

Name _____

Class _____ Date _____

ACTIVITY SHEET 1 — Prereading Exercises

Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. Suppose you were marooned on a tropical island.
 - What foods would you most hope to find there?
 - What four or five items would you like to have with you?
 - Which friends?
 - What would you most enjoy about being on the island?
 - What would you miss most?
2. Suppose you and your classmates were marooned on an island.
 - How would you organize yourselves, if at all?
 - How would you choose your leaders, if any?
 - What rules would you establish, if any?
 - What would you do about people who broke the rules?
3. What differences do you think there might be among these kinds of groups living together in a society of their own?
 - A group of all boys
 - A group of all girls
 - A mixed group of boys and girls
4. Do you think it's possible for people to live together peacefully?
 - Why or why not?
5. If you are nearsighted or otherwise visually impaired, how well could you get along without your glasses or contact lenses?
 - What kinds of things would you have trouble doing? Explain this to a friend with good or perfect vision.
6. If you have good or perfect vision, watch a movie, filmstrip, or slides and adjust the focus so the screen image is terribly blurry — so blurry that you see only indistinct shapes. (A nearsighted friend could adjust the focus to show you how things look to her or him without glasses or contact lenses.) How do you think you'd get along if you saw the whole world this way?
7. Think of instances of teasing you've witnessed or of which you have been a part or a victim.
 - When and why do children tease each other?
 - How does the victim feel?
 - How can someone who's teased stop the teasing?

LORD OF THE FLIES

List of Characters

Ralph

Ralph is one of the older boys on the island and remains the leader through most of the action. Focus remains fairly steadily on Ralph as we follow his psychological and actual physical struggle to establish some kind of rational order on the island.

Jack

Jack is Ralph's most powerful antagonist who develops from the leader of the choirboys in the first chapter to chief of the savage hunters by the last. He is largely responsible for the heinous crimes perpetrated by some of the boys on their fellows.

Piggy

Piggy is the intellectual in the group. He is physically weak and is given to complaining a good deal, but often perceives where the others cannot, the inherent benefits or dangers in a situation. Because of his appearance and manner, however, he is usually ignored. As the novel develops he becomes close friends with Ralph as the two are exiled by the savages. Piggy is finally killed by a large boulder released by Roger.

Simon

Simon is a unique character in the novel. He remains largely uninvolved with any of the power struggles between Ralph and Jack. He merely does his work and remains a friend to the weaker "littluns". It is Simon, however, who has a saint-like vision of the world, and who comes to understand the truth about the Lord of the Flies and the beast on the mountain. When he tries to pass this knowledge on, he is mistaken for the beast himself and killed.

Roger

Roger is a kind of alter ego to Jack. He is constantly by his chief's side, and all he needs is the slightest excuse for him to doff all vestiges of civilized behavior and exert his sadistic will on weaker beings. He bullies the littluns and later kills Piggy.

Samneric (Sam and Eric)

The twins remain close to Ralph until the very end of the novel. As long as they follow Ralph instead of Jack we have some hope that all reason is not lost. But eventually they are forced into submission and they reveal Ralph's hiding place to the hunters.

The Littluns

"Littluns" is the generic name for the youngest boys on the island, none of whom really have distinct personalities of their own. Because they are largely helpless we can judge the major characters by their efforts or lack thereof to help the littluns along.

Chapters 1 & 2: The Sound of the Shell & Fire on the Mountain

1. How did the boys happen to come to the island?
2. What do the boys have that is the symbol of authority in the society they form?
3. What is the community like so far?
4. What factors contribute to Ralph's election?
5. What does the incident with the piglet who escaped convey to you?
6. Who are the hunters? What is their job?
7. What does a little 'un think he has seen in the forest?
8. How and why do the boys make fire?
9. Why does the boys' plan for rescue fail?
10. Describe Ralph's relationship with Piggy? With Jack?

Chapters 3 & 4: Huts on the Beach & Painted Faces and Long Hair

1. Although Ralph criticizes the boys for their lack of cooperation, does he bear some of the responsibility for the failures of the group to achieve its goals? Why or why not?
2. How has Jack's personality changed/developed during his stay on the island?
3. What do you think of Simon? What is he doing at the end of chapter 3?
4. What causes the hunters, who had promised to keep the fire burning, to neglect it and allow it to go out?
5. Why does Jack paint his face?
6. What signs are there of order and organization?
7. What signs are there of disorder and failure?
8. How have the groups' goals changed?
9. How do you feel about the boys' reaction to killing a pig?
10. From the narrator's description (page 77) do you think Ralph's or Jack's world is more appealing to the other boys? Explain.

Chapters 5 & 6: Beast from Water & Beast from Air

1. How does the author show us that Ralph is finally beginning to face the realities of their existence?
2. Compare Ralph's treatment of the little 'uns with Jack's.
3. What is Simon saying when he thinks that the "beast" may be inside the boys themselves?
4. What do Sam and Eric tell the boys they have seen? What is it actually?
5. Why do Ralph and Jack decide to go find the beast?
6. Do you think Piggy's insights into Jack's character are valid? Explain.
7. Do you agree that adults stuck in the same situation as the boys would do better? Explain your thinking.
8. What kind of society is Jack endorsing in his challenge to Ralph?
9. What do you think about Jack's response to the rocks?
10. Predict what will happen in chapter 7. What leads you to think as you do?

Chapters 7 & 8: Shadows and Tall Trees & Gift for the Darkness

1. How does Ralph react when a boar comes charging down the path?
2. To what does Ralph's demonstration of his hunting prowess lead?
3. Why is the action of the story increasingly taking place in the near darkness or in the deep night when only the moon and stars give a little light?
4. How does Ralph's waning confidence in himself show in his words and actions?
5. Although he is not able to get the boys to vote Ralph out of office as chief, Jack manages to overthrow Ralph's authority anyway. How?
6. Jack suggests a way to keep the beast happy. What is it?
7. Describe Simon's strange encounter with the Lord of the Flies.
8. Who or what is the Lord of the Flies?
9. Analyze the description of the death of the pig.
10. Compare and contrast Ralph's regime with Jack's.

Chapters 9-11: A View to a Death, The Shell and the Glasses, & Castle Rock

1. What does Simon find when he finally reaches the Beast?
2. What happens to Simon when he returns to the group?
3. What does Jack plan to steal from Ralph and Piggy?
4. What will Jack do if someone interferes with him?
5. What happens to the conch and Piggy?
6. What are Jack's plans for Ralph?
7. What course of action does Ralph take?
8. Simon's death could be considered symbolic. Looked at this way, what might the death of Simon symbolize?
9. What do you think is the connection between paint and savagery?
10. What has changed in the way Roger acts? Why didn't he show this side of himself before?

Chapter 12: Cry of the Hunters

1. Driven by fear and hunger, Ralph manages to make contact with Samneric who are standing guard at Castle Rock. Of what do they warn him?
2. In what ways does the tribe try to hunt down Ralph?
3. What or who saves Ralph in the end?
4. Why do you think Jack decided not to challenge Ralph when the officer asked who was the boss of the boys on the island?
5. Who was your favorite character? Explain your choice.
6. What image from chapter 12 struck you most deeply?
7. What do you think Jack, Ralph, and Roger will be like when they grow up?
8. How did you expect the chase to end? How did you expect the book to end? What did you think of the actual ending?
9. How would you explain the theme of this novel to someone who's not familiar with it?

Senior Literature

Simon: A Christ Figure

1. Simon is the only truly good character
2. He is different and likes to be alone
3. Simon is a Hebrew name (Simon Peter- Petros for rock).
4. He gives Ralph faith while standing on a rock.
5. He is not afraid, as he knows the beast is unreal.
6. Simon feeds the children. He gathers fruit for the Littluns and gives his meat to Piggy.
7. He senses his own fate, and tells Ralph "you will get back."
8. Simon is tempted to join and be like the others.
9. He realizes sin exists in the human soul.
10. Simon tries to tell the boys the truth about good and evil.
11. Simon is killed because people fear something they do not understand.
12. Simon ascends into Heaven.

SIMON

Simon gives Ralph faith while on the rock.

Simon shares the food.

Simon "feeds" children courage

Simon builds shelter

Simon says beast is within humans; Simon
Tries to tell the truth about good and evil.

Simon is concerned about Jack

Simon is killed because people fear
Something they do not understand.

Simon "was looking into a vast mouth.
There was blackness within, a blackness
That spread."

Simon ascends into Heaven: "a streak
Of phosphorescence"; "coat of pearls";
"layer of silver"; "water rose farther and
dressed Simon's coarse hair with brightness

JESUS CHRIST

Matthew: 17:18 "Thou art Peter and upon this
rock..."

Mark 8:14-21 "When I brake the bread..."

Matthew 15:32-39 Jesus "gave to his disciples"

Mark 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter?"

Mark 7:21 "out of the heart of men, proceed evil
Thought, adulteries, fornications,
murders...wickedness"

Matthew 7:12 "Beware of false prophets."

Matthew 17:1-33 "people took counsel against
Jesus and put him to death"

Matthew 27:45 "there was a darkness over all
the land"

Luke 24:50-51 "he was parted from them, and
carried up to heaven"

Mark 16:19 "he was received up into heaven"