

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 ENGLISH/HANDOUT 13

Class 15 final-term assessment announcement:

You will be asked to write a three-paragraph essay in response to one of the following questions.

1. Simon says: "Maybe there is a beast."
Ralph says: "But there isn't a beast."
Jack says: "We'll make sure when we go hunting."

How does William Golding use the "beast" in the novel as a whole? You should write about what the "beast" may symbolize.
2. Ralph is changed by his experiences on the island. How does Golding show this?
3. Although the reader's sympathies are usually with Ralph, many of the boys decide to follow Jack. Explain what you think are the differences in what Jack and Ralph stand for and in how they behave in the novel.
4. Explain what goes wrong on the island and why, in order to bring out what you think Golding has to say about how societies operate.
5. Why do you think Golding called his novel *Lord of the Flies*?
6. What do you think Golding has to say about civilization and civilized behaviour in the novel?
7. What do you think Golding has to say about human nature in the novel, and how does he convey these ideas to you?
8. Choose one of the following items and write about its importance in *Lord of the Flies*.
 - conch
 - masks
 - piggy's glasses
 - the fire
 - the parachutist
 - the pig's head
9. Compare and contrast any one aspect of *The Maze Runner* and *Lord of the Flies*.

READING ALOUD/SPIRIT READING

(Suggestion: Underline five important nouns, five important verbs, and five important adjectives. Stand in a circle. Your teacher will read this passage. Whenever she or he reaches each one of your underlined words, simply read the word out loud. Teachers, please project an image of the beast on the screen as everyone participates in the “spirit” reading.)

“You are a silly little boy,” said the Lord of the Flies, “just an ignorant, silly little boy.”

Simon moved his swollen tongue but said nothing.

“Don’t you agree?” said the Lord of the Flies. “Aren’t you just a silly little boy?”

Simon answered him in the same silent voice.

“Well then,” said the Lord of the Flies, “you’d better run off and play with the others. They think you’re batty. You don’t want Ralph to think you’re batty, do you? You like Ralph a lot, don’t you? And Piggy, and Jack?”

Simon’s head was tilted slightly up. His eyes could not break away and the Lord of the Flies hung in space before him.

“What are you doing out here all alone? Aren’t you afraid of me?”

Simon shook.

“There isn’t anyone to help you. Only me. And I’m the Beast.”

Simon’s mouth laboured, brought forth audible words.

“Pig’s head on a stick.”

“Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!” said the head. For a moment or two the forest and all the other dimly appreciated places echoed with the parody of laughter. “You knew, didn’t you? I’m part of you? Close, close, close! I’m the reason why it’s no go? Why things are what they are?”

The laughter shivered again.

“Come now,” said the Lord of the Flies. “Get back to the others and we’ll forget the whole thing.”

Simon’s head wobbled. His eyes were half-closed as though he were imitating the obscene thing on the stick. He knew that one of his times was coming on. The Lord of the Flies was expanding like a balloon.

“This is ridiculous. You know perfectly well you’ll only meet me down there—so don’t try to escape!”

Simon’s body was arched and stiff. The Lord of the Flies spoke in the voice of a schoolmaster.

“This has gone quite far enough. My poor, misguided child, do you think you know better than I do?”

There was a pause.

“I’m warning you. I’m going to get waxy. D’you see? You’re not wanted. Understand? We are going to have fun on this island. Understand? We are going to have fun on this island! So don’t try it on, my poor misguided boy, or else—”

Simon found he was looking into a vast mouth. There was blackness within, a blackness that spread.

“—Or else,” said the Lord of the Flies, “we shall do you. See? Jack and Roger and Maurice and Robert and Bill and Piggy and Ralph. Do you. See?”

Simon was inside the mouth. He fell down and lost consciousness.

Analyze Simon in *Lord of the Flies*

Thoughts

Quotes

Actions

Feelings

Goals

Description

What others say about character

Something else important

GRAMMAR/SYNTAX

The following sentences were found in students' homework. Improve them. Focus on the errors in grammar/syntax.

1. Jack's authoritative presence has a negative effect, when he questions Ralph's power and how Ralph is only giving orders but not doing anything for others, this made the boys angry.

2. Jack and his hunters explore the island by hunting and look for the beast.

3. Ralph is able to analyze the situation and see if it is good for survival, benefitting the whole group, which is a skill that Jack doesn't have.

4. Ralph needs to establish a more clear and strict rule.

5. People are fighting over the conch which is what the conch is supposed to prevent and even worse Jack just ignores the conch, which is the same as ignoring the rules.

6. Jack wants to explore the unexplored areas on the island, he went there by himself sometimes.

7. Ralph makes the rules and wants to let everyone obey.

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.

Ralph and Piggy visit Jack's feast and are given meat to eat. Ralph tries to assert himself as chief but Piggy warns him that there is going to be trouble. Ralph points out that there is a storm coming and that if the boys had listened to him they would now have shelters against the rain. At this, Jack leads the boys in a dance and they are soon all chanting their hunting chant. The hunters are in a circle and work themselves into a frenzy.

Key quotation

...demented but partly secure society.

(p. 167)

At this point Simon appears and tries to tell the boys that the beast is simply a dead airman. They are too worked up to listen and they surround him, drive him to the beach and kill him in a savage manner.

Text focus

In [Chapter 9](#) you should look closely at three sections:

- the opening of the chapter in which the storm is building
- the storm breaking and the climax that follows
- the eerie quiet that follows the storm

Golding uses the weather to create an atmosphere that matches the unfolding events. Notice the following phrases (p. 160):

...the build-up of clouds continued...

...the air was ready to explode.

...a brassy glare had taken the place of clear daylight.

Colours drained...

...clouds brooded.

Nothing prospered...

We sense that something bad is on its way. Golding develops this feeling as the chapter unfolds. Notice ‘a sky of thunderous brass that rang with the storm-coming’ and ‘Evening was come, not with calm beauty but with the threat of violence’ (p. 165). Piggy senses the threat and warns Ralph: ‘There’s going to be trouble’ (p. 167).

The storm begins with a ‘blink of bright light’ and drops of rain. Within a few lines the ‘blows of the thunder’ are ‘only just bearable’. The climax is heralded by a streak of lightning described as ‘a blue-white scar’, followed by another: ‘Again the blue-white scar jagged above them’ (p. 168). The scar suggests the violence that is about to explode. When it does, Golding simulates the confused frenzy of the moment from the boys’ viewpoint.

The paragraphs from ‘Towards midnight’ (p. 169) to the end of the chapter create an entirely different atmosphere. This is the calm after the storm, and the washing out to sea of Simon’s body is described in a very moving and mystical way, as if he is being taken to heaven by the ‘strange, attendant creatures, with their fiery eyes and trailing vapours’ (p. 170). What do you suppose Golding is describing here? Why does he not make it more obvious exactly what is happening to Simon’s body?

The parachute is caught by the wind and lifts the dead parachutist over the trees and down to the beach. The boys are panicked by this and scatter into the darkness. The parachutist is blown out to sea. The sea also takes Simon's body away from the island.

Chapter 10 The shell and the glasses

- Ralph and Piggy think about Simon's death.
- Jack sets up camp on the Castle Rock.
- Jack's tribe attacks Ralph and the other boys with him.
- Piggy's glasses are stolen by Jack.

Ralph tries to discuss the death of Simon, which he describes as murder. Piggy tells him there was nothing they could do and that they were not really involved. Jack has set up camp on the Castle Rock. He is now acting as chief of his own tribe. Jack has had Wilfred tied up and has beaten him for some unknown crime.

Key quotation

'That was Simon.'

'That was murder.'

(p. 172)

Pause for thought

In [Chapter 5](#) Jack accuses Ralph of telling them what to do without justification, 'Just giving orders that don't make sense' (p. 98) but now he punishes Wilfred for no apparent reason. How else does Jack begin to show he

is a tyrant and a ruthless dictator?

Jack is now dressed and painted like a savage and gives orders without expecting to be questioned. He is behaving exactly as any all-powerful tribal leader might. He enjoys exercising authority and uses violence quite casually in order to ensure loyalty. He is also keen for the boys to believe in the beast, because he is the only one who can lead them in their fight against it as he says earlier: ‘if there was a snake we’d hunt and kill it...’ (p. 35).

Jack says that the beast cannot be killed and he resists attempts to link Simon’s death to the defeat of the beast. Jack plans to steal fire from Ralph as he has no means to start a fire himself. Meanwhile, Ralph, Piggy, Sam and Eric are struggling to keep the fire alight. They are now prepared to admit that the fire has a dual purpose, both as a beacon for passing ships and as a comfort in the dark.

Key quotation

This was the first time he had admitted the double function of the fire. Certainly one was to send up a beckoning column of smoke; but the other was to be a hearth now and a comfort until they slept.

(p. 179)

This second purpose has become increasingly important and Piggy has to remind Ralph that the fire means rescue.

While Ralph is dreaming of home, Jack leads an attack on the shelter, which collapses. After a confused fight in the darkness, Jack and his hunters make off with Piggy’s glasses.

Chapter 11 Castle Rock

- Ralph and the three boys visit Jack.
- Ralph challenges Jack.
- Roger sends down a rock that kills Piggy.
- Sam and Eric are captured.
- The tribe attacks Ralph.

Ralph says he would have given Jack fire but now it has been stolen from them. Piggy is practically blind without his glasses.

Key quotation

‘They blinded me. See?’(p. 187)

Piggy still thinks that appealing to Jack’s sense of ‘what’s right’s right’ will work, so the four boys decide to go to see Jack.

Grade booster

The following comment is likely from an A* candidate: ‘Roger is typical of a weak person who is given great power. By hiding behind Jack he can exercise the kind of power that would never have been possible for him before. Roger also seems to enjoy violence: he shows no remorse over the fact that he has just killed Piggy. In many respects Roger resembles some of Hitler’s henchmen, who were able to commit atrocities in the name of the Führer and Nazism.’

There are now two very different forms of leadership on the island: Ralph wants to make life better for everyone and be rescued. Jack is turning more savage by the day, enjoying the power and freedom from civilised restraint that the absence of adults has given him.

Key quotation

‘I’m going to that Jack Merridew an’ tell him. I am.’

‘You’ll get hurt.’

‘What can he do more than he has?’

(p. 189)

Ralph, Piggy, Sam and Eric approach Castle Rock, hoping to reason with Jack. Jack appears from the forest and Ralph tells him he is a thief. The two fight and Sam and Eric are taken prisoner. In the excitement, Roger uses the lever to send the large rock crashing down on Piggy, knocking him off the causeway to the rocks far below. Piggy’s body is swept out to sea.

Key quotation

The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist.

(p. 200)

The tribe attacks Ralph, who is wounded by a spear but manages to escape. Jack is furious that Sam and Eric came to him carrying spears and that they did not join his tribe.

The twins try to reason with him, but the chapter closes with Roger moving menacingly towards them.

Key quotation

Roger advanced upon them as one wielding a nameless authority.

(p. 202)