



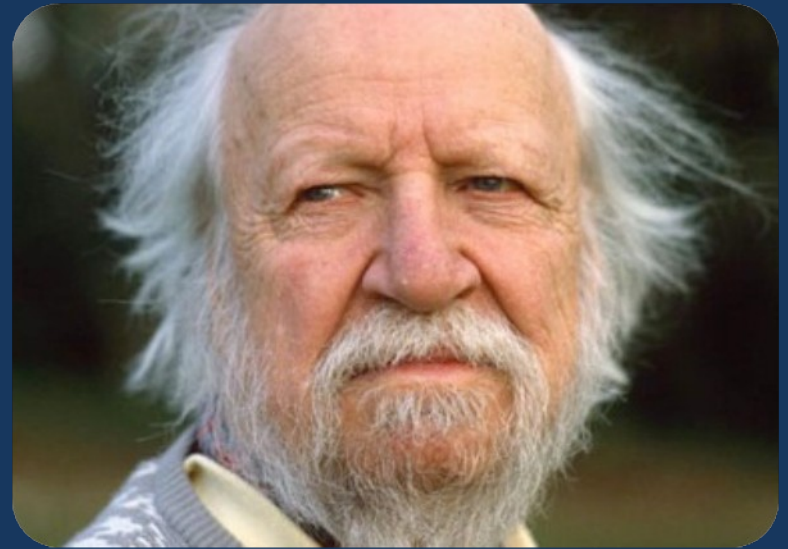
LORD OF THE FLIES

**WILLIAM
GOLDING**

Dr. M. Fahmy Raiyah

WILLIAM GOLDING

William Golding was born on September 19, 1911, in Cornwall, England. In 1935 he started teaching English and philosophy in Salisbury. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940. In 1954 he published his first novel, *Lord of the Flies*. In 1983, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. He died in 1993.



LORD OF THE FLIES

CHAPTER 1

Two boys, **Ralph** and **Piggy** meet in a dense jungle. Through their conversation we know that because of a nuclear war, a group of boys were evacuated to an unnamed destination. Their plane crashed into the sea, leaving the boys stranded on an unfamiliar island. Because of the atom bomb's destruction, it seems that no one knows the place of the boys.

Ralph finds a conch, which Piggy suggests that it can be blown as a trumpet. Piggy urges Ralph to blow into the shell, using it to summon any other survivors to the beach. Some boys between ages 6 and 12 come out of the jungle onto the beach. Among the group is a boys' choir, led by an older boy named **Jack**.

The boys decide to elect a leader. The choirboys vote for Jack, but all the other boys vote for Ralph. Ralph wins the vote, to the disappointment of Jack. Ralph makes Jack in charge of the choirboys, designating them as hunters.

Ralph, Jack, and **Simon**, a choir member, search the island, reaching the end of the jungle, where high, sharp rocks stick out toward steep mountains. From the peak, they can see that there are no signs of civilization on the island.

On their return, the boys encounter a trapped wild pig. Jack tries to kill it with his knife but hesitates, and the pig escapes. Jack vows that next time he will kill it.





Ralph



Piggy

Jack















CHAPTER 2

Ralph blows the conch to call the other boys back to a meeting to describe the results of the searching. Ralph makes rule that only the boy holding the conch can speak, and only Ralph can interrupt the one who holds the conch. Order is thus established.

Piggy says that no one knows the boys' location, meaning that they may be on the island a long time.

At this point the group of littlest boys push a representative forward to describe the "beastie" he saw in the woods the night before; the older boys are quick to assure the littluns that there is no beastie.

Ralph assures the boys that they will definitely be rescued. He says that they'll need to build a signal fire on top of the island's central mountain to attract passing ships and planes. At the word fire, Jack immediately takes over the group, leading a charge up the mountain to start a fire. Ralph attempts to maintain order, but everyone rushes after Jack, so he follows, too. Piggy follows last, angry at the impulsive behavior.

The boys make a mound of wood and use the lenses from Piggy's glasses to focus the sunlight and set the wood on fire. Jack says that his group of hunters will be responsible for keeping the signal fire going.

Piggy angrily tells the boys that one of the little ones was playing over by the fire and now is missing. The boys are shocked; they pretend that nothing has happened.





CHAPTER 3

Jack returns from hunting with no hunt, to find Ralph and Simon building huts at the beach. Ralph expresses his frustration that while all the boys are playing, bathing, or hunting with Jack, only Simon actually helps in building shelters. Ralph adds that Jack's hunters have failed to catch a single pig. While Ralph is also worried about the smaller children's safety and peace, Jack is worried only about hunting.

As this debate between the two boys heats, they become more hostile towards each other. Even though they go swimming together afterwards, their sense of their feelings of mutual dislike remain.

Simon wanders through the jungle alone. He helps some of the younger boys, the “littluns,” gather some fruit. He walks deeper into the forest and eventually finds a peaceful, beautiful open space full of flowers, birds, and butterflies. Simon sits down to take in the scene, marveling at the abundance and beauty of life that surrounds him.







CHAPTER 4

Three of the littluns play on the beach with one of their sandcastles. Then **Roger** and **Maurice** come from the jungle and destroy some of the sandcastles on their way to the beach.

Jack tells the hunters about his new hunting technique: using colored clay and charcoal to camouflage their faces. Jack commands all his hunters, including **Samneric** who are on fire-maintenance duty at the time, to join in a hunt.

Ralph spots a ship in the distance and is confident that the ship's crew will spot the boys' smoke signal. But the fire has gone out, being left unattended. By the time, Simon, Ralph and Piggy have reached the fire site, the ship is gone.



Roger













**Sam and Eric
(Samneric)**



CHAPTER 5

Ralph calls the assembly and reminds everyone of their duties. He and Piggy also try to allay the boys' fear of the beast but in vain; the littluns are still terrified. Simon attempts to explain that the boys themselves, or something inherent in human nature, could be the beast they fear. There is disagreement over everything. The meeting turns chaotic as the boys scream and laugh. Jack aggressively disputes Ralph's authority and refuses all the rules. He leads the boys onto the beach in a sort of tribal dance. Piggy and Simon urge Ralph to summon everyone back but he resists, his confidence shaken.





CHAPTER 6

During the night an aerial battle takes place above the island. A parachutist floats down to the island on his opened parachute. When the firewatchers, Sam and Eric, awaken, they are frightened by the noise and shadows made by the parachute because of the wind. They run in panic to the beach, telling everybody that they have seen the beast and that it has attacked them.

The boys are frightened and decide to search the island for the beast. During the search, some boys begin to play games, pushing rocks into the sea. Ralph angrily reminds them that they are looking for the beast and says that they must return to the other mountain so that they can rebuild the signal fire.

CHAPTER 7

On their way back, Ralph looks at the ocean and realizes the impossibility of rescue, but Simon assures him that somehow they will be rescued. On the way to the mountain, Jack leads a pig hunt. Ralph participates in the hunting for the first time, striking a boar in the snout with his spear. The boys are very excited and after the wild pig gets away, the group begins a dance of hunting that gets out of control and hurts the boy acting as the pig.

Simon volunteers to return to the beach to tell Piggy and the littluns that the group will not return until late that night.

By the time they reach the base of the mountain, darkness has fallen. Ralph, Roger, and Jack start to climb the mountain, and then Ralph and Roger wait somewhere near the top while Jack climbs alone to the summit. He returns, breathlessly claiming to have seen the monster. Ralph and Roger climb up to have a look and see a large, shadowy form with the shape of a giant ape, making a strange flapping sound in the wind. Horrified, the boys hurry down the mountain to warn the group.

CHAPTER 8

The next morning , as news of the beast spreads, the boys' terror grows greater. Jack announces that there is definitely a beast. Jack calls for a meeting and declares that Ralph is a coward who should be removed from his leadership role. The other boys, however, refuse to vote Ralph out of power. Enraged, Jack storms away from the group, saying that he is leaving and that anyone who likes is welcome to join him. Most of the boys go with Jack. Ralph is very sad, but Piggy cheers him up with an idea: they should build a new signal fire, on the beach rather than on the mountain. Piggy's idea restores Ralph's hope that they will be rescued. The boys set to work and build a new fire.

Jack gathers his new tribe and declares himself the chief. In a savage frenzy, the hunters kill another pig and leave its head on a sharpened stake in the jungle as an offering to the beast. As they place the head upright in the forest, the black blood drips down the pig's teeth, and the boys run away.

Simon slips away from the camp and returns to the jungle, where he previously sat marveling at the beauty of nature. Simon finds the pig's head covered with flies. Appalled by the scene, he hallucinates, thinking that the head is talking to him, until he loses consciousness.











CHAPTER 9

Simon awakens from his faint and makes his way to the beast sighting on the mountain. He finds the parachutist's body, inspects it, and realizes its true identity. He heads to Jack's camp to give everyone the news. He is so weakened that he can barely walk.

Ralph and Piggy, too, go to the hunters' camp because they are very hungry.

Suddenly, Simon crawls out of the forest and into the center of the dance circle. He tries to tell them about the true identity of the beast sighted on the mountain but cannot make himself heard over the storm and the boys' chanting. The group turns on Simon as if he were the beast and kills him. A storm breaks



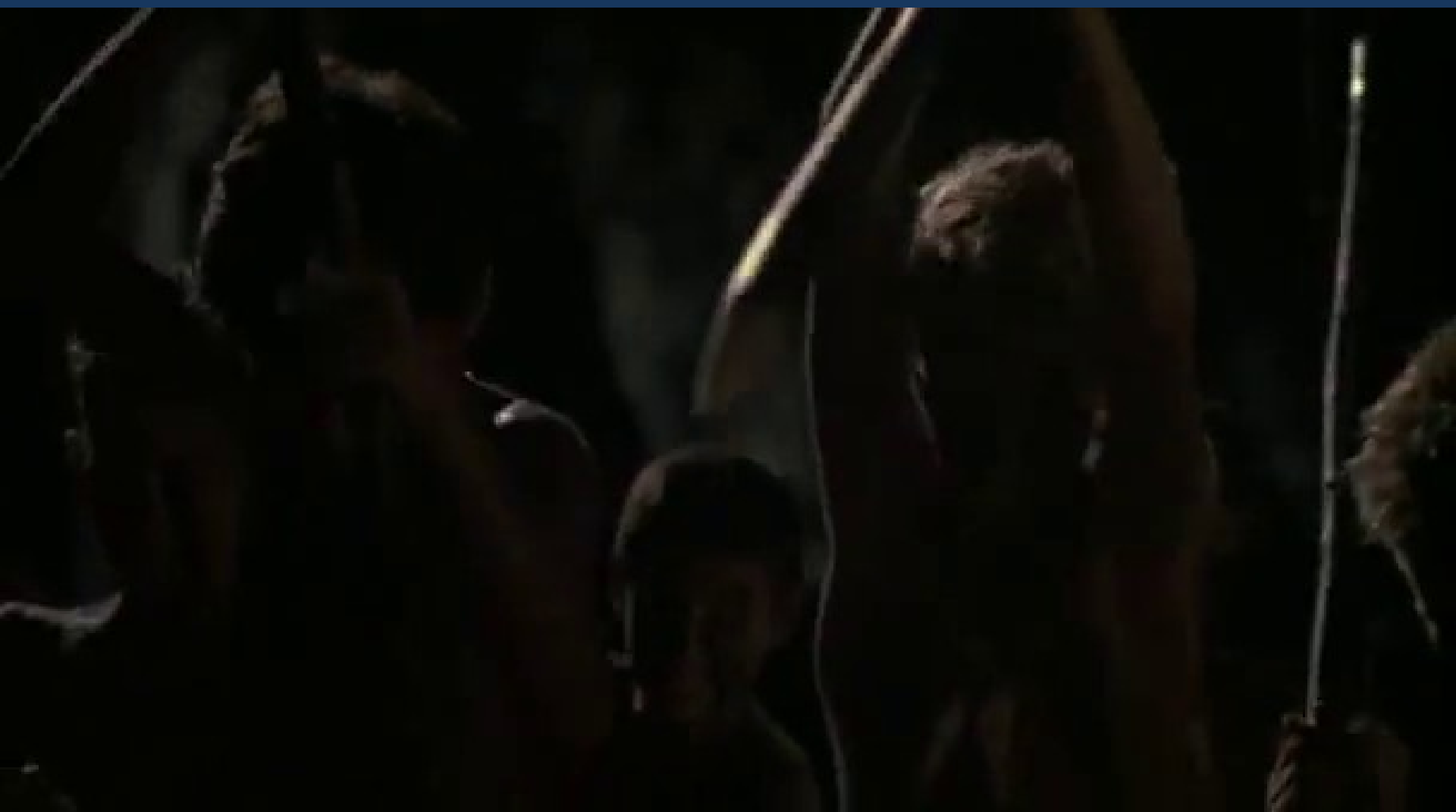


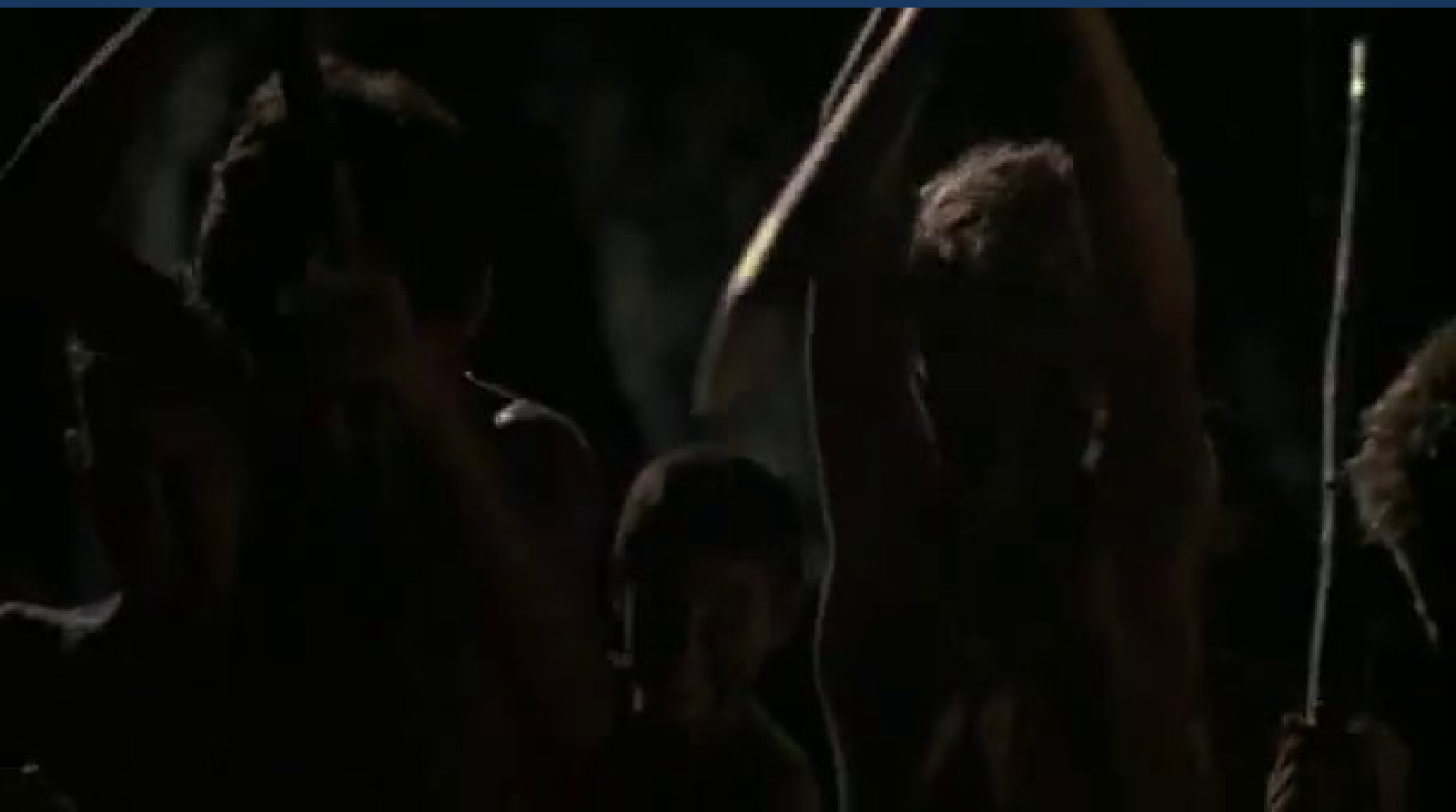












CHAPTER 10

The next morning, Ralph finds that only Piggy, Samneric, and some littluns remain in his camp. Brooding over the previous night's events, he points out to Piggy that they murdered Simon. Piggy objects to the use of the term "murder" and doesn't want Samneric to know that he and Ralph were at least somewhat involved in the deadly dance. Samneric don't want to admit their own involvement, either.

Jack begins acting ever more like a cruel dictator to his own tribe members, having one of the boys tied up and beaten for angering him. He plans a raid on Ralph's camp to get fire and tries to convince his followers that they had beaten but not killed the beast the previous night. The beast had come to them in disguise, he asserts, in utter denial that they had killed one of their former group.

Back at Ralph's camp, the boys decide to let the fire die for the night rather than collect more wood in the dark. Because Jack and his raiders can't steal burning branches, they attack Ralph's group and steal Piggy's glasses.













CHAPTER 11

Without the glasses, Piggy can barely see, and no fire could be built in Ralph's camp. Ralph and Piggy go to Jack's camp to try to convince Jack to give them the glasses and to remind him of the importance of the fire. The boys at Jack's camp are very hostile to them, and Roger throws stones at them. Ralph takes with him the conch to remind Jack and his group of the rule of order. Jack commands Ralph to leave his camp, and Ralph demands that Jack return Piggy's glasses. Jack attacks Ralph, and they fight. Piggy tries to speak, hoping to remind the group of the importance of rules and rescue, but Roger pushes a huge rock down the mountainside at him. The rock shatters the conch and kills Piggy. Ralph escapes into the jungle, and Roger and Jack force Sam and Eric to join their tribe.





















CHAPTER 12

Ralph runs away and hides in the jungle. He thinks of the killing of Simon and Piggy and considers the state of savagery into which the boys have degenerated. In the jungles, Ralph finds the pig's head, Lord of the Flies. He removes it from the stick and takes the stick to use as a weapon. He decides to return to Jack's camp to try to talk to with him again. He finds Samneric at the entrance watching. They give him food but refuse to join him. They also tell him about the search for him planned for tomorrow. He leaves them to hide in a thicket.

In the morning, Samneric tell the tribe about Ralph's place of hiding. The tribe set the place in fire to force him to get out. Ralph runs and the boys run after him. The fire spreads to a large area of the island. When he reaches the beach, he finds himself in front of a naval officer, whose ship was attracted by the smoke of the huge fire. Ralph weeps, and when the boys arrive, they all weep. The officer tells them that they will be taken to the ship.



















OVERALL SUMMARY

I. Starting a civilization: (Chapters 1-2)

Chapter 1:

Ralph meets Piggy on the shores of the island.

Their plane has crashed into the sea.

Piggy finds a conch shell.

Ralph uses the conch as a trumpet to summon any survivors on the island.

Other boys gather.

Chapter 2:

Ralph is elected leader.

Ralph proposes the conch rule

Piggy appears as the voice of reason.

Jack challenges Ralph.

When Ralph suggests that they make a signal fire, everybody runs to the mountain in a disorderly manner.

Piggy's glasses are used to make fire.

One of littuns is missing

II. The Disintegration of Civilization (Chapters 3-11)

Chapter 3:

Ralph and Jack argue

Ralph is angry over how slowly the huts are built.

Simon wanders through the jungle admiring the beauty of nature.

Chapter 4:

The biguns, especially Roger, are is violent with the littuns.

Jack tells the hunters to paint their faces

All the boys join in hunting, including Sam and Eric, who were supposed to maintain the signal fire.

Ralph spots a ship, but because the fire has gone out the ship does not notice the boys.

Chapter 5:

Ralph calls a meeting and scolds everyone for letting the fire go out.

Ralph tries unsuccessfully to dispel fears of the beast.

Ralph and Jack argue

Jack refuses to follow the rules.

Chapter 6:

An aerial battle goes on during the night above the island.

A parachutist is killed and falls over a tree.

Sam and Eric see the parachutist and go to tell everybody they have seen the beast.

Chapter 7:

Jack leads another pig hunt and Ralph shares in it.

The boys kill a pig

The boys become more savage and dance a hunting dance in which they hurt the boy acting as the pig.

Chapter 8:

Jack tells the boys that there is definitely a beast.

The boys split. Jack leaves with a group of his followers.

Ralph and piggy tend the fire.

Jack and his group raid Ralph and his small group.

The hunters kill another pig and leave its head on a sharpened stake in the jungle as an offering to the beast.

Simon finds the pig's head covered with flies. He hallucinates, thinking that the head is talking to him, telling him that he is "Lord of the Flies." Simon loses consciousness.

Chapter 9.

Simon finds the parachutist and runs to tell the boys that there is no beast.

Jack's tribe are having a wild dance.

When Simon arrives, the boys think he is the beast and kill him.

Chapter 10.

Ralph, Piggy, and the littuns discuss the killing of Simon.

Jack's tribe raid them again and steal Piggy's glasses.

Chapter 11.

Ralph and Piggy go to Jack's tribe to try to take the glasses back.

Ralph and Jack argue and fight.

Piggy speaks, hoping to remind the group of the importance of rules and rescue. Roger pushes a huge rock down the mountainside at him. The rock shatters the conch and kills Piggy.

Ralph escapes into the jungle, and Roger and Jack force Sam and Eric to join their tribe.

III. The Rescue (Chapter 12)

Chapter 12.

Ralph runs from the boys into the jungle.

The boys follow him and set the place in fire to force him to get out.

Ralph meets a naval officer, whose ship has spotted the fire.

The officer tells him that all the boys will be taken to the ship.

THEMES

Civilization vs. Savagery

The central concern of *Lord of the Flies* is the conflict between two competing impulses that exist within all human beings: the instinct to live by rules, act peacefully, follow moral commands, and value the good of the group against the instinct to gratify one's immediate desires, act violently to obtain supremacy over others, and enforce one's will. This conflict might be expressed in a number of ways: civilization vs. savagery, order vs. chaos, reason vs. impulse, law vs. anarchy, or the broader heading of good vs. evil. Throughout the novel, Golding associates the instinct of civilization with good and the instinct of savagery with evil.

CHARACTERS

Ralph

Ralph is protagonist of *Lord of the Flies*. He was elected leader of the boys at the beginning of the novel. Ralph is the primary representative of order, civilization. While most of the other boys initially are concerned with playing, having fun, and avoiding work, Ralph sets about building huts and thinking of ways to maximize their chances of being rescued. However, as the group gradually declines into savagery, Ralph's position declines while Jack's rises. Eventually, most of the boys except Piggy leave Ralph's group to join Jack's, and Ralph is left alone. Ralph's commitment to civilization and morality is strong, and his main wish is to be rescued and returned to the society of adults. Although he is rescued and returned to civilization, when he sees the naval officer, he weeps with the burden of his new knowledge about the human capacity for evil.

Jack

Jack is the major representative of the instinct of savagery, violence, and the desire for power. He is the antithesis of Ralph. From the beginning of the novel, Jack desires power above all other things. He is upset when he loses the election to Ralph and continually confronts Ralph's authority. At the beginning, he is an ordinary civilized boy. In school, he was the leader of the choirboys, and when he sees a pig, he is unable to kill it. But Jack soon becomes obsessed with hunting and devotes himself to it, painting his face like a barbarian and giving himself over to bloodlust. The more savage Jack becomes, the more he is able to control the rest of the group. Indeed, apart from Ralph, Simon, and Piggy, the group largely follows Jack in casting off moral restraint and embracing violence and savagery.

Piggy

Piggy is the intelligent boy who represents the voice of reason in the novel. His fatness, and hence his nickname, makes him the joke of other boys, which is a constant source of psychological pain for him. He also suffers from bad eyesight. He is Ralph's advisor, who keeps providing him with sound advice. He suggests using the conch as trumpet to summon the boys for meetings. He is also the defender of law and discipline. Even in the moments before his tragic death, he is still asking the boys to think about laws and discipline instead of fighting.

Simon

Simon is entirely different from all the other boys. Simon embodies a kind of spiritual human goodness that is the opposite of Jack's evil. He is deeply connected with nature. The other boys abandon moral behavior as soon as civilization is no longer there to impose it upon them. They are not *naturally* moral; rather, the adult world—the threat of punishment for misdeeds—has conditioned them to act morally. To an extent, even the seemingly civilized Ralph and Piggy are products of social conditioning, as we see when they participate in the hunt-dance. In Golding's view, the human impulse toward civilization is not as deeply rooted as the human impulse toward savagery. Unlike all the other boys on the island, Simon acts morally not out of guilt or shame but because he believes in the value of morality. He behaves kindly toward the younger children, and he is the first to realize the problem posed by the beast and the Lord of the Flies—that is, that the monster on the island is not a real, physical beast but rather a savagery that is within each human being. The pig's head on the stake symbolizes this idea, as we see in Simon's vision of the head speaking to him. This idea of the natural evil within each human being stands as the moral conclusion and central problem of the novel. Against this idea of evil, Simon represents a contrary idea of essential human goodness. However, his brutal murder at the hands of the other boys indicates the scarcity of that good amid an overwhelming abundance of evil.

The characters

Ralph = **civilization**

Piggy = **Reason**

Jack = **Savagery**

Simon = **Goodness**

SYMBOLS

The conch is used to call the boys to order. The rule of the conch says that no boy may speak unless he is holding the conch and once he is holding it, he cannot be interrupted. Thus the conch represents society's rules. When Roger throws the stone at Piggy, "the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist." The breaking of conch represents the end of the rule of order and rules.

The Fire has a dual meaning. At the beginning the signal fire is needed for rescue. But the first time it is lit, it stretches to and a boy is missing. Thus, it becomes a symbol of both rescue and destruction. The fire is used by Jack in the manhunt for Ralph, which paradoxically leads to the discovery of their place and to their rescue. Again it becomes a symbol of both destruction and hope. However, if we think of the world to which the boys are taken after rescue, is it a safe and peaceful world? Unfortunately, the world of adults is not better or safer from the island. The rescue turns out to be nuclear destruction.

Piggy's glasses: Piggy's glasses are a symbol of reason and intelligence. This symbolism is reinforced by Piggy's character, the reasonable one. The glasses are for seeing, which is a symbol of knowledge. The boys use them to start the fire. The breaking of the glasses is a symbol of the end of reason and the triumph of irrationality.

The Beast: The boys are afraid of the beast without seeing it. They feel that it exists somewhere. Simon tells them that probably it just exists in their minds and that it does not have a physical reality. As the boys grow in savagery, they are more certain of the reality of the beast. They try to please him by presenting offerings to him. When the boys see the dead parachutist, they identify him as the beast, but Simon confirms that there is no beast when he knows the reality about the parachutist. The beast has no physical reality, but it is still there because it is the evil that exists in the boys' minds.

Lord of the Flies: This is the pig's head on the stake. It speaks to Simon telling him that he is the beast and that it lies inside every human heart. It is a physical manifestation of the beast and a symbol of evil. It is also Satan, who evokes the beast within each human being. In fact, the name "Lord of the Flies" is a literal translation of the name of the biblical name *Beelzebub*, a powerful demon in hell sometimes thought to be the devil himself.

THE SYMBOLS

The Fire	= hope (of rescue)/destruction
The Conch	= order and rules
The Glasses	= Reason
The Beast	= savagery and evil inside the humans
Lord of the Flies	= the devil

ALLEGORY

An allegory is a work of literature in which events and characters represent other characters or events outside the work. Such work will have two meanings, a surface meaning and a deeper meaning.

Lord of the Flies is an allegory because, at a higher level, beyond the surface meaning of the story, the boys can be seen as humanity as a whole, the island as the world, the fighting between the two groups as war between countries, etc.

