

VOICE – Lord of the Flies

RALPH (p.84)

The thing is: we need an assembly...We need an assembly. Not for fun. Not for laughing and falling off the log – not for making jokes, or for – for cleverness. Not for these things. But to put things straight. I've been along. By myself I went, thinking what's what. I know what we need. An assembly to put things straight. And first of all, I'm speaking... We have lots of assemblies. Everybody enjoys speaking and being together. We decide things. But they don't get done. ... The fire is the most important thing on the island. How can we ever be rescued except by luck, if we don't keep a fire going? Is a fire too much for us to make? Look at us! How many are we? And yet we can't keep a fire going to make smoke. Don't you understand? Can't you see we ought to – ought to die before we let the fire out?...And another thing. We've got to talk about this fear and decide there's nothing in it. I'm frightened myself, sometimes; only that's nonsense. Like bogies. Then, when we've decided, we can start again and be careful about things like the fire. And be happy.

JACK (p.88)

So this is a meeting to find out what's what. I'll tell you what's what. You littluns started all this with the fear talk. Beasts! Where from? Of course we're frightened sometimes but we put up with being frightened. Only Ralph says you scream in the night. What does that mean but nightmares? Anyway, you don't hunt or build or help – you're a lot of cry-babies and sissies. That's what. And as for the fear – you'll have to put up with it like the rest of us... The thing is – 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! ... Be frightened because you're like that – but there is no beast in the forest.

PIGGY (p.89)

I don't agree with all Jack said, but with some. 'Course there isn't a beast in the forest. How could there be? What would a beast eat? ... What I mean is that I don't agree about this here fear. Of course there isn't nothing to fear in the forest. We know what goes on and if there's something wrong, there's someone to put it right. ... You have doctors for everything, even the inside of your mind. You don't really mean that we got to be frightened all the time of nothing? Life is scientific, that's what it is. In a year or two when the war's over they'll be travelling to Mars and back. I know there isn't no beast – not with claws and all that, I mean – but I know there isn't no fear either. Unless - Unless we get frightened of people.

Voice Questions:

- a) What does each character **talk about**? What does this tell us about each?
- b) Identify one personality trait for each character. Provide 3 **words or phrases** used by each to reveal this trait.
- c) How does the author's **syntax** (sentence length, sentence structure) add to the development of each character? Explain one specific example for each.
- d) What is the overall **tone/emotion** created by each speech?