

LOTF Study Questions – Chapter 1

1. We meet two of the main characters right at the beginning of this chapter. Describe Ralph and Piggy briefly.

Ralph - handsome, lean, athletic

Piggy - fat, asthmatic, wears glasses

2. Did they know each other before they met on the jungle island?

They didn't know each other before, and Ralph is rather unresponsive to Piggy's friendly overtures.

3. How did they get there?

The plane that was evacuating them from the war in England was attacked. The plane crashed, but not before ejecting the "passenger tube" containing the boys.

4. What is Piggy concerned with doing? What does Ralph want to do?

Piggy is concerned with locating and organizing any other survivors. Ralph wants to explore the island.

5. What do the two boys discover?

The two boys discover a large conch shell, which is then used as a trumpet to summon the others.

6. Several other survivors appear. What does Piggy make it his business to do?

Piggy wants to learn everyone's names.

7. Who is the leader of the boys' choir, and what is he like?

Jack Merridew is the leader. He is aggressive, stern and asserts his authority.

8. What is ironical about this boys' choir, later on in the story?

They descend from strict military control to no control at all.

9. Why is Ralph chosen as leader?

Ralph is chosen simply because he called the meeting.

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10. Who is disappointed at not being chosen? How does he get rid of his disappointment?

Jack wanted to be the leader. He is somewhat mollified with the decision to make him and his choir hunters.

11. Who sets out to explore the island?

Ralph, Jack, Simon and a choir member.

12. Why can't Jack stab the young pig with his knife? How does he cover up his embarrassment?

Jack can't kill because he is afraid to - he covers up by saying the pig got away too quickly.

13. Why is the remote jungle setting useful to the author's purpose?

The remote jungle setting is far away from civilized society and its complexities. The boys are on their own, to survive and create their own society without the help - or interference - of adults.

14. Why do you suppose he chose children as the main characters, rather than adults?

Children are supposedly innocent and unsophisticated. They make no attempt to hide their true selves.

15. Throughout the novel, Golding uses certain people or things symbolically. What do the followings things or persons symbolize:

(a) the conch shell - ***authority***

(b) the mountain - ***dignity of man as he aspires to spiritual freedom***

(c) the island with a scar across it - ***cities (countries) scarred by atomic warfare***

(d) the rock - ***brute force***

(e) Simon - ***a mystic***

Piggy - *an intellectual*

Ralph - *a political hope*

Jack - *the wielder of physical power*

LOTF Study Questions – Chapter 2

1. What do the boys discover about the island?

The boys discover that the island is deserted, but full of plenty of fruit and food. If they can remain calm, they will eventually be rescued.

2. Jack reassures the boys that he will provide what?

meat

3. Ralph realizes that rules are necessary for order. What does Jack think about rules?

Jack likes rules and regulations for punishing others.

4. Just one rule is made at this time. What is it?

The one rule that is made is that only the person holding the conch is allowed to speak at meetings. All others must be quiet until they are recognized.

5. What does Piggy lecture the boys on? Do they pay attention to him? Explain.

Piggy lecture the boys on not being concerned enough about their problems or about being rescued. The boys don't listen because they have more fun mocking him.

6. One of the "littl'uns" talks about a "beast". How is this news received?

Consensus is that the little boy had a nightmare, but his words cast doubt and fear among the boys.

7. Ralph mentions that two things must be done. What are they?

Ralph says that they must build and maintain a signal fire on the mountain, if they ever want to be rescued.

8. Why do all the boys rush for the hilltop?

They run off to build the fire - they are inspired, but unorganized.

9. Who discovers how to make a fire? How is his character further revealed here?

Jack discovers how to make a fire using Piggy's glasses. His brutish character is revealed when he snatches the glasses from Piggy's face.

10. What happens after the fire starts?

The boys were not careful enough and the fire spreads out of control. A litt'un is lost.

11. Ralph and Jack form two branches of government. What are they and what is already evident in this system of government?

Ralph forms the legislation branch. He rules for the better conduct of the community's business. Jack forms the judicial or military branch. He will happily beat-up anyone who disobeys the rules. Competition has already begun between the legislative and military branches.

12. In what way does Ralph betray his ignorance?

Ralph says the Queen has a room containing all the maps of all the islands in the world. "So the Queen's got a picture of the island." He doesn't know that there are thousands of unmapped islands in the world, and that the Queen is merely a figurehead for government, and doesn't partake in the actual running of it.

13. Again, we have further use of symbolism. What do the following represent?

(a) the platform - *"higher level" - parliament*

(b) intrusion of the snake - *evil intruding in paradise*

(c) the fire - *best of man, faith in society - to hell, when out of control*

d) Piggy's glasses - *intellectualism - he's useful to the boys, but not respected*

e) "creepers" - *reinforce evil, a running image of the snakes*

LOTF Study Questions – Chapter 3

1. What does Ralph complain to Jack about?

Most of the boys are unwilling to help in any important project - building huts, keeping the signal fire burning

2. What does he hint about Jack's behaviour? How does Jack defend himself?

Ralph hints that Jack and the hunters should help build the huts, instead of merely roaming the jungle. Jack insists that hunting is necessary.

3. There are already signs of disagreement between the two boys. Why is this a good example of foreshadowing?

This shows where the major conflict will be later on.

4. We learn a bit more about Simon. What is it that is learned?

Simon finds fulfillment, peace, and happiness in natural cell in the jungle.

5. How does the unity of the island society continue to weaken?

- the different purposes of Ralph (huts, order) and Jack (hunting)

- fear

6. What does the building of the huts symbolize? What does the collapsing of the hut symbolize?

Building the huts symbolizes the building of civilization, while their collapse symbolizes just the opposite

- the collapse of civilization.

7. At this point in the book, determine the mental point of view of storytelling that Golding uses.

Golding is an omniscient narrator. He is able to relate the thoughts and feelings of all of the characters

LOTF Study Questions – Chapter 4

1. How do the boys spend a typical day?

They get up early in the morning to work and play, but by afternoon are seeking shade and sleep.

2. How do the smallest boys, known as the littl'uns, spend their time?

The littl'uns eat a lot of fruit, and, as a consequence, suffer from diarrhea. They play together in groups in the sand.

3. Why did Roger purposely aim to miss when he threw stones at the littl'uns and their sand castle?

The old taboos of civilized life still dominate him.

4. What does the smashing of the sand castle represent or symbolize?

The smashing of the sand castle is symbolic of the violence that can overcome the island.

5. Jack, Roger, and the other hunters paint their faces with coloured clay. What does the mask do for them?

The masks excite and please the boys, but also removes their inhibitions, as most people tend to feel somewhat anonymous behind a mask.

6. Why did the boys miss rescue when there was a ship nearby?

Jack and his hunters had allowed the fire to die out in favour of hunting.

7. Why don't Jack and his hunters care about the signal fire and their failure in their responsibilities? How do they react toward the killing of the pig?

Jack and his hunters don't care about the missed rescue because they have killed a pig. They are all aglow with their success and hold a huge celebration.

8. Who scolds them and what does Jack do to him?

Piggy criticizes Jack, who then slaps Piggy so hard that one of the lens in his glasses is broken.

9. How does Jack apologize?

Jack apologizes for letting the fire go out, but not for striking Piggy and breaking his glasses.

10. Which two boys seem to have any real understanding of the seriousness of their position on the island, and the need for organization and self-discipline in order to survive?

Ralph and Piggy - they appear to be the only ones with any maturity to realize what is needed for their survival and rescue.

11. Who shares his meat with Piggy when Jack refuses to give him some?

Simon - he feels sorry for Piggy.

12. The leadership of the boys is gradually changing. How?

The boys are slowly starting to follow the savage Jack instead of the more civilized Ralph.

13. What does the pig dance symbolize?

The dance is a symbol of the new and savage way of life replacing the old and organized society of Ralph.

14. In what way are the chants and ceremonial ring like the mask worn by the boys?

These protect them from self-consciousness and help them to lose their identities. The details of the rituals allow the boys to forget themselves and to become killers