

Chapter 1: The Sound of the Shell

1. How did the boys reach a deserted island?
2. What pleased Ralph most about the conditions on the island?
3. What did Piggy's references to his "Auntie" reveal about his character?
4. While Ralph was blowing the conch shell, the boys noticed that "something dark was fumbling along." What immediate impression was created? What else served to reinforce that impression? Contrast this to the first sentence of the book when Ralph was introduced. Through this contrast, what was the author suggesting about Ralph and Jack?
5. Why was Ralph elected leader?
6. Who do you think was the most intelligent boy in the group?
7. In what ways was a division of labor and a power structure forming among the boys?
8. Why do you think Ralph revealed Piggy's name to all of the boys? What did this tell about Ralph's character?
9. Why do you think Jack didn't kill the piglet?
10. What details do we learn about the island that create foreshadowing? What prediction might you make based on the setting details?

Chapter 2: Fire on the Mountain

1. How did the contrast between Jack's and Ralph's personalities reveal itself at the meeting?
2. What did the young children fear? Why do you think Ralph was so frustrated when Jack said they would hunt the snake?
3. Why did Ralph want to light a fire on the mountain?
4. How did most of the boys react when their fire went out of control? What was Piggy's response?
5. What were the flaws in Ralph's ability as a leader?

Chapter 3: Huts on the Beach

1. Reread the description of Jack at the opening of the chapter. Consider his posture and his actions. What kind of image was the author trying to create? What specific words and phrases heightened the image?
2. Why did Jack want to hunt and kill animals?
3. Why was Ralph becoming disillusioned? What was happening to each of his plans? Do you think that Ralph was an effective leader?
4. What do you think is the significance of Simon's special place? Why do you think he went there?
5. What is the conflict that is building between the Ralph and Jack characters? How do you think this conflict will be resolved?

Chapter 4: Painted Faces and Long Hair

1. In what way did Roger's actions against Henry indicate that he still retained some ties to his civilized past?

2. How did the boys' general appearance suggest that they were no longer English schoolboys but were instead part of a more primitive order?
3. Why was Piggy always an outsider to Ralph, Jack, Maurice, and most of the other older boys?
4. What event signaled the end of rational rule on the island and indicated the beginning of a primitive life?
5. Why was Jack able to act in a wild manner after assuming the mask? Have you ever witnessed a similar phenomenon?
6. What do you think Piggy's spectacles and their destruction symbolize?

Chapter 5: Beast from the Water

1. Why did Ralph now think about his first days on the island as "part of a brighter childhood"?
2. How was the vote about ghosts a mockery of Ralph and the kind of government he represented?
3. Why did Ralph's assembly fall into disarray?
4. Why didn't Ralph stop the meeting from breaking up?
5. Why did Simon want Ralph to continue his rule as chief?
6. What did Ralph mean when he said he feared that "the world, that understandable and lawful world, was slipping away"? Do you think this accurately reflected what was happening? Do you think it was inevitable?
7. What mistake do you think Ralph made by appealing purely to the children's sense of reason?

Chapter 6: Beast from Air

1. How did the boys' fears become a self-fulfilling prophecy?
2. Why did the balance of power between Ralph and Jack shift after Sam and Eric spotted "the beast"?
3. How did Castle Rock, Jack's camp, contrast with Ralph's camp? How did each camp reflect the character of its leader?
4. What did the arrival of the dead parachutist suggest about the adult world that the boys left behind?
5. What did the author suggest about the real nature of the beast when he had Simon think of it as "the picture of a human at once heroic and sick"?
6. How do you think the events on the island echoed the events in the world at large?
7. What do you think the white spot on Simon's forehead symbolized as it "turned red and trickled"?

Chapter 7: Shadows and Tall Trees

1. What did the boys' chant—"Kill the pig! Cut his throat!"—reveal about their changing goals and character?
2. What evidence showed that the boys were becoming increasingly barbaric?

3. Why was Simon willing to go through the forest alone?
4. Why did Ralph agree to go up to the mountain with Jack after dark?
5. What did the boys think they saw in the dark? Why did they flee in terror?
6. Compare Ralph's thoughts at the beginning of Chapter Seven with those in the middle of the chapter. How have his thoughts and actions changed? Why do you think Golding presented this radical change in Ralph?

Chapter 8: Gift for the Darkness

1. Why did Jack leave the assembly and run away into the forest alone?
2. Why did Piggy decide that a fire should be built near the bathing pool rather than on the mountain?
3. When did it become clear to Ralph that the boys on the island had definitely split into two separate camps? Who were the members of each group? What were the values of each?
4. Why did Jack and his followers save the sow's head?
5. What was the Lord of the Flies? Why was it given this title?
6. Why was Ralph concerned about keeping a fire? Why do you think Jack and his followers did not care about a fire?
7. What advantage did Jack gain over Ralph because of the paint on his face?
8. Why do you think most of the boys became followers of Jack?
9. Why do you think the author had Jack and his followers attack a nursing sow? Why didn't the author give the sow a quick death?
10. What profound knowledge did Simon receive as he hallucinated in the presence of the head? What did he realize was the true nature of the beast? What premonition did he have about the future?
11. Why is it ironic that bright flowers and butterflies appear at the scene where the sow is dying?

Chapters 9-10: A View to Death & The Shell and the Glasses

1. What was the importance of Piggy and Ralph eating meat at Jack's encampment?
2. What did the brutal murder in this section signify?
3. How did Jack and his followers respond to the rain? What was Ralph's concern? What more did this reveal about the difference between Jack and Ralph?
4. Why was Ralph particularly frightened by the death of one of his island mates? Why did all of the boys except Ralph push the knowledge of the death out of their conscious memory?
5. What caused Roger to contemplate "the possibilities of irresponsible authority"?
6. Why was Jack still defending his stronghold against the beast?

7. Why did Jack and two of his tribe attack Ralph's encampment? Why were they successful?
8. Why do you think the author made Simon discover the true nature of the figure on the mountain? Why do you think the author created a situation in which he was not able to reveal his knowledge to the boys?
9. Euphemism is the substitution of an agreeable expression for one that is offensive. For example, the expression "pass away" is often substituted for "die." In *Lord of the Flies*, the word "dance" became a euphemism for what concept? Why do you think this euphemism was used?
10. In many parts of the novel, the weather echoed the mood and heightened the effect of the action. Skim Chapter Nine to review the atmospheric conditions described. How did they reflect and heighten the mood of the chapter?

Chapter 11: Castle Rock

1. Compare this time when Ralph blew the conch to call an assembly with the first time he called an assembly on the island.
2. Why did Piggy want to take the conch with him when he visited Jack's encampment? What comment was being made when the conch was described as being "fragile and white"?
3. Why did Ralph plan to visit Jack and his boys on their side of the island? How did he get sidetracked from his original purpose?
4. When Ralph made two requests and received no response, he asked, "Don't you understand?" In what ways, however, did Ralph show his profound lack of understanding?
5. What symbolism can you see in the conch in this chapter as well as the event involving Piggy?

Chapter 12: Cry of the Hunters

1. When did Ralph know it was hopeless to think he could ever win back the boys or even start a small outlaw band?
2. What did Sam and Eric mean when they answered Ralph's questions by saying, "Roger sharpened a stick at both ends"? Why was Ralph unable to understand the meaning of this phrase?
3. What is ironic about the fire the tribe creates to flush out Ralph?
4. What plot event serves as essentially a *deus ex machina*? (look up the literary term)
5. What is significant about the fact that Percival can't even remember his name?
6. Why does Ralph weep?
7. In the microcosm on the island, what does each of these boys represent: Ralph, Piggy, Jack, Roger, and Simon?
8. What is ironic about the rescue of the boys?