a quote that describes the power of the mask.
  3. Why did Jack let the fire out? Why did Ralph not notice? Explain Ralph's reaction to the fire going out.
  4. Why is Simon afraid?
  5. Piggy tries to construct a sundial in this chapter (a time-keeping device). What does this show about this character? What does he represent on the island?
  6. Why do Ralph and Piggy get meat? How is Jack using the meat?

#### Chapter 5 "Beast from Water"

1. What is the tone of the meeting? What does Ralph want to talk about? List examples of some of the problems they are having on the island.
2. What does Jack say to the assembly? How is he being sensible?
3. Simon comes up with a dangerous idea. What is it? Who does he think the beast is? Explain.
4. What do they wish for at the end of the chapter? Why?
5. "I been in bed so much I done some thinking. I know about people. I know about me. And him. He can't hurt you: but if you stand out of the way he'd hurt the next thing. And that's me" (93). Piggy says this to Ralph at the end of the chapter. What does this quote mean? What does it reveal about Piggy's character?

#### Chapter 6 "Beast from Air"

1. What details in the description let you know that the parachuter is dead before it hits the ground?
2. Who sees the beast? How do they react?
3. Why must Ralph lead them onto the rock? How is that a good thing for Ralph's leadership? How is this trip different from the first trip the three of them took?
4. How does this rock toppling contrast with the previous rock toppling?
5. Why doesn't Ralph want to be the leader?

#### Chapter 7 "Shadows and Tall Trees"

1. Symbolically, why does Ralph want to clean himself up?
2. What do the boys like? What disturbs Ralph about this knowledge?
3. What is ominous in Simon's prediction to Ralph?
4. How do the boys 'play' with Robert? Why is that not play? How does Robert react to the game?
5. Who sees the beast first? Who fully confronts the beast? What emotion does Ralph finally give in to?
6. What quality would make Jack a better leader?

#### Chapter 8 "Gift of the Darkness"

1. Why did Jack call the meeting? What happens to Jack at the meeting? What emotion fuels his run?
2. What does Simon suggest? Why is it a good idea? In reality, what is he telling the boys to do?
3. What is Piggy's idea? Why is it good practically? Why is it a good idea psychologically?

4. Why is the killing of this pig different than the previous kill?
5. Who does Simon talk to? What does it say to him?
6. Who steals some of the fire? How do they look? How is Jack dressed? What does that say about him? Why doesn't he go for the conch?
7. What is talking to Simon? Why does the Beast/Lord of the Flies say that it can't be killed?

#### Chapter 9 "A View to a Death"

**Simon sees the beast and comes back to tell everyone, but finds the real beast.**

1. Why has the weather changed? What is the significance of this change?
2. How do the boys treat Jack? Why might they be more comfortable doing this than the democracy Ralph practiced?
3. Why won't they look at Ralph? How do Ralph and Piggy defuse the scene?
4. How has the Conch lost some of its power?
5. What happens to Simon? Why are the boys described the way they are? Find at least one quote to support your answer.
6. How is Simon's body taken away from the island? Why does the author dwell on the bioluminescence? What is he trying to compare it to? How is that fitting for Simon?

#### Chapter 10 "The Shell and the Glasses"

1. Explain Ralph and Piggy's differing reactions to the murder of Simon. Find one quote for each character, and explain what the quote adds to their character development.
2. What happens in the shelter? What is gone, and what is the literal importance of that?

#### Chapter 11 "Castle Rock"

1. What does Piggy insist that Ralph do? What does Piggy still believe in? Does anyone else?
2. How are they going to get ready for the trip? Why is that important?
3. What does Ralph accuse Jack of being? How does Jack feel as a result of that? How does Jack and Ralph's battle show a shred of civilization?
4. Why does the tribe laugh at Ralph? What does that show about them? What odd order does Jack give?
5. Does Roger see Piggy and Ralph as people any more? Explain your answer using a quote.
6. What happens to Piggy? How do the kids react to this?

#### Chapter 12 "The Cry of the Hunters"

1. Explain Ralph's situation at the beginning of the chapter.
2. Why does Ralph want to join the group? Why won't he?
3. What has Roger got ready for Ralph? What does this show about Roger's character and the mentality of the tribe?
4. What choices does Ralph have for survival?
5. How is Ralph rescued?
6. Percival Weyms Madison cannot remember his name or address. Why is this a significant way to end the novel?
7. Explain the significance of the boys crying at the close of the novel.