

Lord of the Flies Study Questions

Chapters 1 - 2

1. Identify: Ralph, Piggy, Simon, Jack, Sam & Eric, Maurice, Roger, "The littluns"
2. How did the boys happen to come to the island?
3. What do the boys have that is the symbol of authority in the society they form?
4. What does the reader learn about Jack when he slashed the green candle buds?
5. Why does Jack hesitate when he lifts his knife to kill the piglet, and what does he promise will happen next time he meets a pig?
6. Who are the hunters, and what is their job?
7. What does a littlun think he has seen in the forest?
8. How and why do the boys make fire?
9. Why does the boys' plan for rescue fail?



Chapters 3 - 4

1. Although Ralph criticizes the boys for their lack of cooperation, does he bear some of the responsibility for the failures of the group to achieve its goals? Why or why not?
2. How has Jack's personality developed during his stay on the island?
3. Ralph says of Simon, "He's queer. He's funny." What kind of a boy is Simon?
4. After Maurice and Roger destroy the littluns' sand castles, Roger stalks the young boy named Henry. When he begins to throw stones, why does he just throw them near him instead of directly at him?
5. What causes the hunters, who had promised to keep the fire burning, to neglect it and allow it to go out?
6. Why does Jack paint his face?

Chapters 5 - 6

1. How does the author show us that Ralph is finally beginning to face the realities of their existence?
2. Compare Ralph's treatment of the littluns with Jack's.
3. What is Simon saying when he thinks the "beast" may be inside they boys themselves?
4. What do Sam and Eric tell the boys they have seen? What is it actually?

5. Why do Ralph and Jack decide to go find the beast?

Chapters 7 - 8

1. How does Ralph react when a boar comes charging down the path?
2. To what does Ralph's demonstration of his hunting prowess lead?
3. What did the boys see on the mountaintop?
4. 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?
5. How does Ralph's waning confidence in himself show in his words and actions?
6. 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?
7. Jack suggests a way to keep the beast happy. What is it?
8. Describe Simon's strange encounter with the Lord of the Flies.
9. Who or what is the Lord of the Flies?

Chapters 9 - 11

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. What does Jack plan to steal from Ralph and Piggy?
5. What will Jack do if someone interferes with him?
6. What happens to the conch and to Piggy?
7. What are Jack's plans for Ralph?
8. What course of action does Ralph take?

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. In what ways does the tribe try to hunt down Ralph?
4. What or who saves Ralph in the end?

Lord of the Flies Vocabulary

Chapters 1-2

1. 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.
2. The most usual feature of the rock was a pink cliff surmounted by a skewed block.
3. There was another island: a rock, almost detached, standing like a fort, facing them across the green with one bold, pink bastion.
4. There came a pause, a hiatus, the pig continued to scream and the creepers to jerk, and the blade continued to flash at the end of a bony arm.
5. He gesticulated widely.
6. Then, with the martyred expression of a parent who has to keep up with the senseless ebullience of the children...
7. A pall stretched for miles away from the island.

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ____ 1. specious | A. a break |
| ____ 2. skewed | B. a well-fortified position |
| ____ 3. bastion | C. a gloomy effect |
| ____ 4. hiatus | D. plausible but actually false |
| ____ 5. gesticulated | E. zestful enthusiasm |
| ____ 6. ebullience | F. turned to one side |
| ____ 7. pall | G. made hand motions |

Chapters 3-4

1. The tree trunks and the creepers that festooned them lost themselves in a green dusk thirty feet above him ...
2. Jack lifted his head and stared at the inscrutable masses of creeper that lay across the trail.
3. The opaque, mad look came into his eyes again.
4. But Jack was pointing to the high declivities that led down from the mountain to the flatter part of the island.
5. With impalpable organs of sense they examined this new field.
6. Beside the pool his sinewy body held up a mask that drew their eyes and appalled them.
7. There had grown up tacitly among the biguns the opinion that Piggy was an outsider, not only by accent, which did not matter, but by fat...

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ____ 1. festooned | A. without being spoken |
| ____ 2. inscrutable | B. downward slopes |
| ____ 3. opaque | C. decorated |
| ____ 4. declivities | D. lean and muscular |
| ____ 5. impalpable | E. light can't get through it |
| ____ 6. sinewy | F. impenetrable |
| ____ 7. tacitly | G. intangible; not perceived by touch |

Chapters 5-6

1. He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every patch was an improvisation and a considerable part of one's waking life was spent watching one's feet.
2. Then, at the apex, the grass was thick again because no one sat there.
3. The derisive laughter that rose had fear in it and condemnation.
4. At first he was a silent effigy of sorrow; but then the lamentation rose out of him, loud and sustained as the conch.
5. A shadow fronted him tempestuously.
6. . . . lying in the long grass, was he was living through circumstances in which the incantation of his address was powerless to help him.

7. Simon, walking in front of Ralph, felt a flicker of incredulity-a beast with claws that scratch
8. The taut blue horizon encircled them, broken only by the mountain-top.

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| ___ 1. improvisation | A. scornful |
| ___ 2. apex | B. tight |
| ___ 3. derisive | C. the highest point |
| ___ 4. effigy | D. disbelief |
| ___ 5. tempestuously | E. a likeness or image |
| ___ 6. incantation | F. to invent without preparation |
| ___ 7. incredulity | G. like a storm; turbulently |
| ___ 8. taut | H. a verbal charm or spell |

Chapters 7-8

1. . . . if you could forget how dun and unvisited were the ferny coverts on either side, then there was a chance that you might put the beast out of your mind for a while.
2. On the other side of the island, swathed at midday with mirage, defended by the shield of the quiet lagoon, one might dream of rescue; but here, faced by the brute obtuseness of the ocean, the miles of division...
3. For most of the way they were forced right down to the bare rock by the water and had to edge along between that and the dark luxuriance of the forest.
4. So they sat, the rocking, tapping impervious Roger and Ralph, fuming.
5. Piggy gave up the attempt to rebuke Ralph.
6. 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.
7. A little apart from the rest, sunk in deep maternal bliss, lay the largest sow of the lot.
8. The half-shut eyes were dim with the infinite cynicism of adult life.

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| ___ 1. coverts | A. having rich or profuse growth |
| ___ 2. obtuseness | B. relating to motherhood |
| ___ 3. luxuriance | C. thick underbrush providing cover |
| ___ 4. impervious | D. attitude scornful of the motives or virtues of others |
| ___ 5. rebuke | E. dullness; flatness; lack of sharp edges |
| ___ 6. sanctity | F. to criticize or reprimand |
| ___ 7. maternal | G. incapable of being affected |
| ___ 8. cynicism | H. sacredness; godliness |

Chapters 9-11

1. Piggy once more was the center of social derision so that everyone felt cheerful and normal.
2. He ceased to work at his tooth and sat still, assimilating the possibilities of irresponsible authority.
3. The night was cool and purged of immediate terror.
4. The twins watched anxiously and Piggy sat expressionless behind the luminous wall of his myopia.
5. Piggy nodded propitiatingly. "You're chief, Ralph. You remember everything."
6. High above them from the pinnacles came a sudden shout and then an imitation war-cry that was answered by a dozen voices from behind the rock.
7. Truculently they squared up to each other but kept just out of fighting distance.

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| ___ 1. derision | A. absorbing |
| ___ 2. assimilating | B. tall, pointed formations |
| ___ 3. purged | C. disposed to fight |
| ___ 4. myopia | D. scorn or ridicule |
| ___ 5. propitiatingly | E. a visual defect like nearsightedness |
| ___ 6. pinnacles | F. freed from impurities |
| ___ 7. truculently | G. appeasingly; trying to please |

Chapter 12

1. A star appeared behind them and was momentarily eclipsed by some movement.
2. To carry he must speak louder; and this would rouse those striped and inimical creatures from their feasting by the fire.
3. Then the red thing was past and the elephantine progress diminished toward the sea.
4. He heard a curious trickling sound and then a louder crepitation as if someone were unwrapping great sheets of cellophane.
5. . . . a somber noise across which the ululations were scribbled excruciatingly as on slate.
6. For a moment he had a fleeting picture of the strange glamour that had once invested the beaches.

_____1. eclipsed	A. crackling sound
_____2. inimical	B. ponderously clumsy
_____3. elephantine	C. magic spell; enchantment
_____4. crepitation	D. unfriendly; hostile
_____5. excruciatingly	E. obscured; blocked from view
_____6. glamour	F. intensely; painfully

Prefixes

ad-/as- "to"

de- "completely"

de- "down"

e-/ex- "out"

in-/im- "not"

in- "intensively"

ob- "against"

Roots

bulli "to boil"

cant "sing"

cliv "slope"

cred "believe"

crux/cruc "cross"

gest "action"

inim "enemy"

lux "excess"

mater "mother"

palp "feel; touch"

rid/ris "laugh"

sanct "holy"

scrut "search"

simil "like"

spec "look"

truc/trux "fierce"

tund/tus "beat"