

Lord of the Flies Study Guide

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

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Plot Summary

Lord of the Flies is a novel written by William Golding, an English writer. The story begins when a group of boys find themselves without adult supervision after an evacuation attempt from a war zone leaves them lost on a deserted island. The boys gather together and choose a leader for themselves, a young boy named Ralph. However, it does not take long before Ralph discovers that it is much harder to be an adult than he thought. None of the other boys want to be told what to do. None of them put much effort into building a shelter or doing other things required for their survival.

Jack, who is Ralph's rival for the leadership, is the lead hunter. Jack has become somewhat primal, enjoying the freedom of not having adults around to tell him what to do and how to do it. For that reason, Jack quickly becomes resentful of the rules and tasks Ralph tries to press on him and the other boys.

As a power struggle begins between the two dominate boys, the other boys become overwhelmed with fear. A young boy on the first day of their arrival told everyone of a beast he saw in the jungle before uniting with the others. This has spread fear among the children, especially in light of the fact that this young boy was never seen again. Therefore, when two boys spot something on the hill where they keep a signal fire going, fear spreads quickly among the young boys. Ralph proves himself quite brave in trying to find the beast, but the hunt proves unsuccessful.

In light of the newly arrived beast and the universal fear of it, as well as the struggle that has been taking place almost since the beginning, Jack becomes frustrated with the situation and decides to branch off on his own. Most of the older boys go with Jack. As a gesture of good will, Jack invites the others to participate in a feast with him and his group. Ralph attends, but he is shocked when Jack drives the boys into such a frenzy that they mistake Simon, another boy in their group, for the beast and beat him to death.

A few days later, Jack decides he and his group need a way to make fire. For this reason, they decide to raid Ralph's camp and steal the glasses belonging to Piggy, Ralph's most trusted companion. Angry at this theft, Ralph takes Piggy and the last two older boys in his group and confronts Jack. During the confrontation, Piggy is killed by a rock that was loosened and allowed to roll down the hillside by some of Jack's men. Afraid for his own life, Ralph flees. However, he comes back to try to make peace. Ralph is warned by the two boys from his camp who have now been made a part of Jack's camp that Jack plans to kill Ralph.

Ralph remains close to Jack's camp, hoping that he and his boys will not think to look for him there. However, when Ralph's two remaining friends are threatened, they turn on him. Ralph manages to flee to the other side of the island where he discovers the smoke has been seen by a ship and rescue has arrived. Their rescuer mistakenly assumes the boys have been playing a harmless game of war.



Chapter 1, The Sound of the Shell

Summary

Ralph is making his way through the jungle to the beach when he is joined by a fat young man who has been called Piggy at school. Ralph does not bother to learn the boy's name, but he begins to refer to the boy as Piggy, too. The two boys are survivors of a plane crash after their school was evacuated from a war zone. They make their way to a little lagoon and find a conch shell in the pond there. They decide to use it to call the other survivors to them. Ralph discovers how to blow in the shell, and he calls the others. Boys begin coming out of the woods, including a set of twins, Sam and Eric, and a group of choir boys headed by a young man named Jack Merridew. The boys decide they must have a leader. The choice between Jack and Ralph is offered to the boys and Ralph is chosen leader. Jack, then, volunteers himself and his choir to be hunters for the group. After the meeting, Ralph, Jack, and another boy Simon go to explore the immediate area to be sure they are on an island and there are no other survivors. It is a moment of great companionship for the three boys.

Analysis

It is a time of war. The reader learns from conversation between Ralph and Piggy that their school in England was in an area of conflict during wartime. They were being evacuated when their plane was attacked. The boys were deposited on this island when the pilot released the passenger pod of the plane. This has left the boys alone on an unfamiliar island without adult supervision. It is unclear what happened to the pilot, but Piggy reports seeing the rest of the plane on fire, a result, it is assumed by the boys, of an attack by a war machine. This suggests to the reader that the pilot did not survive. The boys are left without anyone who knows where they are, making rescue less likely. Ralph, however, has great faith that his father, some kind of naval officer, will find them.

The boys come together and discuss their situation. It is decided that a leader is needed. This is very interesting as it seems clear the boys are happy to find themselves without adult supervision, therefore their decision to appoint one of their own as a leader seems almost contradictory. This seems to show the reader that even children who resent being told what to do all the time crave some kind of law and order. There is some competition as to who the leader should be. Ralph is chosen even though Jack Merridew, a late comer to the group, seems to think he would make a much better leader. This suggests some conflict between the two boys might be coming in the future.

Ralph, Jack, and another boy go to investigate the immediate area to be sure that they are indeed stuck on a deserted island. This is a moment of great pleasure and bonding between these boys, suggesting the beginning of a great friendship. However, the moment turns somewhat sour when the boys run into a trapped pig. Jack, who has already promised that he and his choir boys will become the hunters of the group,



hesitates at this perfect moment to kill the pig, suggesting he does not have the stomach for killing. This is very important because it shows the level of civility these boys continue to live under and how survival will depend on them letting go of some of the things they have been taught in society.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Ralph? How did he come to be on the island? What is his attitude toward the boy known as Piggy? What does this suggest about Ralph's character? What does it suggest about his ability to be a leader to this group of boys?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Jack Merridew? Why does he assume he should be leader of this lost group of boys? What qualifies him as leader? How does he respond when he is not chosen leader?

Discussion Question 3

Why do Ralph, Jack, and Simon go to explore the island? What do they find? What happens when they come across a trapped pig? What does it say about Jack when he could not kill the trapped pig?

Vocabulary

Snatched, devouring, platform, ashamedly, replacing, fiercely, extreme, insistent, conch, creepers, contemptuously, aromatic, waxen, mentioned, examined, gesture, aquarium, triumphant, quickest, domination.



Chapter 2, Fire on the Mountain

Summary

In Chapter 2, Ralph calls another meeting. Ralph begins to make rules that will govern the group. The first is that the person who holds the conch is the only person who can speak during a meeting. Piggy tries to speak, but the group makes fun of him and refuses to listen. Later, a child in the group with a birthmark staining one side of his face claims to have seen a beast in the jungle before the first meeting was called. This frightens most of the children, although the older children refuse to show it. Ralph then brings up the subject of rescue. Ralph suggests that they keep a fire burning at the top of the mountain so that any ships passing might see it. The boys enthusiastically begin gathering firewood, everyone working except Piggy who has asthma. However, when they reach the mountain with their wood, Ralph admits that he does not know how they might go about lighting a fire. No one has matches. Jack suggests they use Piggy's glasses to make the fire. Piggy is unhappy with them for taking his glasses without really asking. Piggy then becomes even more annoyed when no one will listen to him about the children running wild or the fact that they have accidentally set half the jungle on fire. Piggy also points out that one of the children, the one with the birthmark on his face, is missing.

Analysis

When Ralph calls another meeting, he begins making rules for his new society. The first rule is that the person holding the conch is the only one who can speak, forcing the others to listen. This turns the conch into a symbol of power and control in this new society. However, the boys fail to obey their own rule when many of the boys, including Ralph and Jack, fail to listen to Piggy when he is holding the conch.

Piggy quickly becomes the voice of reason among the boys. Piggy seems to be the most mature of the group. His ideas are clear and concise. However, no one really likes Piggy. It is unclear why this is, except that perhaps he seems too adult in his attempts to force reason on this group of wild boys. Piggy makes several reasonable statements to the boys about how they should be doing things, but these points make the other boys, especially Jack and Ralph, seem somewhat inept. For this reason, Piggy's statements are largely ignored even though they make a great deal of sense.

Ralph does have some good ideas, however, and starting a signal fire is one of the best. Jack volunteers himself and his hunters to take over the care of the fire. This seems like a kind and generous thing at the moment. However, the reader must wonder if it might lead to trouble down the line.



Discussion Question 1

According to Ralph, who might come and save him and the boys on the island? Is this a reasonable assumption? What does Ralph suggest they do to encourage a rescue?

Discussion Question 2

What did one of the little boys see in the jungle before Ralph called the first meeting? What was it? What does the boy think it was? How do the other boys respond to news of this sighting? What could it mean for the safety of the boys?

Discussion Question 3

How do the boys start a fire? What happens with the fire? Why does Piggy think Ralph and the others are acting irresponsibly? What does Piggy suggest should be done differently? For what reason? Why does this make Piggy less liked by the other boys? Who especially seems to dislike Piggy?

Vocabulary

Clutched, unbelieving, murmur, indignantly, splendid, crouched, tirade, knowledge, outcrop, interest, nervously, beginning, outward, steadily, irresistible, astonishment, spectacles, tumult, realism.



Chapter 3, Huts on the Beach

Summary

Jack has taken quite well to hunting, spending most days alone in the jungle with nothing but his knife. However, Ralph is struggling as the other boys refuse to help him build shelters for all of them to share. Ralph complains about this to Jack when Jack comes back from a day of hunting. Ralph also complains that Jack and his boys spend all day in the jungle, but never return with any meat. Jack assures Ralph that he is figuring out the pigs and hopes to make his first kill soon. Ralph finally gives up, especially when he sees that his only helper, Simon, has wandered off, and decides to go for a swim. At the same time, Simon makes his way into the jungle to a quiet place he has discovered that he likes to visit.

Analysis

The newness of being stranded on the island has worn off. Most of the children have discovered that it is nice to have their day free to do as they please and to not have any adults telling them what to do. For this reason, most of the boys spend their day as they please even though there is work that needs to be done. This has left Ralph frustrated. However, Ralph has not attempted to discipline these boys or find another way to make them cooperate. In fact, when given the opportunity, Ralph also ducks out of work to go swimming. This is important because it shows the society these children are building is already beginning to crumble from a lack of consequences.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Jack alone in the jungle? What has changed between his behavior here and his behavior in the first chapter? What does this suggest about what is happening to the children on the island?

Discussion Question 2

What is Ralph struggling with the most as leader of the boys on this island? Why does he not do something to force the boys to do what he tells them? What might an adult have done in this situation?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Simon wander off alone at the end of chapter 3? Where is he going? For what reason? What does this suggest about Simon in comparison to the other characters?



Vocabulary

Possession, darkness, confirm, sunshine, fantastic, movements, flaunted, utterly, tread, accustomed, clamorously, outstretched, concealing, traces, shelter, continents, communicate, remain.



Chapter 4, Painted Faces and Long Hair

Summary

The boys have fallen into a routine all their own and grown accustomed to the island. The smallest children have grown frightful of the island and the unseen beast that was mentioned in an early meeting of the group. Many of them have frequent nightmares. The older boys often tease and torture the smaller boys, but there are still remnants of society that keep them from hurting one another. This is illustrated by one boy throwing rocks at another, but purposely missing him.

Jack has decided that the reason he cannot kill a pig is that the pigs can see him. For this reason, Jack has decided that he and his hunters should wear clay makeup on their faces when they hunt. At the same time, Ralph is swimming with Piggy and a few others. Ralph has grown weary of some of the impractical suggestions of the others, but he has to admit that some of Piggy's suggestions are sound, such as creating a sundial. Ralph finds himself wishing he could think a little more logically, like Piggy. As they swim, Ralph suddenly sees smoke in the ocean. He knows it is a ship. However, there is no smoke from the signal fire. Ralph rushes up to the mountain, but by the time he reaches the dead fire, it is too late. Jack and the others return triumphantly from the hunt with their first kill, a pig. Ralph is too angry at them for letting the fire go out to join the celebration. Jack becomes angry and takes his frustration out on Piggy, breaking a lens out of his glasses. Eventually, everyone calms down, and the pig is roasted. Piggy points out that he did not get any, so Simon gives him some even though Jack felt Piggy did not deserve any because he did nothing to earn it.

Analysis

The children have become almost savage, with Jack taking the biggest and quickest route to savagery. Jack has become frustrated with his inability to kill a pig, so he begins to dress in makeup in an attempt to find a way to trick the pig into a false sense of security. This leads to triumph, but at the cost of allowing the signal fire to die. The dead signal fire prevents the group of children from being rescued by a nearby ship. Tension bursts between Ralph and Jack as Ralph blames Jack for the fire going out. However, Jack does not deny, or admit, his part in the lack of a fire, nor does he confront Ralph directly. He does take out his frustrations on Piggy who seems to have become the one boy that it is okay for everyone else to torture. This shows the reader that Jack feels he would be a better leader, but he is not yet ready to challenge Ralph in front of the other boys. However, the reader can see that such a challenge is coming.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Jack decide he and his hunters need to wear makeup? What does this suggest about their level of civility? How does this mark a change in their behaviors?



Discussion Question 2

What happens when Ralph sees a ship? What is Ralph hoping the boys will get from this ship? Why does the ship not see them?

Discussion Question 3

How does Piggy's glasses get broken? For what reason? How do the other boys respond to this violence? What does this suggest about the growing lack of discipline among these boys? About Ralph's ability to lead?

Vocabulary

Unfriendly, deepened, understanding, respect, awe-inspiring, identical, omission, advertising, gnawed, assertion, inexpressible, convenient, chieftainship, elsewhere, fantastically, surprise, fastened.



Chapter 5, Beast from Water

Summary

Ralph walks alone back down to the lagoon in preparation for the meeting he has called. Ralph is thinking of the changes that need to be made and arguments to express this to the boys. However, once the meeting is called, Ralph has trouble remembering everything he had wanted to say. Piggy at first sits apart in protest to his treatment on the mountain, but he soon joins the meeting. In fact, it is Piggy who comes to Ralph's rescue when he struggles to make himself clear in the face of Jack's open contempt of the proceedings. The main subject is the idea of a dangerous beast in the jungle and the small children's fear of it. A small child comes forward and insists that there is a beast. He he has seen it. Jack announces that he and his hunters will kill any beast, therefore it is ridiculous for anyone to be afraid. Afterwards, Ralph, Simon, and Piggy discuss the situation, talking about how different things would be if there were an adult among them.

Analysis

Tensions begin to be revealed in this chapter. It is clear that Ralph is angry with Jack and his hunters for not keeping the fire going. It is equally clear that Jack feels that it is more important that he and his choir hunt meat. Priorities are no longer as well defined as they seemed at the beginning, and the split between Jack and Ralph is growing larger and larger. Ralph has begun to listen to Piggy and realizes that his ideas are very practical and would help the boys survive until they are rescued. However, Jack openly dislikes Piggy and dislikes the fact that Ralph is listening to Piggy over him. This adds to the tension. It is also clear that Jack has become more adapted to the island, embracing the lack of adult supervision and the wildness of the jungle, while Ralph is ironically missing the law and order of civilized society.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Ralph have such a hard time organizing his thoughts? What does Ralph want to accomplish at the meeting? Does he?

Discussion Question 2

How does Jack behave toward Ralph at the meeting? What does this suggest about Jack's level of contempt for Ralph and his rules? What has caused the change in Jack's behavior?



Discussion Question 3

What is significant about Ralph, Simon, and Piggy's discussion about adults at the end of the chapter? How is this discussion ironic? Would circumstances be different if adults were on the island?

Vocabulary

Majesty, grownup, quarrel, staggering, dense, howling, discursive, random, scramblings, answered, theorem, rehearses, rescued, mimicry, tempestuously, fronted, wits, summoned, understandable, assembly.



Chapter 6, Beast from Air

Summary

During the night the twins, Eric and Sam, are supposed to be watching the signal fire, but both fall asleep. During the night, a parachute with the pilot still attached drifts onto the mountain. The body moves with the wind and the movement of the parachute. When the boys wake, they see the movement. They think it is a beast. They run down to the camp for help. An impromptu meeting erupts, and it is decided they should go find the beast and kill it. However, instead of going up to the mountain, they decide to go to the far side of the island where Jack thinks the beast might live. Ralph allows Jack to lead the way because of his hunting skills. When they reach the rock formation on the far side of the island that resembles a castle, Ralph takes the lead because he believes that is his role as leader. Jack follows. However, they find nothing at the castle. The group turns back to check out the mountain top. No one is in a hurry. Ralph is annoyed when he tells them they must hurry because there is no fire, but no one answers him.

Analysis

An object on a parachute blows onto the mountain. The boys at the signal fire see the movement. They remember the stories of a beast and automatically assume it is a beast without checking it out. They send up the alarm, and a party is immediately formed to go and look for the beast. Jack tries to take over, and Ralph allows him to, referring to him because he is a hunter. This appears to have been a fatal mistake when the other boys do not respond to Ralph's orders, but instead seem to be looking up to Jack. The shift in leadership is beginning. The reader can already see that the loyalties of most of the older boys has changed from Ralph to Jack.

Discussion Question 1

What is the beast Sam and Eric see on the mountain? Why does it move as it does? What do Sam and Eric think it is?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Jack suggest the boys go to the far side of the mountain to check out where the beast must live rather than look to see what Sam and Eric saw? Why does Ralph allow Jack to take the lead? Why does Jack allow Ralph to go to the castle structure first?



Discussion Question 3

Why does Ralph want to go back to the mountain? How do the others respond when he suggests this? What does this suggest about the future of Ralph's leadership?

Vocabulary

Shelter, darkness, certain, mutinously, thunderous, plume, compressed, exploration, enormous, causeway, consciousness, signal, horizon, lagoon, passage, noticed, realized, creature, stupendous, creature, necessary, realized.



Chapter 7, Shadows and Tall Trees

Summary

The group stops to eat on the way back to the mountain. Ralph picks a route back that he thinks might be quicker. As they walk, one of the hunters finds fresh evidence of pigs. Jack decides they should hunt as they walk. Ralph finds himself daydreaming as he walks until he hears the call of the hunters. They have found a group of pigs. The pigs get away, but the excited hunters surround one of the boys and begin teasing and beating him. They move on. As darkness approaches, Ralph and Jack argue over whether they should go back to camp or go up on the mountain. Jack accuses Ralph of being frightened when they reach the mountain, and Ralph hesitates to continue to where the beast was spotted. However, Jack is just as frightened when they see the object bowing in front of them.

Analysis

It is clear that Ralph has lost what little control he had over the group. The boys have become savage, blurring the line between civility and animal instinct. The incident where the boys surround one of their own and start to attack him for not killing the pig is an illustration of how the boys are beginning to lose sight of what is right and what is wrong.

Ralph is struggling to control his group. It is clear that Jack does not think Ralph knows what he is doing. He feels contempt toward Ralph and his attempts at control. This foreshadows trouble as time passes, and Ralph fails to dominate the group like Jack has already begun to do.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Ralph want to go back to the mountain? How do the others respond when he makes this suggestion? How does Ralph compromise? Is this really a compromise?

Discussion Question 2

Why do the boys decide to hunt as they travel? Is hunting really important to the boys' survival? How does this decision to hunt make Ralph look bad as a leader?



Discussion Question 3

Why does Jack openly taunt Ralph while they are trying to decide if they should go to the mountain in the dark? How does Ralph respond to these taunts? Who makes the ultimate decision as to where the group will go?

Vocabulary

Strides, confusion, sliding, twitching, bulged, diminishing, themselves, desperate, unreality, horizon, glittering, hesitate, dangerous, slithering, muttered, impervious, intention, bravado, quality.



Chapter 8, Gift for the Darkness

Summary

Ralph and the others return to camp and announce that there really is a beast on the mountain. Ralph insults the hunters so Jack calls a meeting. Ralph tries to keep Jack from running the meeting, but he quickly backs down. Jack announces that he no longer wants to live with Ralph's cowardice. He is going to go off and begin his own group. Jack invites any who want to join him to do so. Ralph tries to stop him, but Jack will not listen. Piggy tries to reassure Ralph, but Ralph does not listen. Simon suggests to Piggy that they climb the mountain and check out the beast in the daylight. Piggy refuses. Piggy suggests that they look to the future and restructure things. First, Piggy suggests they start a new signal fire near the lagoon where it will be easier to tend. Ralph quickly agrees. They send those who remain, mostly the smallest children, to collect wood. Ralph becomes upset when he realizes how many have deserted them and have gone to be with Jack, but Piggy continues to try to reassure him.

On the other side of the island, Jack gathers his followers around them and tells them that they will spend their days hunting and not to worry about the beast. To celebrate their new group, they track and chase down a sow. The boys circle around the sow and kill it savagely. However, when they get the sow back to their camp they realize they have no way to make a fire. Jack decides he will go to Ralph's camp and invite the other boys to a feast. While there, he will distract Ralph and the others while some of his followers steal fire from their signal fire. Most of the boys in Ralph's camp decide to go to Jack's for the feast, but Ralph insists that he and Piggy remain behind to tend the fire.

Analysis

Jack has decided to leave Ralph's group and form one of his own. Ralph is disappointed to discover that most of the older boys have decided to go with Jack. Jack claims that Ralph's group is too serious, but his group will be all about having fun. This shows the difference in majority levels between the two potential leaders. It also shows that most of the boys enjoy the idea of being without adult supervision, and that they want to follow Jack's route that promises more fun and fewer rules. Ralph worries about what will happen to these boys. However, his biggest worry is what will happen if they cannot get a signal fire big enough and visible enough to be seen.

Jack's group decides that their main function will be hunting. When they go hunting, the group of boys savagely kill a sow. This kill is much more violent than anything they have done thus far, suggesting that these boys are growing further and further from the discipline of civilized society. This foreshadows a moment of violence that will be utterly shocking to the reader.



Discussion Question 1

Why does Jack decide to leave Ralph's group? What happens when he makes this announcement? What will happen to Ralph's group without the hunters?

Discussion Question 2

What role has Piggy begun to take in Ralph's group? How has Ralph's treatment of Piggy changed? What does this suggest about Ralph's basic character?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Jack invite Ralph's group to a feast? What does he hope will happen at this feast? Why does Ralph initially refuse to go to the feast?

Vocabulary

Schoolmaster, escape, expanding, consciousness, audible, appreciated, echoed, titled, imitating, clattered, ignorant, sufficiency, rescued, important, fluent, savages, remarks, symbol, platform, vanished, flickered, shutter.



Chapter 9, A View to a Death

Summary

After waking from his spell, Simon makes his way back to the mountain so that he might see what the beast really is. When Simon arrives, he realizes that the beast is the dead body of the pilot from their plane, still attached to his parachute.

Ralph and Piggy decide to join Jack's party just to make sure the others are okay. When they arrive, they find a wild party. The boys are laughing, dancing, and running wild. When Jack spots Ralph, he has one of the boys take him and Piggy meat. As everyone eats, Jack stands and asks who will join his tribe. Ralph tries to argue, but Jack points out that Ralph has no problem eating the meat he has caught. Ralph criticizes Jack's lack of preparation and shelter. Jack ignores him and calls his tribe together to dance. As they dance, Simon comes down from the mountain. They mistake him for the beast. The boys beat and torture Simon until he lies dead on the sand, his body taken away by the waves.

Analysis

Finally someone has climbed the mountain and identified the true nature of the beast. Simon realizes it is only the body of the pilot still attached to his parachute. However, when he returns to tell the boys what it is, they attack him in a violent frenzy. The boys were already worked up because of Jack. When they see Simon come down as he did, they believe that he is the beast. No one realized the truth until it was too late. The violence that has been escalating among Jack and his hunters has suddenly hit a fevered pitch, and Simon pays the ultimate price for it.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Simon go up on the mountain? What does he find there? Who does he want to tell? What does this say about Simon's character?

Discussion Question 2

Why do Ralph and Piggy decide to go have meat at Jack's feast? What happens when they arrive? How does Jack treat them? How does Ralph respond when Jack tries to talk the others into joining his tribe?



Discussion Question 3

Why do the boys of Jack's tribe attack Simon? Who do they think he is? What do they do to him? How do they respond to their actions when it is over?

Vocabulary

Explode, refreshments, creepers, cannon, advanced, glistening, drearily, thickets, interspersed, staggering, determination, buffet, expression, trend, vicious, collapsed, corpulent, suddenly, figure, indignity, harmless, forgetful.



Chapter 10, The Shell and the Glasses

Summary

Ralph and Piggy discuss the dwindling of their group. Only Sam and Eric remain of the big kids as well as most of the smaller kids. They also discuss the feast and what happened to Simon. Ralph feels guilty because he joined in on the beating without really understanding what was happening. Piggy does not like taking about it and keeps telling Ralph to stop.

The boys of Jack's tribe are fixing up the castle for a fort and playing around. Jack has begun enforcing some of his rules. Jack is much more ruthless than Ralph, beating some of the boys for infractions that he does not feel inclined to explain to anyone. These boys also talk about the beating of Simon, but they lay the blame on Simon himself rather than themselves for Simon's death.

Ralph, Piggy, Sam, and Eric argue about whether someone should stay up nights and keep the fire going. Ralph keeps repeating how important it is, but it is finally decided that there are not enough boys to keep it going twenty-four hours a day. When they go to bed that night, Ralph continues to talk about the importance of being rescued. Ralph really believes that this is the only way they will survive.

During the night, Jack and some of his tribe come into the shelter where Ralph, Piggy, Sam, and Eric sleep. A fight breaks out in the dark. Ralph finds himself fighting someone he cannot see and he gets the better of the boy for a time until the other boy kicks him in the groin. By the time Ralph recovers, the infiltrators are gone and Piggy's glasses are missing.

Analysis

Jack's group now includes all of the bigger boys with the exception of Ralph, Piggy, Eric, and Sam. This group is a wild group of boys who pretty much do whatever they want. Jack is punishing them, something Ralph never really tried to do. However, his punishments seem to be at his own discretion for crimes that he does not explain, leaving the boys without the knowledge necessary to avoid being punished. It is a tough way to run things that could eventually lead to unhappiness and mutiny among his followers. It also illustrates how ruthless Jack has truly come to be.

Ralph feels guilty for the death of Simon even though he only played a very small role in it. This shows the reader that Ralph still has some humanity in his character. However, this is starkly contrasted by a conversation among some of Jack's tribesmen who blame Simon's death on Simon himself. This illustrates how far from civility some of these boys have moved.



Jack and his tribesmen go to Ralph's camp and steal Piggy's glasses because their fire has gone out and they want to be able to light their own fires without talking to Ralph. This leaves Piggy without a way to see the world around him and Ralph without a means to light a signal fire should another ship come close to the island. It is the loss of hope for both Ralph and Piggy, but for different reasons.

Discussion Question 1

What happened to Simon? How does Ralph feel about what happened? Why does Piggy not wish to talk about it? How different is Ralph's conversation about this event from the conversation several of Jack's tribesmen have? For what reason?

Discussion Question 2

Why is it so important to Ralph that they keep the signal fire burning? Why does Ralph think this is the key to their rescue? Is it? How do the others feel about the signal fire?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Jack lead a group to steal Piggy's glasses? Why do they want the glasses? What does this mean for Piggy? What does it mean for Ralph and his signal fire?

Vocabulary

Bowstave, phosphorescence, exulting, achievement, glimmered, occasionally, wreckage, immediate, purged, scratching, finality, exploded, writhing, asthma, audible, snarling, composite, prowling.



Chapter 11, Castle Rock

Summary

Ralph decides he cannot let Jack get away with this latest insult. For this reason, he leads Piggy, Eric, and Sam to the fort where Jack and his tribe are staying. When they arrive, Ralph is confronted by several sentries. These boys tell Ralph that he is not welcome in their fort. Jack arrives as Ralph is accusing the sentries of being thieves. Ralph and Jack begin to argue. As they do, Jack's men take Sam and Eric and tie them up. Above them, some boys loosen a rock. Ralph can see the rock is going to fall and is able to move out of the way. However, since Piggy's glasses are missing, Piggy does not see it coming. The rock hits Piggy and causes him and the conch to fall off the cliff and onto the beach below. Piggy's body is also washed out to sea like Simon's. Ralph runs away.

Analysis

Ralph decides to confront Jack, but he fails to take into account how savage Jack has become and how many boys he has on his side. Ralph, Piggy, Sam, and Eric are quickly outnumbered and backed against a cliff. It is clear the other boys are still enthusiastic about following Jack despite his violence and atrocious acts against them. This is illustrated when several of Jack's boys kill Piggy with a falling rock. Piggy is holding the conch when he falls from the cliff, and it too is destroyed. This seems to be symbolic of the ruination of law and order and the disintegration of an organized society. Ralph's reign has come to a clear end.

Discussion Question 1

Why do Ralph, Piggy, Eric, and Sam go to confront Jack? What did they want to happen at this meeting? What happens at this meeting? For what reason?

Discussion Question 2

How is Piggy killed? Why is Piggy killed? Could his death have been avoided? What is symbolic about the fact that Piggy died and the conch was crushed at the same time?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Jack take Sam and Eric prisoner? Why does he not attempt to take Ralph prisoner? What does this suggest about Jack's plans for Ralph?



Vocabulary

Scurried, gathered, smudge, anxiously, shelters, platform, passing, brushed, rescued, spears, curtain, assembly, trodden, murdered, grownups, trembling, remembered, devastated, timidly, delicate, flashed, painted.



Chapter 12, Cry of the Hunters

Summary

Ralph has spent most of the day hiding, wounded, in a covert. When it is dark, Ralph makes his way back toward Castle Rock. When he arrives, he discovers that Sam and Eric are standing guard. Ralph talks to the twins for a few minutes and learns that Jack plans to hunt him the following day. Ralph tells Sam and Eric that he plans to hide nearby, hoping that Jack and his boys would not look for him so close.

Ralph goes and lies down in some ferns near the Castle Rock. Ralph goes to sleep and is awoken the next morning as the hunt begins. Ralph lies still and waits for the boys to go past him. However, he soon hears Jack talking to Sam and Eric and the twin giving away his location. Ralph runs and manages to get a head start on the hunters. Ralph finds another place to hide and manages to stay there for a long time, but is soon found by another of the hunters. In the meantime, the hunters have begun a fire that they hope will smoke Ralph out. The fire is large and is burning a large portion of the jungle, including where they get the majority of their fruit.

Ralph is forced to run out of his hiding place when one of the hunters gets too close. Ralph makes a run for the beach near his own camp. Ralph can hear the hunters behind him and knows that he is not going to survive. However, when he arrives at the beach Ralph is shocked to discover that rescue has arrived. The sailor tells him that they saw the fire in the jungle from sea and came to help. The sailor mistakenly thinks the children are playing a harmless game of war.

Analysis

Ralph learns that Jack dislikes him, has always disliked him, and wants to hunt him like an animal. This is the logical progression of Jack's barbarity, but is not a good situation for Ralph. Ralph tries to outsmart Jack, but discovers he has no one he can trust any longer. Ralph is running for his life from Jack and his hunters.

The reader can see that this was inevitable by Jack's growing cruelty. However, it is ironic to see how far these young men have come in a short time. Ralph, Jack, and Simon once felt close to one another as they explored the island. They were on the cusp of becoming good friends. However, Simon is now dead and Jack has become a savage who is hunting Jack on the island like he is some kind of animal.

Ironic, too, is that Ralph has been trying to keep signal fires burning since the first day on the island, but the other boys have been resistant to having to care for the fire. However, the hunters start a fire to force Ralph out into the open while they are hunting him and this deadly fire becomes the one that saves them all.



Discussion Question 1

Why are Sam and Eric now working for Jack? What capacity are they working in? Why does Ralph try to talk to them? What does he tell them? How does this soon turn on Ralph?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Jack want to hunt Ralph? For what purpose? What does Ralph do to protect himself?

Discussion Question 3

How does the fire on the island get started? How big is this fire? What is its purpose? How does it bring rescue to the boys? How is this ironic?

Vocabulary

Moreover, crouched, ululation, seashore, nightmares, thicket, instinctively, gigantic, amusement, sniggered, visualized, elephantine, dangerous, savagery, suppressed, entirely, invisible, cordon.



Characters

Ralph

Ralph is the first character introduced in the novel. Ralph is a cruel young man who is unkind to Piggy during their first meeting. Ralph is clearly one of those boys at school who is popular and does not feel the need to be kind to anyone. However, Ralph is also a natural leader. When a leader is chosen, it is Ralph, even though Piggy would clearly make a much better leader because he is more mature and has a better understanding of what needs to be done.

Ralph makes a few loose rules in the beginning and asks for help in making shelters and building a signal fire. The others help for a short time, but they discover freedom is much more fun. This causes Ralph a great deal of frustration that he discusses with Jack. However, Jack also feels that they should be allowed to do whatever they want.

Ralph struggles to remain in control of the boys for weeks before things begin to fall apart. Jack decides he knows better about what to do. He openly argues with Ralph every time a decision needs to be made. Eventually, Jack breaks from the group and takes most of the older boys with him. This leaves Ralph with just the younger ones to care for. Ralph is frustrated by this and knows that Jack's leadership will only lead to trouble, but he does not know what to do about it. In the end, Jack gets the better of Ralph and tries to hunt him. Ironically, it was Ralph who pushed the signal fire from the beginning, but it is a fire that Jack starts to find Ralph that leads to a rescue.

Jack Merridew

Jack Merridew is the leader of the choir boys who were on board the plane. When the boys all come together for the first time, it is suggested that a leader be chosen. Ralph and Jack are the two candidates, and Jack is clearly disappointed when he is not chosen. However, Jack jumps at the opportunity to lead his choir as a group of hunters. Jack is also quick to volunteer to keep the signal fire going. Jack seems very helpful at the beginning.

As talk of the beast continues in the group, Jack becomes annoyed and continuously brushes off the idea of danger on the island. This suggests to the reader that Jack is fearful of the island and has chosen to hide this fear in his hunting abilities and his growing savagery. When Ralph later insults the hunters after Jack and some of the others run from the beast on the mountainside, Jack leaves Ralph's group and takes most of the older boys with him.

Jack has embraced the savagery of the island and has decided that all they should be required to do is hunt all day. Jack tells his tribe that he wants to have fun all day, but at the same time he punishes a boy in his tribe for reasons he does not share with the



others. This suggests that Jack has chosen to beat this boy simply because he wants to.

Jack has developed a dislike for Ralph that is based partially on his jealousy that Ralph is the leader and partly on Ralph's friendship with Piggy. Jack wants to hurt Ralph. So, he first steals all of his group members, and he kills Piggy later in the story. Jack then decides to hunt Ralph, taking his brutality to its final and most horrifying level. Luckily for Ralph, the boys are rescued, ironically because Jack has ordered a fire in the jungle to flush out Ralph.

Piggy

Piggy is one of the first characters introduced in the novel. Piggy is a fat boy who has to wear glasses and who has been told he suffers from asthma. Piggy refuses to do any of the physical work on the island, but he has lots of ideas about how they should do things. Everyone dislikes Piggy at first because of his appearance and his habit of trying to insert his own opinion into everything. However, Ralph comes to respect Piggy as he realizes that most of Piggy's suggestions are reasonable and beneficial.

Jack openly dislikes Piggy from the beginning. Jack is always rude to Piggy. Jack is the one who breaks Piggy's glasses by knocking them off his face even though the glasses are important to the group for starting fires. Later, Jack steals Piggy's glasses so that his tribe can have fire and Ralph's cannot. It is when Piggy encourages Ralph to lead a group to confront Jack that Piggy is killed by the falling rock. Piggy's death is symbolic of the death of civilization on the island as he is the last person who encourages law and order.

Simon

Simon is a quiet, gentle young man. Simon was a part of the choir that Jack led, therefore he was to be one of the hunters. Simon appears to have some kind of seizure disorder that causes him to act oddly and pass out from time to time. This happens several times on the island.

Simon is the only one of the older boys who has the sense to go up to the mountain and view the beast in the daylight, therefore Simon is the only one who knows that the beast is only the body of the pilot still attached to the parachute. Sadly, when Simon tries to tell the others this, he is killed by a frenzied mob of Jack's tribe. Later, the members of Jack's tribe will put this killing down to the fact that Simon appeared to be costumed in some way when he came to the feast, making them think he was the beast. However, Ralph knows there is no excuse for what happened, and it frightens him.



Samneric or Sam and Eric

Sam and Eric, or Samneric as they are called, are twin brothers. Sam and Eric are two of the few who remain with Ralph after Jack separates from the group. Sam and Eric are kind young men who still have a sense of right and wrong like Ralph, but they are followers who want to be told what to do. When they go with Ralph and Piggy to confront Jack, they are taken prisoner until they agree to join Jack's tribe. Later, Ralph finds Sam and Eric are standing guard for Jack near the Castle Rock. Sam and Eric tell Ralph about Jack's plans to hunt Ralph the following day. They warn him to leave the area. However, Ralph decides to remain close. Sam and Eric tell Jack what Ralph has said to them, leaving Ralph with nowhere to hide and no one he can trust.

Roger

Roger is one of the boys on the island. Roger was originally a member of the choir that Jack led, therefore he became one of the hunters. When Jack separates from Ralph's group, Roger follows him and becomes something like a co-leader. It is Roger that discovers Ralph spoke with Samneric and that they know where Ralph plans to hide out the next day during the hunt. Roger is just as ruthless as Jack and would have been a problem if the rescue had not occurred.

Maurice

Maurice is one of the older boys. Maurice is a cruel boy who begins to go down the road of brutality along with Jack. There is one scene in which Maurice throws rocks at a little boy just for the pleasure of it. However, he still has enough civility left that he never hits the boy.

Boy with Birthmark on Face

On the first day the boys are on the island there is a meeting after Ralph, Jack, and Simon explore more of the island. During this meeting, a boy with a birthmark on his face stands and tells about seeing a large beast in the jungle. This causes a great deal of fear among the Littluns, but it does not upset the older boys as they dismiss this idea immediately. This is the first time someone suggests there might be danger on the island. This little boy is never seen again, but no one seems interested in finding out what happened to him.

Henry

Henry is one of the smaller children on the island. Henry is something of a leader among the younger boys. One day while playing in the water, Henry grows tired of playing with the others and wanders off by himself. Maurice follows him and begins

throwing rocks at him. Henry is startled by this, but Maurice never hits him. Henry has no one he can tell.

Littluns

Littluns is what Ralph and the others come to call the small children who came to the island with them. The Littluns are pretty much unaware of what is happening around them most of the time. However, the Littluns often have nightmares in the night that cause Ralph, as leader, some concern. The nightmares, however, only irritate Jack who does not feel the need to concern himself with the Littluns. After Jack separates from Ralph's group, the Littluns are pretty much the only ones left in Ralph's group.



Symbols and Symbolism

Conch

The conch is a sea shell that Piggy and Ralph find the first day on the island. Ralph uses the conch to call all the boys on the island together. The conch is then made a symbol when Ralph decides that only the boy holding the conch can speak during the meetings. This makes it a symbol of civility that is broken when Piggy dies.

Piggy's Glasses

Piggy is the only boy on the island who wears glasses. The boys use Piggy's glasses to light fires. After Jack leaves Ralph's group, he returns to steal Piggy's glasses for his tribes exclusive use.

Fruit

One of the only things the children have to eat on the island is fruit. However, the fruit causes many of the boys' digestive problems at first because they are not used to eating so much fruit. The fruit is easy to find, though it grows too high for many of the Littluns to reach. In the end, Jack burns much of the fruit when he orders a fire lit to flush out Ralph while they are hunting him.

Television

One of the boys on the island suggests that Ralph find a way to build a television for them to use. Some of the other suggestions are just as outrageous, but Piggy suggests they make a sundial to keep track of time.

Spears

Jack and his hunters hunt with homemade spears.

Signal Fire

Ralph suggests that they build and keep going a signal fire so that any passing ships might see them. This fire becomes a bone of contention between Ralph and the others, however, when Jack takes his hunters from the fire to hunt on a day when a ship passes.



Rocks

There are large rocks on and around the island. When the boys discover Castle Rock, they have a good time moving the rocks so that they fall or move to change the orientation of the castle. One of the rocks on the top of a cliff is the weapon that kills Piggy.

Pigs

There are wild pigs living on the island. Jack and his hunters hunt the pigs to provide meat for the boys.

Beast

Samneric see a beast on the mountain top where they have the signal fire. This beast turns out to be the pilot still attached to his parachute. However, no one ever takes the time to figure this out except for Simon, and he is killed before he can tell anyone.

Shelters

Ralph orders the building of several shelters to protect the boys should there be a storm. When the first two are built, Ralph has help from nearly everyone. But by the third one, Ralph is forced to build it alone with Simon because the others would rather play.



Settings

Castle Rock

Castle Rock is a coral formation on the other side of the island that the boys see and think will make a good fort. When Jack separates from Ralph's group, he chooses to use Castle Rock as his own. It is near Castle Rock that Simon and Piggy are killed and from where the hunt for Ralph begins.

Island

The children find themselves on a deserted island in the middle of the pacific ocean after their pilot shot their passenger pod onto the island as he was being attacked. This island is a tropical island with a thick jungle in the center and beaches and coral on the borders. The island provides plentiful fruit and meat for the children, but there are some fears that it also harbors. It appears that there is a dangerous, unidentified beast on the island.

Lagoon

When Ralph and Piggy explore a small patch of the island, they settle in a lagoon where they feel they can safely drink the water and make a camp for themselves and the others. It is here that they find the conch shell and where they use a natural platform to hold meetings. This becomes the headquarters of Ralph's group.



Themes and Motifs

Civility versus Savagery

When the boys find themselves alone on an island without an adult, they are still civilized and immediately set about building a community. Ralph is elected the leader, and he begins by making a few rules. The first rule is that the person holding the conch is the only person who should be speaking during a meeting. The others have to listen. Another rule, or suggestion, Ralph makes is that their best chance of being rescued will be if they have a signal fire. Ralph wants all the boys to participate in building and keeping the signal fire going. Ralph also suggests that they build a shelter in case it rains the way it did the first day they were there.

Ralph has many good ideas, and, for the first few days, things go well. However, as the children discover the freedom associated with a lack of adult supervision, they begin to realize that they do not have to do the boring work Ralph wants them to do. Ralph never develops a system for dealing with those who do not help out. For this reason, Ralph ends up doing most of the hard work himself, and the signal fire will often go for hours at a time without a flame.

As Ralph struggles with leadership, Jack begins to learn how to hunt. As the days go by and Jack spends more time trying to figure out how to catch and kill pigs, he becomes more savage. Jack makes excuses to spend more and more time out in the jungle. By doing this, he becomes less and less involved in the day to day activities in the camp and living a civilized life. Jack stops trying to be helpful to Ralph and, instead, becomes more interested in living in the jungle and hunting. In the end, Jack becomes brutal, killing several of the other boys and leading others with a savage rule. In the end, savagery wins over civility, making this a theme of the novel.

Individual versus Community

In this novel, a group of school boys is lost on a deserted island after the passenger section of their plane is dropped on a deserted island. The boys immediately attempt to create a community with a leader and jobs given to several groups. However, this community quickly falls apart as the community lacks consequences for the boys not doing what is expected of them.

As the novel progresses, Jack becomes an outsider, one who does not participate much in the community. Jack prefers to hunt on his own or with a few of his own hunters. Jack prefers to lead the group who goes in search of the beast rather than follow Ralph. Jack becomes an individual who does not want to follow what Ralph says must be done.

In his own way, Ralph is an individual in the group, too. Ralph is isolated in his job as leader because the others stop paying attention to what he has to say. Ralph wants to



keep the community thriving, but he is struggling because of a lack of consequences for his and others behaviors.

Piggy is also an individual in the larger group of this novel. Piggy is disliked by many because of his habit of injecting his opinion into discussions when it is not wanted. Piggy, however, more than Ralph, is the voice of the community. Piggy is mature enough to see what the community needs and how it should be done. The death of Piggy in Chapter 11 is the death of the community.

In this situation, it is important for the group to make an effort to achieve one goal. However, too many of the boys want to do their own thing. This results in the failure of the community and a fall into savagery. For this reason, community versus the individual is a theme of the novel.

Loss of Innocence

When the boys end up on the island, they find themselves lost without adult supervision. For their first time in their lives, the boys are allowed to do whatever they want, however they want, and whenever they want. This quickly leads to a great deal of unhappiness for Ralph as he tries to get the boys to help him build shelters and keep the signal fire going, but they refuse. These boys are too young to be able to govern themselves without the guidance of an older person.

As time passes on the island, each of the boys begins to lose their innocence in their own way. Ralph discovers that leadership is much harder than he thought it was. When the others refuse to help him in the day to day work on the island, Ralph becomes frustrated and tries to find ways to fix the situation. However, Ralph cannot find good solutions to his problems. He even suggests that he does not know how to think like an adult and therefore he is at a disadvantage. Later, when Simon is killed, Ralph finds it difficult to live with what happened and his role in it. For Ralph, this is the end of his childhood, and the spiral continues when Jack decides to hunt Ralph.

These boys come to the island as civilized young men, most of them probably from wealthy families where little was expected of them. They were very innocent when they came to the island. However, as time passes, and they become more savage, the boys quickly lose their innocence as they begin killing animals and then escalate to killing one another. The ultimate loss of innocence is a major theme in the novel.

Styles

Point of View

The novel is written from the third person omniscient point of view. The novel is told through the eyes of several of the lead characters, including Ralph, Jack, and Piggy. The author moves from character to character to tell his story, making the point of view omniscient. By doing this, the author is able to show his story from multiple points of view.

The point of view of this novel works well with the plot because the author uses a narration that allows him to tell the story from multiple viewpoints, giving the reader a well-rounded view of the story. The novel contains many characters, and it is important that the author be able to keep track of them all while telling a complete story. The author does this well by using the third person omniscient point of view to tell the story through the eyes of multiple characters.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. The main characters and the intended audience of the novel are young adults, therefore the language tends to be less sophisticated than a novel written for an older audience.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot and the main characters. The language is not filled with made up words or any other obstacles that might cause trouble for readers. The language is simple, but it has some sophistication that is common to novels written in the time period in which this one was written. For this reason, the language is appropriate to the novel.

Structure

The novel is divided into twelve chapters. Each chapter has a title that relates to something that takes place in the chapter. The novel is told in both narration and dialogue.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows a group of boys who have been lost on a deserted island and their attempts to build a new society. One subplot follows the leadership struggle between Ralph and Jack. Another subplot follows Simon as he explores the island alone and discovers the truth about the beast. Another subplot follows Piggy and the trouble he has with the other boys. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon.

-- Ralph (Chapter 1 paragraph 1)

Importance: This is one of the first lines of the novel. This line introduces Ralph, the main character.

This is our island. It's a good island. Until the growups come to fetch us we'll have fun.

-- Ralph (Chapter 2 paragraph 60)

Importance: This quote helps to illustrate the conflict of the novel, underscoring the fact that there are no grownups on the island and the children's attitude toward the situation.

Then we'd be, you know, very solemn, and someone would say we ought to build a jet, or a submarine, or a TV set. When the meeting was over they'd work for five minutes, then wander off or go hunting.

-- Ralph (Chapter 3 paragraph 32)

Importance: This quote shows Ralph's growing frustration with the lack of support he is receiving from the other children when it comes to the work associated with surviving on the island. This is the beginning of the separation between Ralph and his group with those who have chosen to embrace the more savage aspects of living on a deserted island.

The first rhythm that they became used to was the slow swing from dawn to quick dusk.

-- Narrator (Chapter 4 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote reflects the routine that the children have developed on the island and suggests a lack of routine at the same time.

The place of assembly in which he stood was roughly a triangle; but irregular and sketchy, like everything they made.

-- Ralph (Chapter 5 paragraph 5)

Importance: This not only serves to describe the place where the children congregate to discuss important business, but it also reflects the fact that it is oddly created, standing as an illustration of everything the boys have tried, or not tried, to create while on the island.

Even the sounds of nightmare from the other shelters no longer reached him, for he was back to where he came from, feeding the ponies with sugar over the garden wall.

-- Ralph (Chapter 6 paragraph 44)

Importance: This quote shows how Ralph has begun to become homesick, missing the



familiar structure and things of home even though his home life was less than ideal. It is also a sharp contrast to Ralph's current situation.

He pulled distastefully at his grey shirt and wondered whether he might undertake the adventure of washing it.

-- Ralph (Chapter 7 paragraph 2)

Importance: This shows the lack of civilization on the island and how Ralph is beginning to take note of it.

I'm not going to play any longer. Not with you.

-- Jack (Chapter 8 paragraph 74)

Importance: This quote is how Jack breaks from the main group to form his own group. It is clearly a less than mature statement, sounding more like a toddler having a tantrum. This illustrates how immature these children are even as they play at being grownups.

He saw how pitiless layers of rubber and canvas held together the poor body that should be rotting away.

-- Simon (Chapter 9 paragraph 9)

Importance: This quote describes the beast that Simon finally realizes is only the dead body of their pilot who died while he was ejecting from the airplane.

That was murder.

-- Ralph (Chapter 10 paragraph 35)

Importance: This quote states the obvious. It is Ralph's reaction to Simon's death at the hands of Jack's group. What makes this quote more significant is that only Ralph makes this observation as the others seem to accept it as a natural part of their new way of life.

I'm going to him with this conch in my hands. I'm going to hold it out. Look, I'm goin' to say, you're stronger than I am and you haven't got asthma. You can see, I'm goin' to say, and with both eyes. But I don't ask for my glasses back, not as a favor, I don't ask you to be a sport, I'll say, not because you're strong, but because what's right's right.

-- Piggy (Chapter 11 paragraph 36)

Importance: This is what Piggy says as he gathers the courage to go confront Jack for his actions, including the theft of Piggy's glasses during a midnight raid. This statement proves to be naive as Piggy is killed during this confrontation.

Tired though he was, he could not relax and fall into a well of sleep for fear of the tribe.

-- Ralph (Chapter 12 paragraph 18)

Importance: This shows Ralph's frame of mind while he runs for his life from Jack and his group.