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| Date &  Reading | | Discussion Questions |
|  | **Chapter 1** | 1. Throughout the chapter, Golding provides details of the island’s geography. Write down as many of these details as you can. 2. Based on how the boys remember the crash, what brought down the airplane? 3. The chapter introduces us to four main characters: Piggy, Ralph, Jack and Simon. For each, identify (a) the boy’s physical appearance, (b) what we know about his background, (c) his personality/how he relates to the other characters. 4. The chapter introduces several items which will be symbolic and/or important later. Identify and describe…  * The glasses * The conch * The gash/scar  1. Compare the members of the choir (the boys who arrive with Jack) and the rest of the crash survivors. What are some of the differences between the two groups? 2. Why don’t the boys kill the pig? 3. What details do you know about the Garden of Eden story from The Bible? Thematically, what is the story about? 4. Make some predictions about where the story will go from here. Focus on some tensions already apparent in this chapter. |
|  | **Chapter 2** | **For each of the following quotations, identify the speaker, the context, and what it tells us about the speaker.**   * “All the same you need an army – for hunting. Hunting pigs -” (31) * “We'll have rules! Lots of rules! Then when anyone breaks 'em -” (32) * “You're hindering Ralph. You're not letting him get to the most important thing.” (32) * “He says in the morning it turned into them things like ropes in the trees and hung in the branches. He says will it come back to-night?” (35) * “And sooner or later a ship will put in here. It might even be daddy's ship. So you see, sooner or later, we shall be rescued.” (36) * “Mind out! Give 'em back! I can hardly see! You'll break the conch!” (40)   **Comment on...**   * The stated purpose of the conch * The debate about the (imaginary) monster 🡪 how do Jack and Ralph differ in reassuring the boys? * What happens when the group agrees to make a fire? (refer to the conch) * At the end of the chapter, what things does Piggy say they should do (or should have done)? |
|  | **Chapter 3** | * 1. What are the two practical reasons to build the huts?   2. What might the symbolic importance of the huts be? The importance of the difficulty completing them?   3. Describe the growing contrast between the roles of Ralph and Jack.   4. Describe the growing external conflict between Ralph and Jack.   5. What character traits of the boys as a whole become apparent in this chapter? Do these traits surprise you?   6. Describe the secret place Simon finds. Why do you suppose he visits there?   7. Tell what you know of the Garden of Eden story. How might it apply to the novel so far?   8. Describe Simon. How is he seemingly different than the other characters? What is his role on the island? |
|  | **Chapter 4** | **Discuss**…   * The definition of a Fascist, and in what ways Jack suits this description. * Henry’s stalking of, and ‘attack’ on, Roger. What happens? What doesn’t? What might it mean? * Jack’s new face 🡪 what does it mean?   **For the incident with the ship, consider…**   * The hunters’ chant 🡪 what does it say about the hunters? * Jack hitting Piggy and breaking his glasses (what’s the symbolism?) * The leadership dynamic 🡪 how does Ralph almost lose his authority? How does he get it back? * Ralph’s estrangement from Jack, and his realignment towards Piggy 🡪 why does it happen? |
|  | **Chapter 5** | 1. What does the following quote illustrate about the boys? “The place of assembly in which he stood was roughly a triangle; but irregular and sketchy, like everything they made” (Golding 77). 2. How has the island changed Ralph? How have his feelings about Piggy changed? 3. What new rules does Ralph suggest? What is his rationale for presenting them? 4. How does Jack respond to Ralph’s message? 5. Explain the different opinions about each of the following: the beast; fear; ghosts. 6. All of this conﬂict is happening as it grows dark. Why is the darkness symbolically important? 7. In the end most of the boys follow Jack and join the chant. Why do they follow him? What might this foreshadow? |
|  | **Chapter 6** | 1. What landed on the island? Why? 2. Why does Ralph wait until the sunrise to start speaking at the meeting? Connect this to the novel’s thematic content. (pg. 108) 3. During the meeting, Jack, Ralph, Piggy and Simon have different reactions to news of ‘The Beast.’ Identify their respective reactions, and what each reaction says about each character. 4. Look at the description of the island’s shore on page 114. How is it described? How does it connect to the novel’s themes? |
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| Date &  Reading | | Discussion Questions |
|  | **Chapter 7** | 1. What is the significance of Ralph’s thoughts regarding cleanliness at the beginning of the chapter? 2. On page 122, Ralph thinks fondly about his life back home. What is Ralph really nostalgic for? 3. Consider what (almost) happens to Robert. What does this episode tell us about what’s happening to the boys on the island? 4. Afterwards, what suggestion is made about the next time the boys do this? What is the significance of this? 5. What realization does Ralph make about Jack on page 129? What overall change is Ralph going through in this chapter? |
|  | **Chapter 8** | **Consider the following:**  1. The battle for leadership   * How does Jack attempt to attack Ralph's authority? * What happens when his coup d'é·tat fails? * Would Piggy be a good leader? Why or why not? * What is the significance of Jack's plan to steal fire from the other group?  1. The pig's head  * Why does Jack put the pig's head on the stick? * Re-read the section where Simon talks to the head. Make a note of light/dark imagery, and evidence of his heightened senses. Discuss how it could indicate either a seizure or a spiritual trance-state. * How does the pig try to undermine Simon's self-confidence? * What threat does it make? * Things fall apart * What is Jack's theory as to why the boys' life on the island isn't perfect? * Who do Ralph and Piggy blame? Who does Simon blame? |
|  | **Chapter 9** | * How does the description of the island’s weather match what is happening on the island? * The rain dance 🡪 significance? * What message does Simon come down the mountain with? What happens to him?   + Match this to a Biblical story (or two!) |
|  | **Chapter 10** | * The murder 🡪 how does Piggy try to rationalize it? What does Ralph say? * “Four of us. We aren’t enough to keep the fire burning.” (174) 🡪 symbolism? * Regarding Jack’s tribe: what measure has Jack taken in regards to defence and punishment? 🡪 Who are they defending against? * How does the new tribe rationalize Simon’s murder? * Evidence that Ralph’s “tribe” is starting to slip into madness * “’It’s come!’ gasped Piggy. “It’s real!” (184) 🡪 significance? |
|  | **Chapter 11** | **Consider the significance of the following:**   * Piggy holding on to the conch 🡪 why does he do this? * When Ralph and co. prepare to confront Jack 🡪 how do they ready themselves? * Ralph vs. Jack / Simon vs. The Pig 🡪 parallels? (give quotations) * The N-Word (pg. 200). Why is it used? What do you think about it? * Piggy’s death 🡪 where is it foreshadowed? * The symbolism of the conch breaking * What is the source (and nature) of Roger’s “new nameless authority”? |
|  | **Chapter 12** | **Considerations:**   1. What kind of physical and mental shape is Ralph in at the beginning of the chapter? 2. Explain the meaning and importance of the following quote: “He had even glimpsed one of them...But really, thought Ralph, this was not Bill” (183). 3. Was Piggy’s death an accident? Why or why not? 4. What does Ralph ﬁnd in the forest and how does he feel about it? 5. How does Ralph feel about joining Jack’s tribe? Do you think Ralph is right? Why 6. or why not? 7. What role does darkness play in this chapter? Is a physical or metaphorical role? Do you feel that things feel differently during the day than at night? 8. What can Ralph do to save his life on page 196? What choice would you make? 9. Was it smart for Jack’s group to set ﬁre to the island? Why or why not? 10. How does the ofﬁcer respond to the boys? What is his ﬁrst reaction? How does he change his opinion after he learns more about their situation?   **Themes & Morals:**   * What lessons can be learned from reading the book? * What is Golding saying about people, society and government? Why do you think he wrote the book? |