

## Lord of the Flies – Study Guide

Answer all questions on *loose leaf* to be kept in your binder. Study guide answers may be collected and graded at any time. Points will be deducted for sloppiness or illegibility.

**Questions in italics are *inferential*—you need to use your knowledge of the text and the real world (how life works) to arrive at an answer.**

### **Chapter 1:**

1. What brought the boys to the island? *Why were they on the plane?*
2. What is your reaction to Ralph’s and Piggy’s treatment of each other? *Why does Ralph tell Jack Piggy’s name?*
3. The first election – *Why is Ralph picked as the leader? What kind of leader do you think he will be? Did the boys make a wise choice?*
5. The first exploration of the island—Who goes with Ralph to explore the mountain? How and *why are the “explorers” picked?*
6. The first hunt--Jack hesitates, gets angry, and speaks of “next time.” *Why did Jack hesitate?*
7. Chapter title- *Why do you think Golding picked the title that he did for this chapter? What would you call it? (“The Sound of the Shell” is not an option.) Explain why.*

IN ADDITION: WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE READING.



Group assignment—the map. Try to visualize all the physical details of the island as Golding describes them. Draw the island accurately and neatly. Label as many places as possible, including the mountain, lagoon, beach, pool, “scar,” the smaller “pink bastion,” etc.) You should not work from memory; go back and reread relevant sections, especially p. 10, 12, 26, and 29. Evaluate Golding’s description (effective or not, and why).



Optional journal assignment: Write a diary entry from the point of view of any of the boys at the end of chapter 1.

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### **Chapter 2: Enter the Beast/ Good-bye to the “Perfect Island.”**

**Literal understanding-** *Answers are right in the text.*

1. Why do the boys build the fire?
2. How is the fire started?
3. Who volunteers to guard the fire and act as lookouts for passing ships?
4. What happens to the fire?

5. Although Piggy is not respected by the boys, he does seem to have good powers of observation and awareness. Find at least one example of an event that Piggy is the first to notice. (There are at least 2 possible answers in this chapter. Can you identify both?)

**Going beyond the literal/ making inferences and analyzing-** *You need to think about these, + a response of “I didn’t get this one” will get you no credit.*

6. *What differences do you see in how Jack and Ralph each respond to the tale of the “snake-thing” or “beastie”?*
7. *At this point what is “the beast”?*
8. *When the boys look at the fire, their faces are “lit redly from beneath” (46). What type of image do you image from this description? Does this image make you think of anything **symbolic**?*

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### **Chapter 3**

1. Jack and Ralph seem to disagree on priorities – building shelters vs. hunting for meat. *Which do you think should take priority? Why?*
2. In Chapter One, Ralph calls the island “good.” Now in this chapter a character suggests that it might not be good. Who is the character? How does Jack respond?
3. *How has Jack’s character developed during his stay on the island? How would you describe him now?*
4. Ralph says of Simon, “He’s queer. He’s funny.” *What kind/type of boy is Simon? Where does Simon go at the end of the chapter?*

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### **Chapter 4**

1. What does Roger do to scare Henry? *What kind of boy is Roger? How would you describe him. Explain.*
2. Why does Jack paint his face? What effect does it have?
3. *Why do you think this chapter was titled “Painted Faces and Long Hair”? What is the symbolic importance of the boys’ physical appearance? Whose hair doesn’t seem to grow?*
4. What causes the hunters, who had promised to keep the fire burning, to neglect it and allow it to go out?
5. *How disturbing (very, moderately, slightly, not at all) did you find the reenactment of the killing of the pig? Why?*
6. *Did Ralph mishandle the encounter with Jack on the mountain? If so, what should he have done? Explain your reasons.*

7. *Did Jack mishandle the encounter with Ralph? If so, what should he have done? Explain your reasons?*
8. *What do you think Ralph plans to do or say in the meeting that he says he will call?*

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### **Chapter 5**

1. *How does the author show us that Ralph is finally beginning to face the realities of the island?*
2. *How are the boys responding to Ralph's leadership?*
3. *What points does Jack make as he challenges Ralph's authority? Which, in your opinion, are valid? Which are not? Explain.*
4. *What does Simon mean when he thinks the "beast" may be inside the boys themselves?*
5. *Do you agree that adults stuck in the same situation as the boys would do any better?*

IN ADDITION: WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE READING.

### **Chapter 6**

1. What do Sam and Eric tell the boys they have seen? **What is it actually?** (You may have to re-read a few sections to be sure.)
2. After Jack challenges Ralph's authority, *should Ralph have punished or banned*
3. *Jack? How well would you say that Ralph handled Jack's challenge?*
4. At the end of Chapter 5, Ralph hopes for intervention from the adult world. Yet the dead pilot is a reminder that the war is going on. *What message do you think Golding is intending to send by preceding the arrival of the dead pilot with the boys' belief that adults would sort things out?*

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### **Chapter 7**

1. What prediction does Simon make to Ralph about Ralph's future? *Does Simon imply anything about his own future?*
2. *What makes Ralph reconsider his prior attitude about*
3. *What happens to the boys when Robert plays the role of the pig?*
4. *What does Jack's advice to "use a littlun next time" reveal about him?*
5. What do the 3 boys—Jack, Ralph, and Roger-- see on the mountaintop?
6. Why is the action of the story increasingly taking place in the near darkness or in the deep night when only the moon and stars give a little light?

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### **Chapter 8**

1. Although he is not able to get the boys to vote Ralph out of office as chief, Jack manages to overthrow Ralph's authority anyway. How?
2. Jack suggests a way to keep the beast happy. What is it?

3. What type of stick does Roger make? What does he use the stick for?
4. What does Jack steal from Ralph's camp? What does Piggy think Jack wants to steal?
5. *Describe Simon's strange encounter with the Lord of the Flies.*
6. *Who or what is the Lord of the Flies?*

IN ADDITION: WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE READING.

### **Chapter 9**

1. What does Simon find when he finally reaches the beast?
2. What happens to Simon when he returns to the group?
3. As a result of the storm with its high winds and high tides, what happens to the bodies of Simon and the parachutist?
4. *In what way is Simon's death ironic? (Think about what Simon is trying to tell the boys and what the boys think Simon is.)*

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### **Chapter 10**

1. *How do Piggy, Ralph, and Samneric deal with Simon's death?*
2. *What does the story about Wilfred's beating tell the reader about Jack's style of leadership?*
3. *What does Roger's reaction to the news of the beating tell us about Roger?*
4. What does Jack steal from Ralph and Piggy?
5. *What does the narrator mean when it is written, "He [Jack] was a chief now in truth"?*

IN ADDITION: WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE READING.

### **Chapter 11**

1. What happens to the conch and to Piggy?
2. What happens to Samneric in this chapter?
3. *What has changed in the way that Roger acts? What acts foreshadowed this behavior in Roger? Why didn't he show this side of himself before?*
4. What are Jack's plans for Ralph?
5. What course of action does Ralph take?

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### **Chapter 12**

1. What is Ralph's reaction when he encounters the pig's skull?
2. Driven by fear and hunger, Ralph manages to make contact with Samneric who are standing guard at Castle Rock. Of what do they warn him?
3. What or who saves Ralph in the end?
4. *What is ironic about the boys' rescue?*

5. Who responds when the officer asks who the leader of the boys is? *Explain what this shows about Jack and Ralph.*

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**General:**

*What is Golding's message?*

Chapter 2: Enter the Beast (My title, not Golding's)

Vocab: errant (34), ebullience (34),

Begins w/ 2d meeting. Ralph again finds natural leadership qualities. Jack interrupts, rule for speaking established. Piggy continues to be voice of reason and logic if pessimistic.

As meeting continues we begin to notice that Jack continually is jockeying for leadership role. We begin to see a crowd mindset, and Jack is adept at manipulating it.

Reference to The Coral island (30).

First talk of the snake thing – Ralph denies it and temporarily loses the crowd. Jack says he'll kill it and this is what the crowd wants. At this point what is the beast ? Fear

Fire on the mountain. Before this it was a perfect island (30). The site was a perfect site for fuel(34) (foreshadowing) as well as symbolic device. What do humans do w/ perfect nature? They destroy it.

Reference to the unfriendly side of the mountain – faces are reflected red, like looking into Hell.