

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

## Lord of the Flies Chapter 1

1. Why does Piggy conclude that no one will know where they are?
2. What summons the boys to the beach?
3. Who tries to assume the authority? What happens?
4. What effort of conciliation 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?
8. What does Jack promise?

9. What was the real reason Jack didn't kill the piglet?
10. The boys discover there are no adults on the island and attempt to model civilization as they know it by electing a chief. How effective do you think this effort will be without adult supervision?
11. Consider the cause of the conflict between Ralph and Jack. What does Ralph's effort to appease Jack tell you about his basic character? Is it likely that Jack will be content to lay second fiddle to Ralph? Why or why not?
12. What does Ralph's revelation about Piggy's name suggest to you about the basic nature of young people? Are they intentionally cruel to each other or just inconsiderate? Explain.
13. Why do you think the boys chose Ralph as their leader?

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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 2**

1. What decision is made about the conch?
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?
5. How does Ralph settle it?
6. What does Jack say about rules and about the boys?
7. What offer does Jack make on behalf of himself and his hunters?



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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 3**

1. What does Ralph complain to Jack about?
2. How does Jack defend the fact that he spends his days hunting instead of helping the others?
3. What does Jack admit to Ralph and Simon?
4. When Jack yells, "Got it," what does Ralph think might have caused Jack's excitement? What was the source of Jack's excitement?
5. What does Ralph say about people in general? What did he want to explain?
6. What do Ralph and Jack feel as they look at each other in the pool?
7. What effect does their time in the bathing pool have on Ralph and Jack?

8. Does Jack's desire to kill a pig fit into either of the group's two main priorities established by Ralph?
9. Is Jack concerned with the group's welfare? Explain.
10. Ralph wanted to express to Jack that people are never quite what one thinks they are. Do you agree with Ralph or not? Support your position with an example from your own experience.
11. Simon finds a secluded place in the high jungle where he can be alone. Why do you think he does this? What do you think this indicates about Simon?

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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 4**

1. Why does Maurice feel guilty when he kicks sand into Percival's eyes?
2. When Roger throws rocks 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. Both Maurice and Roger torment the littluns, but they still feel guilty and are still conditioned by the civilization they knew before. How much time do you think has passed since the boys arrived on the island? Do you think a further passage of time will have any effect on their feelings of guilt and their previous conditioning?
  
8. Jack masks himself with clay and charcoal. What effect does this have on his behavior?
  
9. What is the purpose of any mask, either real or imagined?
  
10. Do all of us wear masks, either real or imagined? Explain.
  
11. Watching the hunters dance and chant, Ralph feels envy and resentment. Why do you think he is feeling these emotions?
  
12. What is Ralph envious of?
  
13. What does Ralph resent?



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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 5**

1. What conclusion does Ralph come to about being 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. Why is Ralph considering giving up leadership of the group?
5. How do Piggy and Simon react to this? Why do they react that way?
6. What does Piggy say about Jack's feelings for him and for Ralph?
7. What conclusion does Piggy come to?

8. Why are Ralph's complaints about the group valid?

9. What do you think these faults indicate about the group in general? Explain.

10. Ralph tells the group they should die before they let the fire go out. What does he mean by that comment?

11. Consider Piggy's statement about there being nothing to fear except people and Simon's remark that if there is a beast it may be the boys themselves. Do these two comments have anything in common? Do you think Piggy's and Simon's statements make sense? Explain.

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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 6**

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 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?
5. How does he suggest it could be defended?
6. When Jack and the others roll a rock into the sea, what is Ralph's reaction?
7. After various protests from the boys, what does Ralph insist upon? Why?

8. Ralph wishes for a message from the grownups. The parachutists *could* be such a message. What are some ideas the arrival of this figure might have suggested to the boys?

9. What is ironic about the twins' declaration that it was the beast?

10. 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?

11. Simon comments to Ralph that he doesn't believe in the beast. Recall his earlier inability to imagine the beast that the twins described and his image of a heroic and sick human. Is it likely that anyone else would agree with him? Why or why not? Is Simon's disbelief reasonable?

12. As Ralph tried to talk with the boys, "something flittered 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 "short circuit"?

13. Recall Ralph's pounding his fist against the rock. How would you describe Ralph's state of mind?

14. 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?

15. Why do you think the boys would have need of a fort? What would it defend them from?



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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 7**

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 boar? 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. Describe what the boys see and their reaction to it.

8. Simon tells Ralph he isn't certain, of course, but that he thinks Ralph will get back all right. Do you agree with Simon? Why or why not?

9. Do you think that any or all of the boys will be rescued? Why or why not? Does Ralph think so? Why or why not?

10. When Ralph strikes the boar 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.

11. How would you describe the relationship between Ralph and Jack at this point?

12. What is the source of their conflict?

13. Do you think Jack hates Ralph? Why or why not?



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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 8**

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 sow's head? Why?
5. What does the Lord of the Flies tell Simon he should do?
6. Why does Ralph take his group to the platform?
7. What problem is Ralph having at this meeting?
8. What does the Lord of the Flies say that Simon has known all along?

15. Comment on your reaction to Simon's encounters with the *Lord of the Flies*. Do you think Simon is hallucinating because of the heat?

14. Even though Jack enumerates Ralph's faults, none of the boys is willing to vote for Ralph as chief. What explanation can you offer for this?

13. Why is it significant that Piggy, for the first time, helps to gather firewood only after Jack has broken from the group?

12. Throughout the novel, there has been conflict between Piggy and Jack. What do you think is the cause of this conflict?

11. What will happen to Simon if he tries to interfere?

10. What does the *Lord of the Flies* "tell" Simon they are going to do on the island?

9. What does Simon realize is happening to him?

16. Remember that Simon is only a young boy, about eleven or twelve. Does such a young person usually have the kind of understanding and insight that Simon seems to possess?

17. Do you think the *Lord of the Flies*' assessment of the other boys' feelings about Simon is accurate? Is there any evidence to support this?

18. Do you think the *Lord of the Flies*' warning that the others will "do" Simon if he tries to interfere is realistic? Why or why not?



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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 9**

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 the figure on the mountaintop?
6. What is the effect of the tide washing away Simon's body?

7. Discuss the organization of Jack's tribe and his position in it. Then discuss the kind of organization Ralph tried to establish with the whole group. How would you label each leader and each system? Which would you prefer to be a member of? Explain why?

8. The *Lord of the Flies'* prediction that Simon would be killed by the other boys proves to be accurate. Did you expect this, or were you surprised? Was Simon interfering, something the Lord of the Flies warned against, or was he trying to save them all from the real beast, themselves?

9. What is the significance of the figure on the mountain dropping onto the beach and then washing out to sea? Remember Simon's efforts to cry out his news to the chanting, dancing tribesmen.

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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 10**

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. Piggy suggests that they let the signal fire go out at night and relight it every morning. Why? How does Ralph react?
4. What is Jack feeling as he and the three others trot toward Castle Rock? Why?
5. As Ralph and Piggy discuss the murder of Simon, Ralph admits the truth but Piggy rationalizes the situation. Which response is more typical of human beings in general? Why?
6. What do the two boys' responses indicate about each of them?

7. When Ralph tells Piggy that he is frightened "of us" and wants to go home, he is echoing Simon's earlier statement that perhaps the boys themselves are the beast. Was Simon right?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Does Ralph have reason to be frightened "of us"? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does Jack's denial that they killed the beast reveal about him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What does his plan that they keep "on the right side of the beast" suggest about the way in which people frequently deal with their fears and superstitions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Do you think Jack truly believes there is a beast? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Does Jack's continuing to promote the existence of the beast to the others give him any advantage over them? Why or why not?





8. What happens to Piggy?
  
9. When Ralph insists on accompanying Piggy to see Jack, he is afraid that Piggy will get hurt. Did you share the same fear? Why? Did Ralph think Piggy would be killed? Did you?
  
10. Both Piggy and Ralph made the mistake of believing they could reason with Jack about Piggy's glasses and the need for a signal fire. Why was their thinking completely erroneous? What had Jack clearly already become?
  
11. What do Roger's releasing of the huge rock and his stong-arm tactics with Sam and Eric indicate about the type of regime Jack has? How would you classify Jack and his tribe at this point?
  
12. 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?

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**Lord of the Flies**  
**Chapter 12**

1. What realization does Ralph come to about the savages and Jack? Why?
2. Describe the scene in which Ralph comes upon the pig's skull on the stake. Explain what he does, and 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 question 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 sob uncontrollably, what is he weeping for?
9. If you had been Sam and Eric, and Ralph had appealed to you for help, what would you have done? Before you answer, consider their position and their remark to Ralph that both Jack and Roger were terrors.
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10. Do you blame them for not helping Ralph, or do you understand why they felt they couldn't? Explain.
11. What is your reaction to the fact that the officer from the naval cutter saw the smoke on the island and came to the rescue?
12. Why do you think Golding describes the savages as "little boys on the beach" and Jack particular as a "little boy"? What point do you think he is trying to convey to the reader with this shift in wording?

13. Consider Piggy's comment about the atom bomb having been dropped, the dead parachutist, and the arrival of the naval cruiser. Why is the cruiser in the area?

14. What will it continue to do once the boys have been transported back home?

15. What parallel is there between what has been going on in the adult world and what has occurred on the island? Explain.