

Plot summary		Vocabulary	Characters	Context	Terms
1	Schoolboys have crash landed on a deserted island. The reader meets Ralph and Piggy. Piggy has asthma. They find a conch and use it to summon any other survivors including twins SamnEric, Jack and Simon.	efflorescence, enmity, decorous, chorister, bastion, hiatus	Ralph: the largest and most physically powerful. Wants to plan and follow rules, but even he is sometimes seduced by savagery. Symbolises: law, government and civil society.	Golding's experiences in WW2 showed him the evils of human nature.	Scar
2	The boys focus on short term pleasure and fun. Ralph suggests building a fire to be rescued. Jack just wants to hunt. A boy with a birth mark tells of 'the beast.' He goes missing after the fire and the boys are ashamed.	Ebullience, recrimination, tumult, tirade	Piggy: the smartest boy but has asthma and is fat so bullied. Has a tendency to lecture and is ridiculed. Symbolises: science and rationality	During the cold war fears of nuclear annihilation gripped society.	Conch
3	Ralph wants to build shelters but only Simon helps whilst the others play and Jack hunts. The fire has been allowed to go out. Simon slips away to meditate.	oppressive, inscrutable, vicissitudes, declivities, tacit	Jack: Leader of the hunters. Loves to hunt and kill gets angry when he doesn't get his way. Believes a leader should be obeyed. Symbolises: dominance and power	British public schools emphasized civility and 'stiff upper lip'.	Allegory
4	Island life gets a rhythm. Mornings are pleasant because it is cool but evening is not because people worry about the beast. A boat goes past but there is no fire to attract it. Piggy is laughed at for sundials. Jack pants his face and hunts and kills a pig chanting "Kill the Pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood." Ralph walks away.	blatant, taboo, malevolently, sinewy	Simon: Dreamy, dark haired boy prone to fits. He recognises that the beast is within them. He is unafraid and meditates. Symbolises: Religion and spirituality.	Totalitarian governments such as Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia controlled people through fear	Irony
F	Ralph calls a meeting to get people to follow the rules, but he and Jack are more apart than ever. There is talk of the beast, a little un suggesting it comes from the ocean at night. Jack just wants to hunt and won't listen to the rules of the conch. Ralph wishes for adults.	ludicrous, ineffectual, jeer, inarticulate	Roger: Quiet and intense at first then becomes more evil. He tortures SamnEric, kills Piggy and likes to inflict pain. Symbolises: Sadism	Symbols	Foreshadowing
6	A dead parachutist floats on to the Island. No one sees because the fire is out. When they awake, SamnEric light the fire and see him but they think it is a beast. Jack finds a rock and some boulders.	leviathan, clamour, mutinously	Little 'uns: Not easy to distinguish. They are fearful, terrified of the beast and just want to play. Symbolises: every day people who are manipulated by leaders	The conch	Metaphor
7	Jack and Ralph continue to clash as they search for the beast. Ralph kills a boar and is flushed with excitement. Robert is almost killed in the reenactment. Later they head up the mountain and see the beast and are terrified.	crestfallen, impervious, enterprise	Themes		Symbolism
8	Jack declares himself chief of his own group. Simon meditates alone and leans what the beast is. Piggy tries to cheer Ralph up with talk of a new fire. The savages dance around as they kill a sow with Roger being very brutal.	glowered, rebuke, demure, fervour	HUMAN NATURE: the book is an allegory for human nature and society.	Piggy's glasses	Garden of eden
9	A storm comes and they have no shelter. Simon emerges from the forest and is killed by the other boys who think he is the beast. Ralph acts like a king.	corpulent, sauntered	CIVILIZATION and SAVAGERY: the boys descend into brutality as they become further removed from civilization.	The island	Temptation
10	Jack's gang have moved to castle rock. Ralph, Piggy and SamnEric remain but cant keep the fire going alone. Jack steals Piggy's glasses whilst the others protect the conch.	compelled	LOSS OF INNOCENCE: usually a symbol of naivete and innocence, the boys become increasingly brutal.	Fire and adults	Authority
11	The boys go to castle rock to confront Jack. Piggy is killed by a boulder pushed by Roger. Jack attempts to kill Ralph with a spear. He flees. Jack's group torture SamnEric to join them.	luminous, myopia, snivelling, quavered, talisman	THE WEAK & THE STRONG: The big 'uns prey on the little 'uns as the island becomes survival of the fittest.	The 'beast'	Civilized
12	SamnEric are tortured into revealing Ralph's hiding place. Jack vows to burn down the forest to find him. The smoke attracts a boat. The officer finds the boys and asks if they are playing at war. All of the boys cry whilst the officer looks back at his ship.	acrid, cordoned, elephantine, epaulettes	SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION: Simon is a christ like figure who sacrifices himself so the boys can know the truth.	Fire	Savage

Important quotations

Within the diamond haze of the beach something dark was fumbling along...Then the creature stepped from the mirage on to clear sand, and they saw that the darkness was not all shadow but mostly clothing

You got your small fire all right." [...] the boys were falling still and silent, feeling the beginnings of awe at the power set free below them

Roger gathered a handful of stones and began to throw them. Yet there was a space round Henry, perhaps six yards in diameter, into which he dare not throw. Here, invisible yet strong, was the taboo of the old life. Round the squatting child was the protection of parents and school and policemen and the law

Fear can't hurt you any more than a dream. There aren't any beasts to be afraid of on this island . . . Serve you right if something did get you, you useless lot of cry-babies!"

"There isn't anyone to help you. Only me. And I'm the Beast. . . . Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill! . . . 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 the way they are?"

"I just take the conch to say this. I can't see no more and I got to get my glasses back. Awful things has been done on this island. I voted for you for chief. He's the only one who ever got anything done. So now you speak, Ralph, and tell us what. Or elsey.

The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist. Piggy, saying nothing, with no time for even a grunt, traveled through the air sideways from the rock, turning over as he went [...]. Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea. His head opened and stuff came out and turned red. Piggy's arms and legs twitched a bit, like a pig's after it has been killed.

Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of a true, wise friend called Piggy.

