

## Chapter 4 Painted faces and long hair

- Smoke from a ship is seen on the horizon.
- The fire has gone out.
- Jack nearly stands up to Ralph.
- Piggy's glasses are partly broken by Jack.
- The boys have a feast of roast pig.

The boys play on the beach and we are introduced to some of the other characters, such as Henry, Percival, Roger and Maurice. Jack is experimenting with camouflaging his face so that the pigs cannot see him so easily. However, as we will gradually see, this face painting is also a means of escaping from the constraints of civilised society.

### *Key quotation*

**...the mask was a thing on its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness.**

(p. 66)

### *Text focus*

Read the passage beginning 'Jack was standing under a tree' and ending with 'The mask compelled them'

(pp. 65–67).

What do you think makes Jack want to paint his face and what effect does this have on his behaviour? (Think about connections to ancient societies that also practised this ceremonial behaviour.)



**Jack with a painted face**

Ralph sees smoke on the horizon and realises there is a ship passing by. Ralph races up the mountain and finds that the fire is dead and that the members of the choir who were supposed to be looking after it have left.

Jack appears with the hunters. They are carrying a dead pig slung on a stick.

There is another confrontation between Ralph and Jack but Piggy speaks up and allows Jack to attack him instead of Ralph. One eye of Piggy's glasses is broken.

### *Key quotation*

**...Jack smacked Piggy's head. Piggy's glasses flew off and tinkled on the rocks. Piggy cried out in terror...**

(p. **75**)

Ralph asserts his authority and Jack backs down a little, but it is clear he now has the admiration of many of the boys because he has brought them meat.

The fire is relit and the boys feast on the pig.

## Chapter 5 Beast from water

- Ralph calls an assembly.
- The boys find it hard to listen to sensible ideas.
- The idea of the beast is discussed.
- Jack rebels.

Ralph calls an important assembly to discuss the fire and the way the boys live on the island. At first the boys listen to his points, which are:

- No one is collecting fresh water any longer.
- The shelters have not been built properly because most of the boys got bored and gave up.
- The rocks are no longer being used as a lavatory.
- The fire is the most important thing.
- The only fire is to be on the mountain.
- There is no beast.

### *Grade booster*

Higher-band answers will comment on Percival's fear of the beast from the sea, saying it is really just the fear of the unknown. This fear of the unknown, and the savagery it provokes, is a theme of the novel.

Many of the younger boys are convinced that there is a beast on the island. One of the small boys, Percival, says that the beast comes from the sea. Even Simon says that there may be a beast, which undermines Ralph in front of the others.

### *Key quotation*

**‘The rules...you’re breaking the rules!’**

**‘Who cares?’** (p. 99)

The rule whereby a boy must be holding the conch to speak starts to break down and Jack defies Ralph.

Jack leads the choir away and the assembly dissolves, leaving Ralph looking powerless. Ralph, Piggy and Simon are left wishing there was an adult present to tell them what to do and to reassure them.

### *Grade booster*

The remaining boys long for adult intervention. They make several ironic comments about adults:

**‘They wouldn’t quarrel’**

**‘Or break my specs’**

**‘Or talk about a beast’** (p. 102)

Yet all these are aspects of many adults. Adults argue, commit acts of violence on each other and have strong superstitious beliefs. Such a comment, developed by saying that Golding is making the point that the boys are a reflection of the adult world beyond the island, is typical of higher-level candidates.

### *Key quotation*

**‘We’re all drifting and things are going rotten. At home there was always a grown-up.’**

(p. 101)



## Chapter 6 Beast from air

- A dead airman parachutes on to the island.
- Sam and Eric hear something strange on the mountain.

During the night an airman lands on the island. It is ironic that the three boys get their wish of having an adult on the island, but not in the way that they expected.

Jack wants to hunt this new beast, but Ralph is less sure and admits that he is frightened.

Jack almost gets his way but Ralph asks the boys again, ‘Don’t you all want to be rescued?’ (p. 111) and they listen to him. The older boys set off to search the only part of the island they have not yet explored, with Jack leading the way.

Simon thinks of the beast as human but cannot bring himself to tell Ralph.

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### *Key quotation*

**Simon mumbled confusedly: ‘I don’t believe in the beast.’**

(p. 114)

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Ralph takes charge again. He sets off to climb the path round the rock and finds that Jack has come too.

Jack says that the rock would make a good castle, and that it even has fresh water.

## Chapter 7 Shadows and tall trees

- The boys nearly catch a boar.

- The hunters show they can be savage to other boys.
- There is an expedition up the mountain.
- The dead airman is seen at night, which causes panic.

Ralph notices how dirty he and the other boys have become and wishes he could look like his old self: 'Be sucking my thumb next-' (p. 120).

This reveals that he is still attached to civilisation — in contrast with the hunters, who are becoming wilder and more like primitive savages. Simon tells Ralph that he is sure Ralph will get home safely.

### *Grade booster*

Higher-grade answers will comment on how Simon tells Ralph that he will get home safely. He does not include himself. Perhaps this is because he does not think he will get home safely and he has seen a premonition of Ralph's safe arrival home. This adds to the mystical qualities that surround Simon throughout the novel.

The boys become excited on a hunt and form a circle around Robert. They beat him and jab him with spears, and even Ralph joins in. At one point Jack suggests that they should use a littlun in the game and actually kill him. It is not clear whether he is joking.

The boys are becoming more savage each day.

### *Key quotation*

**'Kill him! Kill him!'**

**All at once, Robert was screaming and struggling with the strength of frenzy.**

**Grade booster**

Comments such as ‘It is important that the expedition to find the beast takes place at night. In daylight what was actually on the mountain might well have been obvious to the older boys. It was Jack’s idea to go up at night and it is Jack who causes much of the trouble that follows’ are typical of exploratory, developed and analytical responses.

Ralph asks Jack why he hates him so much.

Ralph suggests they wait until morning to go up the mountain. Jack says he is going now and challenges Ralph to join him.

Ralph leads Jack and Roger up the mountain and, just as he gets near to the body, the wind pulls the airman upright and Ralph looks straight into the rotting face of the corpse.

## Chapter 8 Gift for the darkness

- The boys are told about the beast on the mountain.
- Jack leaves to set up his own tribe.
- The hunters kill a pig and leave its head on a stick.
- Jack invites the other boys to join him.
- Simon hears the Lord of the Flies.

**Key quotation**

**‘He’s a coward himself.’**

(p. 138)

Jack blows the conch and brings the boys together. He lies to them, saying that Ralph is a coward and that he didn't go up the mountain with them. Jack accuses Ralph of not being a proper chief.

### **Grade booster**

An A\* answer might explore the fact that Jack's question to the boys is a classic mistake. The boys are unlikely to challenge Ralph when he is in front of them. If Jack had simply said 'Who wants a powerful hunter like me as chief?' he might have been more successful.

Jack asks the boys how many of them do not want Ralph as chief. He gets no response. Jack announces that he is no longer going to be part of 'Ralph's lot' and runs away, inviting anyone who wants to hunt to join him.

Piggy suggests that the fire should be lit on the beach as it would give off smoke just the same.

A group of the younger boys has attached itself to Jack and he is still intent on hunting pigs. He now thinks that if they leave some of the pig for the beast then it will not come after them.

### **Pause for thought**

It is a highly significant turn of events when Jack takes his followers off to form a separate tribe. Think about how this mirrors human behaviour at all levels of life. Think of your class in school, or your local community. How far are these groups already divided into 'tribes'?

The hunters find a group of pigs and wound a large sow. They follow her into the



forest and kill her. Jack guts the sow and cuts off the head. He places the head on a stick as a gift for the beast. When Simon finds himself in the clearing he sees the head covered in a mass of flies and thinks of it as the 'Lord of the Flies'.

Back on the beach, Ralph admits to Piggy that he is scared that they will never be rescued. Jack and the hunters arrive, stealing burning sticks and running off. Jack announces that he and his hunters are living along the beach and that they 'hunt and feast and have fun' (p. 154). He invites others to join his 'tribe'.

*Key quotation*

**Demoniac figures with faces of white and red and green rushed out howling...**

(p. 154)

The hunters now have painted faces and are smeared with blood. They are turning into savages in appearance and action, and Golding refers to them as such.

Jack says there is to be a feast and anyone who wants can come. Two of the hunters end his invitation with the words 'The Chief has spoken' (p. 155). The hunters are beginning to treat Jack like a king and there are elements of worship in the way they now behave towards him.

*Key quotation*

**'Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!' said the head... 'You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you?'**

(p. 158)

Ralph insists that fire is the way they will be rescued but begins to sound less convincing. The boys want meat and like the idea of playing at being hunters. There

appears to be an ancient instinct in them that they do not fully understand but which is beginning to take hold of them.

Simon is still watching the pig's head on a stick. He imagines that it tells him that the beast is not something that can be hunted and killed. It says that the beast is part of him.

## Chapter 9 A view to a death

- A storm is gathering over the island.
- Simon finds the dead airman and realises what he is.
- Simon frees the airman's parachute lines.
- Jack holds a feast.
- The boys dance and chant.
- Simon is killed.
- The dead airman is blown out to sea.

Simon discovers that the beast is nothing more than a dead airman and he frees the parachute from the trees so that the body stops moving. It is important that it is Simon who finds out that the beast is simply a dead airman. Simon is seen as strange by the other boys and his rather distant nature marks him out as a victim for Jack and the hunters.

### *Grade booster*

Both the airman and Simon are swept out to sea. To gain a higher mark, you could explore how this is symbolic: the beast has gone, and so has the only boy who really grasped that the beast is not a real creature but is in each of the boys. It also removes all proof of the violence. Piggy's body is also swept out to sea later on.