Lord of the Flies Study Guide: **Chapter One**

1. What are the circumstances under which these boys have been stranded?

2. What has happened to the place where the boys are from?

3. What purpose does the conch serve?

4. Find an example of direct characterization concerning the leadership qualities of Ralph, Piggy, and Jack. *Be sure to add page numbers.*

5. Find an example of indirect characterization concerning the leadership qualities of Ralph, Piggy, and Jack. *Be sure to add page numbers.*

6. In what two ways does Ralph show sensitivity to others after he has been chosen as leader?

7. The word “scar” is mentioned at least 9 times in Chapter One. How does this imagery contribute to the personification of the island?

8. What can the reader infer about Jack’s decision to *not* kill the pig? What are his feelings afterward?

*Predictions:*

Jack says that “next time” he will kill a pig. Will there be a next time?

What are their chances of being rescued? How long will it take?

**Chapter Two**

Pre-reading: Why is the chapter named “Fire on the Mountain”?

1. What rules does Ralph establish at the assembly?

2. What is the concern or fear of the boy with the birthmark? How does his imagination affect other boys?

3. What does Ralph tell the boys that they must do to facilitate rescue?

4. Summarize the events involving fire. What is significant about fire?

5. What does the boys’ reaction to the fire show about them? Prediction: What could this be foreshadowing?

6. Why does Jack (and the choir boys) accept the responsibility for tending the fire?

7. Why does Golding choose the boy with the birthmark to disappear in the fire?

Chapter Three

1. How does Golding indicate that time has passed? Infer how much time has passed.

2. What is Jack’s new “compulsion”? Based on the text, what is the meaning of “compulsion”? What is the denotation of the word “compulsion”?

3. Summarize the events involving the building of the huts.

4. How does the building of the huts affect the group dynamics?

5. Golding says, in comparing Jack and Ralph, “They walked along, two continents of experience and feeling, unable to communicate.” What literary element is being used here? Explain Golding’s purpose of this description.

6. Assuming this novel is a political allegory, analyze Golding’s message about dictatorship and democracy.

Chapter 4: “Painted Faces and Long Hair”

1. Describe the behavior of the boys at the beginning of the chapter.

2. Why does Maurice walk away when Percival starts crying, and why doesn’t Roger throw the stones directly at Henry? What does their behavior suggest about human nature?

3. Why do the hunters decide to “paint” themselves with clay and charcoal? What effect does doing this have on their behavior, and why? Does this “makeup” have any symbolic meaning?

4. How do the hunters behave in response to the success of the hunt, and what is the significance of this behavior?

5. How does Ralph “assert his chieftainship” after the argument with the hunters? Why do you think this gesture is so effective?

6. What do you think will result from the open conflict between Jack and Ralph and from Jack’s success at getting meat? What is the significance of the boys’ reaction to being able to eat meat, and how does this compare to their reaction about having missed a chance to be rescued?

Chapter 5: “Beast from Water”

1. What change has come over Ralph as a result of the signal fire incident? How have his values changed?

2. What points does Ralph make at the meeting? What general point does he make that he wants people to discuss?

3. What does Jack say in response to Ralph’s comments? Why do you think Ralph is shocked?

4. What does Piggy mean by his claim that “life is scientific”? What does he mean when he suggests that “there isn’t no fear, either[…]unless we get frightened of people”?

5. What does Percival say when Jack asks him where the beast lives? Why do you think he says this?

6. What does Simon say about the beast, and what do you think he means? How does everyone else react to what he says?

7. Why are the rules so important to Ralph? What are the consequences of breaking them?

8. Why does Piggy say that Ralph should blow the conch to call everyone back, and why does Ralph decide not to?

Chapter 6: “Beast from Air”

1. What is the “beast from air”? How is it appropriate that the boys mistake it for a beast—what connection does it have with the novel’s themes, and what does it symbolize?

2. What does Sam and Eric’s description of the beast tell us about humans or human psychology?

3. How does Ralph overcome Jack’s challenge during the discussion about what to do about the beast?

4. What significant thoughts does Simon have about the beast while the boys are walking to the “castle”?

5. Why do you think Ralph doesn’t really expect to encounter the beast?

6. How do most of the boys react to their discovery of the “castle”? What foreshadowing takes place at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 7: “Shadows and Tall Trees”

1. What embarrassing thing does Ralph say to himself near the beginning of the chapter that he’s afraid someone might have overheard? What does he mean by it? What change in Ralph does the act of talking to himself demonstrate?

2. What does Simon say to Ralph that makes them both smile? Think carefully about Simon’s choice of words—do you think it foreshadows something that might happen later in the novel?

3. What disturbing thing do the group of hunters and Ralph do immediately after their encounter with the pig? How is Ralph’s behavior surprising? What does this behavior foreshadow?

4. Why do you think Simon is so eager to volunteer to go across the island to tell Piggy and the littluns what they’re doing?

5. Why do you think Jack insists on going up the mountain to look for the beast even though it’s already dark when they arrive? What internal conflict does Ralph feel about the decision to go up the mountain in the dark?

6. Why do you think Golding (the author) plotted the story so that the boys would go up the mountain in the dark?