

Knowledge Organiser— LORD OF THE FLIES GCSE



Main Characters

Ralph	the elected leader of the boys who tries to keep them civilised.	<i>reasonable charismatic civilised democratic inclusive intelligent considerate good-natured resolute</i>
Piggy	made fun of by the group, but he is the brains on the island. Loyal to Ralph.	<i>rational level-headed methodical sensible prudent stable dependable sober scientific objective loyal</i>
Jack	the leader of the hunters, fights against Ralph's civilisation and chooses savagery.	<i>combative bellicose bloodthirsty sanguinary potent coercive brutal forceful compelling autocratic despotic</i>
Simon	the strange visionary who is the only boy to understand what the beast really is.	<i>mystical insightful introspective introverted perspicacious enigmatic thoughtful spiritual</i>
Roger	Jack's psychopathic side-kick, kills Piggy, tortures Samneric and sharpens a stick for Ralph's head.	<i>vicious sadistic brutish cold-blooded untamed malevolent pernicious merciless despotic</i>
Samneric	the twins Sam and Eric who are loyal to Ralph until captured by Jack.	<i>loyal excitable well-intentioned easily intimidated innocent cowed apprehensive</i>

Plot

- 1. The Sound of the Shell:** We meet Ralph and Piggy. They use the conch shell. Jack arrives and is jealous.
- 2. Fire on the Mountain:** Ralph calls a meeting; a littlun mentions a "beastie". Ralph uses Piggy's glasses to start a signal fire—which gets out of control.
- 3. Huts on the Beach:** Ralph wants to build shelters; Jack wants to hunt pigs. Simon escapes to a secret hiding place in the forest.
- 4. Painted Faces and Long Hair:** Roger starts to bully littluns. Jack paints himself and hunts pigs—and lets the fire go out. Ralph is furious.
- 5. Beasts from Water:** They have a meeting and discuss the beast. Jack says he will kill it. Simon says it might be inside the boys.
- 6. Beasts from Air:** A dead parachutist lands on the island. Samneric see the parachutist and say they have seen the beast. Ralph and Jack go to investigate.
- 7. Shadows and Tall Trees:** The boys pretend to hunt a child as a pig—and it gets too rough. They climb the mountain and see the dead parachutist. They run away, scared.
- 8. A Gift for the Darkness:** Jack challenges Ralph's leadership—then leaves, taking most of the boys with him. Jack's gang violently kill a pig and leave its severed head as a sacrifice to the beast. They attack Ralph's camp. Simon finds the pig's head and it tells him that the beast is indeed inside of them.
- 9. A View to a Death:** Simon runs down to tell everyone that the beast is a lie. On the beach, the boys dance and chant in a storm—getting more and more frenzied. When Simon arrives, they tear him apart saying he is the beast.
- 10. The Shell and the Glasses:** Ralph and Piggy discuss the murder: Ralph is disgusted with himself for taking part. Jack's tribe have turned Castle Rock into their base. They attack Ralph's camp and steal Piggy's glasses.
- 11. Castle Rock:** Ralph and Piggy go to Jack's base, taking the conch shell to show their authority. Jack and Ralph fight. When Piggy shouts at them, Roger pushes a rock down on him. It kills Piggy and smashes the conch shell.
- 12. The Cry of the Hunters:** Jack and his tribe hunt down Ralph, who hides in the jungle. They start a fire to try to smoke him out. Ralph runs onto the beach and is nearly caught—when he runs into a naval officer whose boat had seen the smoke.

Some Context

- **William Golding** had served in the navy in World War II.
- The novel was published in the 1950s, not long after **the horrors of World War II**.
- World War II and the 1930s showed how **evil charismatic leaders** can take control (eg Hitler).
- The novel was published in the 1950s, during **the Cold War threat** of a nuclear war between Russia and the USA.
- Some people thought that, with the war finished, **mankind could escape violence** and killing.

Possible Symbols

- **The conch-shell:** represents civilisation: beautiful, but really fragile too.
- **Piggy's glasses:** a symbol of sight (ie seeing things properly and intelligently); a symbol of science; used for good and bad.
- **The "beast":** begins as a make-believe idea—but Simon realises it stands for the potential violence inside all humans.
- **Face paint:** used by Jack to camouflage himself in the jungle. Hides his face but actually shows his true personality and savagery.
- **The island:** represents an escape from civilisation and rules. BUT also represents the world: a place where violence means power. The island is a tropical paradise and humans ruin it (like planet earth).
- **The wounds on the island made by the plane:** symbolises violence: the first thing the boys do is destroy some of nature.
- **Fire:** a symbol of both hope (a signal for ships) but also destruction (it kills the littlun, nearly kills Ralph).
- **The pig hunts:** symbolises mankind's burning desire for violence and blood.
- **Messy hair:** symbolises how the boys are becoming more savage, less civilised.

Some Themes

Civilisation versus Savagery

Power

Violence

Rules and Law

Fear

Conflict

Innocence

Growing Up



Some Useful Words

- **latent:** hidden inside, waiting. *The boys' violent tendencies are latent until they reach the island.*
- **optimistic:** positive, hopeful. *Simon is optimistic about the boys getting home.*
- **pessimistic:** negative, lacking hope. *Golding has a pessimistic attitude towards human nature.*
- **primal:** primitive and prehistoric. *Jack seems to have a primal desire to kill the pigs.*
- **repressed:** controlled and kept under control. *Jack's violent urges are repressed until he reaches the island.*
- **atavistic:** reverting to ancient behaviours. *The boys soon indulge in atavistic violence.*
- **autocratic:** like a tyrant. *Jack, once in power, behaves in an autocratic manner.*
- **altruistic:** benevolent, for the good others not yourself. *Ralph hopes for the boys are basically altruistic.*

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Plot Questions

Chapter 1	<input type="radio"/> Who has eyes “ready to turn, to anger”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who, at this point in the novel, is willing to give Piggy “simple obedience”?
Chapter 2	<input type="radio"/> Who says “we’re not savages. We’re English”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who hopefully believes “until the grown ups come... we’ll have fun”?
Chapter 3	<input type="radio"/> Who tries to kill a pig? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who is this: “the compulsion to track down and kill... was swallowing him up”?
Chapter 4	<input type="radio"/> Who “suffered untold terrors in the dark and huddled together for comfort”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who destroys the boys’ sandcastles by kicking them over?
Chapter 5	<input type="radio"/> Who is beginning to be disgusted by his own dirty, unkempt appearance? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who “became inarticulate in his effort to express mankind’s essential illness”?
Chapter 6	<input type="radio"/> How does the “beast” arrive at the island? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who feels that the water surrounding the island moves “like the breathing of some stupendous creature”?
Chapter 7	<input type="radio"/> Who dreams of “a bowl of cornflakes with sugar and cream”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who joins in the attack on Robert wanting “to get a handful of that brown, vulnerable flesh. The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering”? (Clue: not Jack or Roger.)
Chapter 8	<input type="radio"/> Who says of Ralph, “he isn’t a proper chief” and tries to set up his own tribe? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who is “so full of pride in his contribution to the good of society”?
Chapter 9	<input type="radio"/> Who is stabbed by the boys in this chapter? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who sits on a “throne”?
Chapter 10	<input type="radio"/> Who is described as “a proper Chief” because “He’s going to take us hunting”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who feels guilty for having taken part in a “murder”?
Chapter 11	<input type="radio"/> Who is murdered in this chapter? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who makes a moral demand of Jack: “not because you’re strong, but because what’s right’s right”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What is the “talisman, the fragile shining beauty”?
Chapter 12	<input type="radio"/> Who seems likely to be murdered in this chapter? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which symbolic object now “gleamed as ever the conch had done and seemed top jeer at [people] cynically”?

Character Questions

To which character does each quotation relate?

“[he] wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart”	said about
“Grown-ups know things... they’d meet and have tea and discuss.”	said by
“the obscene thing grinned and dripped”	said about
“sharpened a stick at both ends”	said about
“painted and garlanded, sat there like an idol”	said about
“He would like to have a pair of scissors and cut his hair.”	said about
“there was a mildness about his mouth and eyes that proclaimed no devil”	said about

Imagery Questions

imagery	links to themes of...	your best quotation
conch	democracy, order, civilisation, frailty	
Piggy’s glasses		
face paint		
fire		
the “beast”		
the island		
pig hunts		
messy hair		

Ideas Questions

<input type="radio"/> Which word best describes Ralph at the start? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> resentful cynical </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> aggressive forward-looking </div>
<input type="radio"/> Which word best describes Jack by the end? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> autocratic austere </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> automatic auspicious </div>
<input type="radio"/> Which word best describes the end of the novel? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> celebratory pessimistic </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> jubilant contented </div>
<input type="radio"/> Which phrase best describes the symbolic conch shell? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> probably shatterproof invulnerable to shattering </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> susceptible to shattering unlikely to shatter </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which best fits the novel’s message about humans? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> we have civilising tendencies we have intellectual issues </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> we have mystical proclivities we have atavistic desires </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which best fits the boys’ behaviour? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> primal precursory </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> primary prolific </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which best fits the setting of the novel in terms of time? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> post-modern post-apocalyptic </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> postponed postdiluvian </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word expresses the power of the face masks? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> deception extension </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> conception liberation </div>