


# Lord of the Flies Study Guide

The background of the image is a photograph. At the top, a pig's skull is shown from a slightly elevated angle, with a large, jagged hole in its forehead. The skull is light-colored with some reddish-brown staining. Below the skull, the top of a person's head and shoulder is visible. The person has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt. The overall tone of the image is somewhat somber and graphic.

A Study Guide By  
[@thatdankent](#)  
[thatdankent.com](#)

You can purchase the answers at:

<http://www.clazmic.com/lord-of-the-flies-study-guide>

Follow @thatdankent for more useful learning tools

<http://twitter.com/thatdankent>

As you read through the book, keep the following 3 questions in mind.

**POWER OF SYMBOLS:** Watch how certain things become symbolic and swell in meaning. Items that are rather inane become transformed within this impromptu society (conch). Why do these items become so powerful? What sort of things do we have in our society that have this type of power?

**LEADERSHIP:** Watch how Ralph and Jack lead. Who is more effective? That is, who gets better results? Whose leadership is ultimately better for the boys?

**FEAR:** What role does fear play in the story? How does Jack use fear to lead? How does Ralph use fear to lead? Do current governments use fear in their leadership? How so?



**chapter one:**

# **The Sound of the Shell**

What is the “long scar smashed into the jungle”? What caused it?

Why do you supposed a person might have a “touch of pride” about having asthma?

Why didn't Ralph ask the fat boy's name?

Why do you suppose Piggy continually refers to “my auntie”?

Does Ralph seem anxious about being on an abandoned island?

Does Piggy seem anxious?

What does Piggy think about being rescued?

Why does Piggy say “that is what you meant, didn’t you?” acting as if it was Ralph’s idea to call a meeting?

What is a Conch?

Why was Piggy intimidated by Merridew?

How did all the boys learn Piggy’s name?

Why does Jack think he should be leader?

Did Ralph ask to be leader?

Why did the boys like Ralph?

Why was Piggy hesitant to vote for Ralph?

Why might it have been a good idea to “offer something” to Jack?

How did Ralph diffuse Piggy’s anger about betraying him by telling everyone his detested nickname?

What did the boys learn by climbing to the top of the mountain?

Did Jack kill the pig?



**chapter two:**

# **Fire on the Mountain**

Who is allowed to speak at assemblies?

What was the little boy with the birthmark afraid of?

Jack told the boys that, when they go hunting, “we’ll look for the snake too.” Why might it be beneficial to Jack if the kids believed there was a “beastie”?

How do governments do the same thing?

Why was it crucial to make a fire?

Did everyone seem to agree? Did everyone seem eager to comply?

How did the boys like the fire?

Jack says “We’ve got to have rules and obey them.” How does this conflict with how he treated Piggy?



**chapter three:**

## **Huts on the Beach**

Does chapter 3 pick up immediately where chapter 2 left off?

Why is Ralph frustrated?

Ralph keeps reminding Jack that Jack hasn’t killed anything yet. Why?

How do you think this makes Jack feel?

Does Jack seem to think maintaining a fire is as important as Ralph thinks it is?

How is Ralph's work different than Jack's work?



**chapter four:**



# **Painted Faces and Long Hair**



Are the "littluns" thought highly of?

In the paragraph describing the "littluns," what do you suppose the various sizes of boys represent, metaphorically, about society?

What do you suppose "the transparencies" are?



How did Jack's painted face make the other boys feel?

What does it mean when Jack, while wearing the painted face, was "liberated from shame and self-consciousness"?

What are some ways people do a similar thing in real life?

What does the author mean by "the mask compelled them"?

While they are swimming they notice a ship on the horizon, but the ship does not find them. Why?

What was Jack's "reason" for letting the fire go out?

Jack apologizes for letting the fire go out. Was his apology sincere?

After killing the pig, and after the confrontation with Piggy and Ralph, the author says: “Jack was loud and active. He gave orders, sang, whistled...” What is happening to the group? What is happening to Jack?

What does the author mean when he notes: “Jack had meant to leave him in doubt as an assertion of power..”?

The author notes: “Jack looked around for understanding but found only respect.” How is respect different than understanding? What did Jack want them to understand? Why is understanding more desirable to Jack? What did they “respect”?



**chapter five:**



# **Beast From Water**

What do you think the author means when he says: “He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one’s waking life was spent watching one’s feet”?

Which “enthusiastic exploration” is Ralph referring to? Why is he remembering it now?

What frustrated Ralph about the “lamentably springy” log?

Why do you suppose Ralph developed “a kind of affectionate reverence for the conch”?

What does it mean that “practiced debaters” would “use their whole art to twist the meeting”?

Whose speech did the boys like better, Jack’s or Ralph’s? Why?

What caused Percival so much sorrow?

Why did the other littluns begin to cry in symphony?

What does it mean that Piggy was “shocked out of decorum”?

When the boys scattered after the meeting and Piggy told Ralph to “blow the conch,” why didn’t he?

Piggy doesn’t believe in ghosts because “Houses an’ streets, an’ TV - they wouldn’t work.” What does he mean?

What do Piggy and Ralph think about grown-ups?



**chapter six:**

# **Beast From Air**

What fell out of the sky and dragged up the mountain?

When Ralph calls the meeting, instead of blowing the conch he merely holds it up, and the boys “understood.” What is happening to the conch in the minds of the boys? That is, what is the conch’s now compared to the beginning of the story?

What is Jack’s opinion about the conch?

Simon bemoans the dreadful feelings created by “the pressure of personality.” What is meant by that?

What is the result, within Simon, when Simon feels accepted by Ralph?

At the end of the chapter who leads the boys across the bridge?



**chapter seven:**



## **Shadows and Tall Trees**



When they surrounded Robert (pretending he was a boar) what went wrong?

How is the “game” they played (with Robert pretending to be the pig) the beginning of a ritual?

As night fell only 3 boys proceeded up the mountain. Who?

Did Ralph “want” to go?

Why did he?

Jack turns to Ralph and Roger saying that he saw something. How does Ralph respond?

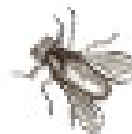
Does Jack want to go back up?

Did they see the beast?

What is “the beast” actually?

Do they know that?

Did they kill it?



**chapter eight:**

## **Gift for the Darkness**



What does Ralph think of Jack's hunters?

What does Jack accuse Ralph of?

Did he speak truthfully?

What does Jack ask of the boys at the assembly he called?

How do the boys respond?

What does Jack do after the response?

What does Simon propose?



How does Piggy feel with Jack being gone?

What is Piggy's proposal as to what they should do next?

When the fire died down what did Ralph and Piggy realize about the remaining boys?

What do the boys think of Simon?

Jack says "We'll hunt. I'm going to be chief." The narrator says "They nodded and the crisis passed easily." What is "the crisis" the narrator refers to?

What is Jack's plan about the beast? He has at least 2 strategies:

What does Jack intend to use to lure boys to his tribe?

After they kill a pig and plan a feast what do Jack and the boys realize they are missing?

What is Jack's solution to this problem?

Who/what is "The lord of the flies"?

**chapter nine:**

## **A View to a Death**

Who figures out that the beast is just a deadman with a parachute?

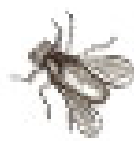
When Ralph and Piggy went to join Jack's party the boys laughed at Piggy, which made everyone feel cheerful and normal. Why do you suppose this is?

As Jack asked the boys to join his tribe Ralph tries to assert his own authority. Does Ralph succeed? Or does Jack?

What is Ralph's argument? What does he threaten to do?

When it started to storm Jack ordered the boys to “Do our dance!” Why?

As they were dancing and chanting, the beast lurched into the party and they killed it. Who did they actually kill?



**chapter ten:**

## **The Shell and the Glasses**



How did Piggy try to justify Simon's death?

What does Roger think of Jack as chief?

Why was Roger struck with thoughts of “irresponsible authority”? What is irresponsible authority in this context?

The author stops using the name “Jack” and uses simply “the chief.” Why do you suppose he did this? That is, what is he trying to communicate?

Why might the chief want the boys to continue to believe that the beast is still alive?

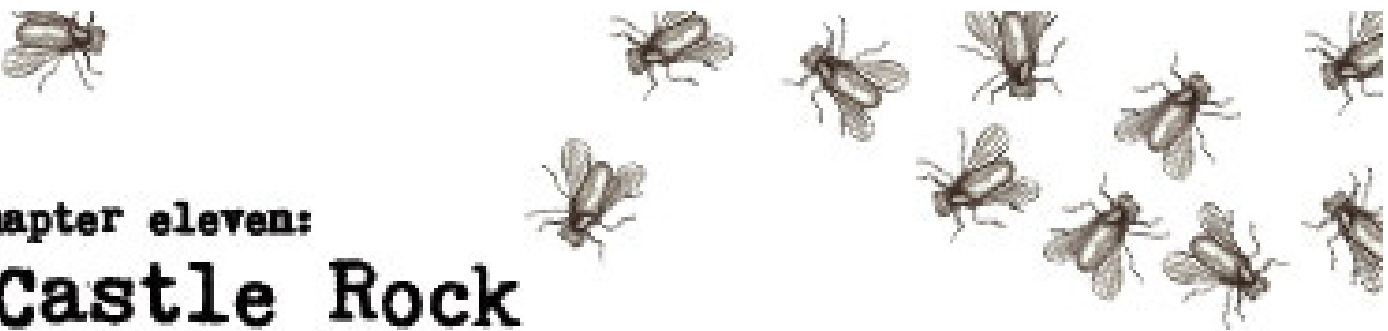
The author notes that the chief had a “theological speculation.” What does theological mean?

What does this say about the author’s use of the beast in the story?

Why did the chief and the hunters attack Ralph and Piggy?

Did they take the conch?

Why? Why did the conch have no value to them?



**chapter eleven:**  
**Castle Rock**

Why do you think it is important to Ralph to get cleaned up “like we were”?

Ralph pleads with “the painted savages” to keep a signal fire going so the boys could be rescued. Did he succeed in persuading the others?

What happens to Piggy?

Who does it?

What happens to Ralph?

What happens to Samneric?



chapter twelve:

# Cry of the Hunters

How does Ralph explain, or what reason does he give, for feeling like “an outcast”?

When Ralph argues his innocence to Samneric, how does Eric respond?

As the tribe chased him, what 3 strategies does Ralph consider?

What did he decide to try?

Did it work?

The boys are soon discovered by adults. How? That is, what leads their rescuers to them?

Who finds them and what do you suppose is the author’s point in having THESE particular rescuers?

Please go to [thatDanKent.com](http://thatDanKent.com) for more study guides, study guide answers, great articles, and funny cartoons.

Also, please follow [@thatdankent](https://twitter.com/thatdankent) on Twitter.