

Lord of the Flies - Chapter Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1

1. How did the boys end up on the jungle island?
2. Describe Ralph's physical features and also his reaction to being on the island. List at least three attributes.
3. Describe Piggy's physical features and also his reaction to being on the island. List at least three attributes.
4. How does Ralph respond to Piggy's practical suggestions to have a meeting?
5. How does Ralph think they will be rescued?
6. What had Piggy overheard the pilot saying?
7. How does Ralph attract the other boys on the island? What does he do?
8. How do the younger boys act when they get there?
9. Describe the way Jack and his band of choirboys looked as they came toward the assembled group. List at least three attributes.
10. How does Jack treat the others?
11. What conflict soon arises? How is it solved?
12. What does Ralph do to make Jack feel better? What is compromised?
13. What is the purpose of the expedition of Jack, Ralph, and Simon?
14. How does Simon describe the unusual buds on the bushes?
15. Why hadn't Jack been able to kill the pig?

Chapter 2

1. What rule concerning the conch is made?
2. What does Piggy attempt to call the group's attention to?
3. How does the talk of the "beasties" affect the boys?
4. At this time, Ralph says the boys appear to have two goals. What are they?
5. How does the group react to Ralph's suggestion that they build a fire? How does Piggy describe their actions?
6. How does Piggy treat a small boy? What does that tell us about Piggy?
7. How do they manage to start the fire?
8. What responsibilities has Jack taken on for the choir?
9. What goes wrong? Do you see any symbolism here? What is going on in the adult world at the time?
10. Who is missing?

Chapter 3 (continued on next page)

1. What is Jack preoccupied with?
2. What complaints does Ralph have? What has he noticed about people?
3. How are the littluns?

4. Explain the love-hate relationship between Jack and Ralph.
5. Where had Simon gone and what does he do there?
6. What might Simon represent?

Chapter 4

1. What strange things happen at mid-day?
2. How did the littluns spend their day?
3. In what ways does Roger seem cruel?
4. What is Henry doing while Roger watches him?
5. What does it mean when Roger felt the "taboo of the old life"? Also, what does it mean when Jack approached Roger "a darker shadow crept beneath...; [Roger's] skin"? What effect is Jack having on Roger?
6. Describe the transformation that takes place after Jack paints his face. The mask serves a few purposes. List them.
7. What does Ralph discover that upsets him greatly?
8. What do the hunters chant?
9. How does Jack's attack on Piggy and the breaking of one of the lenses in his spectacles symbolize the degeneration of the group?
10. Who finds Piggy's glasses for him?

Chapter 5

1. What is Ralph realizing is necessary in order to be a leader?
2. What rules have been ignored? List at least three.
3. What does it mean when Ralph refers to the littluns as "taken short"? What does that mean? What does this show about their behavior?
4. What rules does Ralph make regarding fires?
5. A littlun says he sees something moving in the jungle at night. Who/what is it?
6. How does Jack explain the beast away?
7. Why are rules important to Ralph? The answer is something Ralph says.
8. What does Simon mean when he says, "What I mean is ... maybe it's only us..."? What do you think "mankind's essential illness" is?
9. Why doesn't Ralph blow the conch when the meeting dissolves into chaos?
10. At the end of the chapter what does Ralph wish for?

Chapter 6 (continued on next page)

1. Ironically, what Ralph wished for at the end of chapter five does come true. What happens? Why is the answer to his wish depressingly ironic?
2. What do Samneric (Sam and Eric) claim they have seen on the mountain top? How do they describe it?
3. What does Jack say about the conch?
4. How has the significance of the conch changed?

5. When Simon thought of the beast, what picture came to his mind?
6. Why won't Simon try anymore to talk in front of the others?
7. As the boys are searching the island, who leads the group when they get to the ledge?
8. What strange thing does Ralph notice as the boys are playing around the rolling rocks?
9. What discovery do they make at the ledge that excites Jack?

Chapter 7

1. What has Ralph come to accept as normal?
2. What does Ralph daydream about as he notices this?
3. Why are Ralph's fingernails bitten? What is Ralph insinuating when he says "be sucking my thumb next?"
4. How do the two different sides of the island affect his hopes for rescue?
5. What prediction does Simon make to Ralph?
6. Notice the complete reversal of mood as Ralph hunts. What happens to Ralph as he participates in his first hunt?
7. Describe what you would show if you were filming the scene where the boys reenact the hunt. How do you think Robert feels during this ritual?
8. Why does Simon go off alone?
9. What do Ralph, Roger, and Jack find at the top of the hill? Do they realize what it is? Do you think the story would be better if the reader didn't know what it is?

Chapter 8

1. Explain the exchange of power at the beginning of chapter eight.
2. Where does Jack go to live on the island?
3. What does Simon suggest?
4. How does Piggy change?
5. How does Roger show he has become the most sadistic/evil boy on the island? Think of the sow.
6. Why do the boys plan on raiding Ralph's camp?
7. What happens when Simon goes back into the woods?
8. What do you think he actually sees and talks to?
9. Who does Simon think tells him, "Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill! I'm part of you."?

Chapter 9

1. Why was Simon having a hard time walking?
2. What did Simon do at the top of the hill?
3. Why did Piggy and Ralph go to Castle Rock?
4. Describe how the "hunters" treat Jack and how he treats them.
5. What was Simon trying to tell the boys when he returned?
6. What did the boys do to Simon? Why? What happened to his body on the beach?

Chapter 10

1. Ralph sums up who the fearful beast is. "I'm frightened. Of us. I want to go home. Oh God, I want to go home." Why is Ralph afraid?
2. Why do you think Piggy, Ralph, and Samneric deny being at the "dance"?
3. What does Jack say was disguised as Simon that the boys killed?
4. Why does Jack deny the beast is dead?
5. What does Jack set up a lever for?
6. Why do Ralph, Piggy, Samneric let the fire go out? What does this mean?
7. Why does Jack steal Piggy's spectacles?

Chapter 11

1. Why does Ralph think "dressing like they were" would assist them in dealing with Jack?
2. How does the contrast of the paint and smoke symbolize the two forces that are motivating the boys?
3. How does Golding subtly begin to portray Jack's group as heathen/evil?
4. Why were the boys so scared of the war paint?
5. Why didn't Ralph want to tie his hair back initially?
6. Describe what happened when Ralph and Jack confront each other about Piggy's glasses.
7. What happened to Piggy and the conch? Who sent the boulder down the hill?
8. What happens to Samneric?
9. What happens to Ralph?

Chapter 12

1. What does it mean when Ralph says of Bill, "whose image refused to blend with that ancient picture of a boy in shorts and shirt? Explain why the author Golding writes this.
2. Why is it ironic at this point in the story that the boys were being evacuated from their homes in the first place before the story began?
3. What information does Ralph get from Samneric?
4. What does it mean when Roger "sharpened a stick at both ends"?
5. Explain Ralph's actions when he faces the Lord of the Flies.
6. How does Ralph avoid being killed? What are his strategies?
7. What are his opposition's (Jack's) strategies for getting him out of the thicket?
8. Who arrives at the end of the novel?
9. Give one quote from the ending – something that will stick with you as being memorable. Give a page reference and explain why you chose that quote.