LOTF: Introductory Activities

**Chapter 1**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Motif** – A repeated design or central theme. “Here the beach was interrupted abruptly by the square motif of the landscape;”(6)
   2. **Specious** – To have a deceptive attraction, false appearance. “Ralph had been deceived before now by the specious appearance of depth in a beach pool and he approached this one preparing to be disappointed”(7)
   3. **Pliant**- to be easily influenced or easily changed. “Here the roots and stems of creepers were in such tangles that the boys had to thread through them like pliant needles” (23)
   4. **Strident** – A hard or loud sound. “The note boomed again: and then at his firmer pressure, the note, fluking up an octave, became a strident blare more penetrating than before.”(13)
2. **Chapter Title Analysis**
   1. The title of Chapter 1 “The Sound of the Shell” of Golding’s Lord of the Flies is named such because in the chapter Ralph summons the boys together by blowing into the conch. The conch is described as being “a strident blare”(13) and is shown to be a symbol of power. The boys only may talk when they have the shell, the conch creates a loud strident noise however it also silences people to allow speech, it is a powerful object that can influence the boys. The conch may become a central theme to the novel, with its clear power and influence over the boy’s new society.
3. **Setting**
   1. ‘the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat”(1). This quote tells us that the boys are in a somewhat tropical area due to there being a hot jungle.
   2. “The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way towards the lagoon.”(1). This quote tells us that the boys are surrounded by a large body of water, because a lagoon is a small body of water surrounded by a larger one. This possibly hints that the story is set on an island in the ocean.
   3. “his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead.”(1). The boys are in a hot climate most likely some sort of tropical island due to the previous two facts.
4. **Atmosphere**
   1. “his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead.”(1). There is a lot of pain on this island and it is not the typical paradise tropical island. This is a painful heat not a good heat.
   2. “’We was attacked!’”(2) The novel starts off with some sort of tragedy where their plane is shot down, they are stranded.
   3. “An expression of pain and inward concentration”(3). They are in pain on this island, this is not a paradise as it is thought to be
5. **Situation**
   1. “his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead.”(1). The boy is clearly in a bad place, it is not a paradise warm climate it is a painful heat. He also did not know he was going to be here because he would have worn more appropriate attire for the climate.
   2. “naked crooks of his knees were plump, caught and scratched by thorns.”(1). These people did not mean to be here and are suffering due to being in this place.
   3. “He couldn’t land here. Not in a plane with wheels.’ ‘We was attacked!’”(2). These people were attacked while flying somewhere and shot down onto this island.

**Chapter 2**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Officious** – Assertive, authority with an unwanted effect. “There was pushing and pulling and officious cries”(40)
   2. **Festoon** – A collection of leaves and flowers hung in a ring formation. “Smoke was rising here and there among the creepers that festooned the dead or dying trees.”(44)
   3. **Ebullience** – to have an immense amount of energy. “Then, with the martyred expression of a parent who has to keep up with the senseless ebullience of the children, he picked up the conch, turned toward the forest, and began to pick his way over the tumbled scar.”(38)
   4. **Evacuation** - The withdrawal of something from an area.“On his right were most of the choir; on his left the larger boys who had not known each other before the evacuation; before him small children squatted in the grass”
2. **Chapter Title Analysis**
   1. The chapter title “Fire on the Mountain” is called such because the central story told in this chapter is that the boys make a fire on the mountain. Piggy warns against building too big of a fire he says “You said you wanted a small fire and you been and built a pile like a hayrick.”(43). The fire is actually symbolic of the boy’s society, a small fire is good, a balance between warmth and safety, a big fire creates chaos and death. Just like the society, the society starts off balanced people can talk with the conch however Jack than says that “’The conch doesn’t count on top of the mountain,’”, Jack is breaking the rules and like the bonfire he is already is becoming out of control.

**Chapter 3**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Unintelligible** – Impossible to understand their speech. “They talked, cried out unintelligibly, lugged him toward the trees”(57)
   2. **Indignant** - An anger caused by the belief that one is being treated unfairly. “They were silent again: Simon intent, Ralph incredulous and faintly indignant.”(54)
   3. **Antagonism** - To oppose or act against. “Now the antagonism was audible.” (52)

**Chapter 4**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Belligerence** – Aggressive behavior. “Johnny was well built, with fair hair and a natural belligerence”(62)
   2. **Chastisement** – To punish or scold. “In his other life Maurice had received chastisement for filling a younger eye with sand”(63)
   3. **Assent** - To express approval or to comply. (UNFOUND QUOTATION)

**Chapter 5**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Tacit** – A nonverbal understanding. “But that time Piggy had coaxed and bullied. Tacitly admitting that he remembered the unmentionable, Ralph nodded to Piggy.”(93)
   2. **Effigy** – A representation of a person most commonly to represent someone disliked. “At first he was a silent effigy of sorrow; but then the lamentation rose out of him, loud and sustained as the conch”(93)
   3. **Lamentably** – To regret or something regrettable. “On the left were four small logs, one of them--the farthest-- lamentably springy.”(82)
   4. **Assent** – to express approval and to agree. “There was a murmur of assent”(85)

**Chapter 6**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Decorous** – to keep good taste, to be polite and restrained. (UNFOUND QUOTATION)
   2. **Diffident** – Shy due to a lack of confidence. “Diffidently, Simon allowed his pace to slacken until he was walking side by side with Ralph and looking up at him through the coarse black hair that now fell to his eyes”(113)
   3. **Incredulous** – An unwilling to believe something. “Simon, walking in front of Ralph, felt a flicker of incredulity--a beast with claws that scratched, that sat on a mountain-top, that left no tracks and yet was not fast enough to catch Samneric.”(112)
   4. **Interminable** – limitless or unending. “An interminable dawn faded the stars out, and at last light, sad and grey, filtered into the shelter”(107-108)

**Chapter 7**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Frenzy** – a temporary madness or bout of insanity. “All at once, Robert was screaming and struggling with the strength of frenzy”(125)
   2. **Vulnerable** – Susceptible or prone to harm. “Ralph too was fighting to get near, to get a handful of that brown, vulnerable flesh. The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering.”(125)
   3. **Impervious** – Unable to be affected by.“So they sat, the rocking, tapping, impervious Roger and Ralph, fuming; round them the close sky was loaded with stars, save where the mountain punched up a hole of blackness.”(133)

**Chapter 8**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Furtive** – Attempting to avoid notice because of guilt. ‘"Maurice and Robert kewered the carcass, lifted the dead weight, and stood ready. In the silence, and standing over the dry blood, they looked suddenly furtive.”(150-151)
   2. **Fervor** – Intense feelings. “If Jack was astonished by their fervor he did not show it”(146)
   3. **Sanctity** –Having the quality of being of high importance and sacredness.”The wood he fetched was close at hand, a fallen tree on the platform that they did not need for the assembly, yet to the others the sanctity of the platform had protected even what was useless there”(142-143)
   4. **Covert** – A shelter or hiding place. ”They surrounded the covert but the sow got away with the sting of another spear in her flank.”(148)

**Chapter 9**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Superficial** – Apparent only on the surface level.”The movement became regular while the chant lost its first superficial excitement and began to beat like a steady pulse”(168)
   2. **Derision** – Ridicule and mockery.“Piggy once more was the center of social derision so that everyone felt cheerful and normal.”(165)
   3. **Corruption** – Decay, decomposition and the altering of facts.”The tangle of lines showed him the mechanics of this parody; he examined the white nasal bones, the teeth, the colors of corruption”(162)

**Chapter 10**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Gesticulate** – To use dramatic gestures to emphasize something.“He was gesticulating, searching for a formula”(173)
   2. **Obscene** – Offensive, disgusting or socially unacceptable.  
      “The air was heavy with unspoken knowledge. Sam twisted and the obscene word shot out of him. "--dance?”
   3. **Composite** – A combination or a thing made up of distinct parts. ”A composite of these things was prowling round the shelters. He could feel Piggy's head against his shoulder and the convulsive grip of a hand.”
   4. **Anonymous** – To be hidden or to have an unknown identity. “Then the shelter collapsed with smothering finality; and the anonymous shapes fought their way out and through”

**Chapter 11**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Ludicrous** – Foolish or unreasonable.”With ludicrous care he embraced the rock, pressing himself to it above the sucking sea.”
   2. **Inscrutable** – Impossible to understand, in this face ”Jack watched him inscrutably through his paint.”
   3. **Talisman** – An object with immense and moral power. “Ralph stood facing them, a little to one side, his spear ready. By him stood Piggy still holding out the talisman, the fragile, shining beauty of the shell.”
   4. **Ineffectual** – To not have an effect and not to do what it’s supposed to do. “He numbered them through his fringe, glimpsed the ineffectual smoke”
   5. **Devastated** – Destroyed or ruined. “They made their way to the devastated fruit trees”

**Chapter 12**

1. **Vocabulary**
   1. **Cordon** – A group or line of people preventing access. “There he would sit, and the search would pass him by, and the cordon waver on, ululating along the island, and he would be free”
   2. **Obscurity** – The state of being unknown or unimportant. “The savage peered into the obscurity beneath the thicket”
   3. **Inimical** – Hostile or unfriendly. ”To carry he must speak louder; and this would rouse those striped and inimical creatures from their feasting by the fire”
   4. **Incantation** – A spell or magic phrase.“Percival Wemys Madison sought in his head for an incantation that had faded clean away”