

Lord of the Flies Guided Reading

Chapter 1: The Sound of the Shell

1. Why does Piggy conclude that no one will know where they are?
2. What summons the others to the beach?
3. Who tries to assume authority? What happens?
4. What effort of “keeping the peace” does Ralph make toward Jack?
5. What does Jack decide his boys will be?
6. What conclusion do Ralph, Jack, and Simon reach after their investigation?
7. What defense does Jack offer for not killing the piglet? What does he promise?

Chapter 2: Fire on the Mountain

1. What decision is made about the conch? Why?
2. What fear does one young boy express? What is the group’s reaction? What does Jack assure them of?
3. According to Ralph, what are the group’s two main priorities?
4. What conflict arises between Jack and Piggy? How does Ralph settle it?
5. What does Jack say about rules and about the boys?
6. What offer does Jack make on behalf of himself and his hunters?
7. What does Piggy realize about the little boy who had talked about the beastie?
8. What does Piggy think should have been the first priority of the group? Do you agree or disagree?

Chapter 3: Huts on the Beach

1. What does Ralph complain to Jack about? How does Jack defend the fact that he spends his days hunting instead of helping the others?
2. What does Jack admit to Ralph and Simon?
3. When Jack yells, “Got it” what does Ralph think might have caused Jack’s excitement? What was the source of Jack’s excitement?
4. What does Ralph say about people in general? What did he want to explain?
5. Does Jack’s desire to kill a pig fit into either of the groups’ two main priorities established by Ralph? Is Jack concerned with the group’s welfare? Why or why not?
6. Why do you think Simon finds a secluded place in the high jungle where he can be alone? What do you think this tells us about Simon?

Chapter 4: Painted Faces and Long Hair

1. Why does Maurice feel guilty when he kicks sand into Percival's eyes?
2. When Roger throws a rock at Henry, why doesn't he aim to hit?
3. What effect does Jack's mask have on him? On Bill? On Sam and Eric?
4. What is Jack's response when Ralph first accuses him of letting the fire go out?
5. How does Ralph reassert his authority?
6. What is Ralph's reaction to Jack and the hunters' acting out the pig kill? What does he do?
7. Jack masks himself with clay and charcoal. What effect does this have on his behavior? What is the purpose of any mask, either real or imagined?
8. Watching the hunters dance and chant, Ralph feels envy and resentment. Why do you think he is feeling these emotions? What does he resent?

Chapter 5: Beast from Water

1. What conclusion does Ralph come to about being a chief? What about his own ability?
2. What do Ralph, Piggy, and Simon respectively say about beasts?
3. Why doesn't Ralph call back the boys who follow Jack?
4. What is Ralph considering giving up leadership of the group? How do Piggy and Simon react? Why do they react that way?
5. What does Piggy say about Jack's feelings for him and for Ralph? What conclusion does Piggy come to?
6. Why are Ralph's complaints about the group valid? What do you think these faults indicate about the group in general? Explain.
7. Ralph tells the group they should die before they let the fire go out? What does he mean by the comment?
8. Who or what does Simon believe the "beast" may be?

Chapter 6: Beast from Air

1. Why do the twins assume that the dead parachutist is the beast?
2. What is Jack's reaction to the news of the beast? Why does he react this way?
3. As the biguns, except for Piggy, set out to find the beast, what image of the beast forms in Simon's mind? What does this image mean?
4. What does Jack say the new place he and Ralph have just explored would be a good place for? How does he suggest it could be defended?
5. When Jack and the others roll a rock into the sea, what is Ralph's reaction?
6. After various protests from the boys, what does Ralph insist upon? Why?

7. Ralph wishes for a message from the grownups. The parachutist *could* be such a message. What are some ideas the arrival of this figure might have suggested to the boys? What, then, is ironic about the twins' declaration that it was the beast?
8. None of the boys, not even Ralph or Jack, doubts for a moment that Sam and Eric have indeed seen a beast. Why are they all so ready to accept the presence of a beast?
9. As Ralph tried to talk to the boy, "something flitted in front of his mind, like a bat's wing obscuring his idea," What do you think is happening to Ralph? How would you explain this? Think about his pounding his fist against the rock. How would you describe Ralph's state of mind?
10. Recall Jack's ideas for the newly-explored part of the island. Why do you think Jack is thinking in these terms? Does he seem frightened about anything? What do you think the boys would have need of a fort? What would it defend them from?

Chapter 7: Shadows and Tall Trees

1. With Jack in charge of the hunt, what does Ralph daydream about?
2. What does Ralph do when the boys start to play, putting Robert in the part of the pig? What feeling does Ralph have?
3. Why does Robert insist they need a real pig, rather than someone to pretend to be a pig?
4. What does Ralph sense about Jack after Ralph asks him about the pig-run? What does this tell him about Jack?
5. How does Jack challenge Ralph? What is Ralph's response?
6. When Jack returns to Ralph and Roger, what does he tell them?
7. When Ralph strikes the pig on the snout with his spear, how does he feel? Afterwards, he immediately jabs at Robert with his spear. What does he feel then? Is there any connection between the two events? Explain.
8. How would you describe the relationship between Ralph and Jack at this point?
9. What is the source of their conflict? Do you think Jack hates Ralph? If so, why?

Chapter 8: Gift for the Darkness

1. Why does Ralph believe they are beaten?
2. Jack suggests that Ralph should no longer be chief. What does Jack do when the others don't respond to this suggestion?
3. As Ralph considers the need to reassign firekeepers, what does he realize?
4. What does Jack do with the pig's head? Why?
5. What does the Lord of the Flies tell Simon he should do?
6. Why does Ralph take the group to the platform? What problem is Ralph having at this meeting?
7. What does the Lord of the Flies say that Simon has known all along?
8. What does Simon realize is happening to him?
9. What does the Lord of the Flies "tell" Simon they are going to do on the island? What will happen to Simon if he tries to interfere?
10. Even though Jack names Ralph's faults, none of the boys is willing to make Ralph "step down" as chief. Why do you think this is?

Chapter 9: A View to a Death

1. After Simon regains consciousness, what does he come upon as he walks across the mountaintop?
2. As it begins to rain, Ralph reminds Jack's followers that they don't have shelters. Why does he bring this up now?
3. Immediately after Ralph's tirade, Jack tells his tribe to start dancing. Why?
4. Do the chanting, dancing boys recognize Simon? Why or why not?
5. What happens to Simon?
6. What happens to the figure on the mountaintop?

Chapter 10: The Shell and the Glasses

1. When Ralph admits to Piggy that they all murdered Simon, what is Piggy's reaction?
2. What does Ralph say to Piggy's remark that they were all scared?
3. Why does Piggy suggest that they let the signal fire go out every night and re-light it in the morning? How does Ralph react?
4. What is Jack feeling as he and the three others trot toward Castle Rock? Why?
5. What does Jack's denial that they killed the beast reveal about him? Does his continuing to promote the existence of the beast to the others give him any advantage over them?

Chapter 11: Castle Rock

1. After all that happened, why does Piggy still try to reason with Jack to get his glasses back?
2. Why do the twins suggest they all paint their faces before going to see Jack?
3. Jack boasts that his tribe does whatever he wants. Why is this true? Why might the boys prefer Jack's leadership to Ralph's?
4. As Piggy and Ralph hurl questions at the savages, what is Roger doing?
5. While Ralph gets ready for a charge from Jack and the tribe, what does Roger do?
6. What happens to the conch?
7. What happens to Piggy?
8. Both Piggy and Ralph made the mistake of believing they could reason with Jack about Piggy's glasses and a need for a signal fire. Why was their thinking completely wrong? What had Jack already become at this point?
9. What do Roger's releasing of the huge rock and his strong-arm tactics with Sam and Eric indicate about the type of group Jack is now in charge of?
10. With Ralph's two allies, Simon and Piggy, both dead and Sam and Eric now tribesmen, what are the odds that Ralph will survive? Will he, as Simon believed, get back all right? Why or why not?

Chapter 12: Cry of the Hunters

1. What realization does Ralph come to about the savages and Jack? Why?
2. What does Ralph do when he finds the pig's skull on the stake? Why?
3. What is Ralph dreading most?
4. After Ralph reaches the beach and falls down, what does he see when he staggers to his feet?
5. What explanation does the officer give for his arrival on the island?
6. Who responds to the officer's questions about who is the boss?
7. What does the little boy with the remains of a black cap on his red hair and a broken pair of spectacles at his waist do?
8. When Ralph finally begins to cry uncontrollably, what is he weeping for?
9. Why do you think Golding describes the savages as "little boys on the beach" and Jack, in particular, as a "little boy"? What point do you think he is trying to make?