



Rising 9th Grade Summer Reading 2023  
Passage Analysis and Reflection

For the Summer of 2023, each rising 9th-grade student has joined a Google Classroom. Each will be required to read *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.

Directions: While reading *Lord of the Flies*, respond to the questions that accompany each excerpt using text evidence and support.

Text: Since students will not have a school-owned device for the summer, families can purchase the book (paper) or students can log in to Bookshare using their Fletcher information and download the ebook on their family device. If an audio version is preferred, the student can log in to their Learning Ally account to listen to the story being read aloud. Another audible option is to use this [YouTube link](#). Please note that if an audio version is preferred, the student should also be reading along in the text. New students should plan to purchase their own copy - paper, digital, or audio.

Written Response: You may respond to the questions in one of the following ways:

1. Print this document and handwrite in the blanks
2. Handwrite your responses on a separate sheet of paper
3. Type your responses on a document (Word, Google) using your personal device
4. Returning students can access the document in the Summer Reading Google Classroom Class by logging into their personal devices with their Fletcher username and password.

## Chapter One: The Sound of the Shell

Passage: Ralph did not take the hint so the fat boy was forced to continue. "I don't care what they call me," he said confidentially, "so long as they don't call me what they used to call me at school." Ralph was faintly interested. "What was that?" The fat boy glanced over his shoulder, then leaned toward Ralph. He whispered. "They used to call me Piggy." Ralph shrieked with laughter. He jumped up. "Piggy! Piggy!" "Ralph—please!"

The boys were being evacuated from the dangers of nuclear war when their plane crashes on an island. The major themes are established in this first chapter.

Using the above and other details from the text, what are some of Ralph's character traits?

Answer:

How does Piggy contrast in personality and appearance with Ralph?

Answer:

How does the author establish Jack's inherent evil?

Answer:

## Chapter Two: Fire on the Mountain

Passage: They assented. Piggy opened his mouth to speak, caught Jack's eye and shut it again. Jack held out his hands for the conch and stood up, holding the delicate thing carefully in his sooty hands. "I agree with Ralph. We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages. We're English, and the English are best at everything. So we've got to do the right things."

Jack has been taught to believe that the English are superior to other nations. His comments help develop the theme of civilization vs. savagery.

How is Ralph attempting to establish a civil society?

Answer:

How do Jack's comments here show his prejudice?

Answer:

How is the author, William Golding, using foreshadowing in this passage? (hinting at things to come)

Answer:

Passage: Flower and fruit grew together on the same tree and everywhere was the scent of ripeness and the booming of a million bees at pasture. Here the littluns who had run after him caught up with him. They talked, cried out unintelligibly, lugged him toward the trees. Then, amid the roar of bees in the afternoon sunlight, Simon found for them the fruit they could not reach, pulled off the choicest from up in the foliage, passed them back down to the endless, outstretched hands. When he had satisfied them he paused and looked round. The littluns watched him inscrutably over double handfuls of ripe fruit.

Simon's behavior shows that morality still exists in some form on the island.

How do his actions in the passage show his kindness?

Answer:

How does Simon's behavior influence the littluns?

Answer:

What do you think would happen to someone who puts others' needs over their own in the situation the boys are in? Explain.

Answer:

Passage: He looked in astonishment, no longer at himself but at an awesome stranger. He spilt the water and leapt to his feet, laughing excitedly. Beside the pool his sinewy body held up a mask that drew their eyes and appalled them. He began to dance and his laughter became a bloodthirsty snarling. He capered toward Bill, and the mask was a thing on its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness.

How does this description of Jack symbolize the changes that have taken place within him?

Answer:

What do you think the "mask" symbolizes? Explain.

Answer:

What do you think of the scene in which the boys reenact the hunt? Explain.

Answer:

Passage: "Maybe," he said hesitantly, "maybe there is a beast."  
The assembly cried out savagely and Ralph stood up in amazement.  
"You, Simon? You believe in this?"  
"I don't know," said Simon. His heartbeats were choking him. "But. . . "  
The storm broke.  
"Sit down!"  
"Shut up!"  
"Take the conch!"  
"Sod you!"  
"Shut up!"  
Ralph shouted.  
"Hear him! He's got the conch!"  
"What I mean is. . . maybe it's only us."

The fear of the beast is one of the main causes of the collapse of society.

How does this passage illustrate the effects of the fear of the beast?

Answer:

How do Jack and Ralph's attitudes toward the beast differ?

Answer:

Which character do you agree with when it comes to the beast? Explain.

Answer:

## Chapter Six: Beast from Air

Passage: He was surrounded on all sides by chasms of empty air. There was nowhere to hide, even if one did not have to go on. He paused on the narrow neck and looked down. Soon, in a matter of centuries, the sea would make an island of the castle. On the right hand was the lagoon, troubled by the open sea; and on the left— Ralph shuddered. The lagoon had protected them from the Pacific: and for some reason only Jack had gone right down to the water on the other side.

This excerpt is narrated in the third person, but we see the events from Ralph's point of view.

In addition to nature itself, what are two other obstacles that the boys are facing at this point in the novel?

Answer:

How is the description of the lagoon reflecting the atmosphere of horror that is developing?

Answer:

What do you think of the impact and influence of nature in this chapter? Explain.

Answer:

## Chapter Seven: Shadows and Tall Trees

Passage: "Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!" Ralph too was fighting to get near, to get a handful of that brown, vulnerable flesh. The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering. Jack's arm came down; the heaving circle cheered and made pig-dying noises. Then they lay quiet, panting, listening to Robert's frightened snivels. He wiped his face with a dirty arm, and made an effort to retrieve his status.

The tension between Ralph and Jack is increasing at this point. They continue to find themselves at odds over their contrasting instincts toward hunting and killing.

How does Ralph change emotionally in this chapter?

Answer:

How does this attack on Robert demonstrate a change within Ralph?

Answer:

What do you think Golding is trying to show with the repetition of "Kill the beast! Cut her throat..." which was also present in Chapter 4? Explain.

Answer:



## Chapter Eight: Gift for the Darkness

Passage: The greatest ideas are the simplest. Now there was something to be done. They worked with passion. Piggy was so full of delight and expanding liberty in Jack's departure, so full of pride in his contribution to the good of society, that he helped to fetch wood. 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.

Piggy is both relieved and changed by Jack's departure, while Ralph is distraught.

In what ways does Piggy become a leader once Jack leaves? Give examples.

Answer:

How does the symbolism of the beast change in this chapter?

Answer:

Do you agree that "the greatest ideas are the simplest"? Explain.

Answer:

## Chapter Nine: A View to a Death

Passage: The beast struggled forward, broke the ring and fell over the steep edge of the rock to the sand by the water. At once the crowd surged after it, poured down the rock, leapt on to the beast, screamed, struck, bit, tore. There were no words, and no movements but the tearing of teeth and claws.

Then the clouds opened and let down the rain like a waterfall. The water bounded from the mountain-top, tore leaves and branches from the trees, poured like a cold shower over the struggling heap on the sand. Presently the heap broke up and figures staggered away. Only the beast lay still, a few yards from the sea. Even in the rain they could see how small a beast it was; and already its blood was staining the sand.

Chaos and brutality take over when the boys attack and kill Simon.

Why do most of Ralph's allies join Jack in this chapter?

Answer:

How did the Lord of the Flies foreshadow (hint at) the events of this chapter? Explain.

Answer:

How does Simon's death show that evil has taken over?

Answer:

## Chapter Ten: The Shell and the Glasses

Passage: "You are. Over us."

"I got the conch."

"Ralph! Stop laughing like that. Look, there ain't no need, Ralph! What's the others going to think?"

At last Ralph stopped. He was shivering.

"Piggy."

"Uh?"

"That was Simon."

"You said that before."

"Piggy."

"Uh?"

"That was murder."

"You stop it!" said Piggy, shrilly. "What good're you doing talking like that?"

He jumped to his feet and stood over Ralph.

"It was dark. There was that—that bloody dance. There was lightning and thunder and rain. We was scared!"

Jack's camp now has complete power on the island after the death of Simon.

Why is Piggy unable to accept the truth of what happened?

Answer:

Why do the signal fire and conch shell no longer provide comfort to Ralph?

Answer:

Whose attitudes and beliefs do you agree with more in this chapter, Ralph or Piggy? Why?

Answer:

Chapter Eleven: Castle Rock

Passage: 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.

Both the conch shell and the Lord of the Flies are destroyed in this chapter when Jack and Ralph's sides face off.

Why does Roger shove the rock down the mountainside?

Answer:

How is Piggy's death symbolic?

Answer:

What predictions do you have for the final chapter?

Answer:

## Chapter Twelve: Cry of the Hunters

Passage: His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. And in the middle of them, with a filthy body, matted hair, and unwiped nose, Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.

The naval officer who arrives by ship is shocked to hear about the events that have taken place on the island.

How is the fire that brings the ship to the island ironic in the context of the other fires in the book?

Answer:

How is the reproachful attitude of the officer ironic as it relates to the boys?

Answer:

What do you think Ralph's life will be like when he returns home? How do you know?

Answer: