

Lord of the Flies
Chapters 1-2

Vocabulary:

Each underlined word is shown in the context of the passage in which it appears in the book. Determine from the context what the word means and define it in your own words. Then compare your definition with that found in a dictionary.

1. It (the water) was clear to the bottom and bright with the efflorescence of topical weed and coral.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

2. Sleep enveloped him like the swathing mirages that were wrestling with the brilliance of the lagoon.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

3. With that word the heat seemed to increase till it became a threatening weight and the lagoon attacked them with a blinding effulgence.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

4. Ralph used one hand as a fulcrum and pressed down with the other till the shell rose, dripping, and Piggy could make a grab.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

5. The note bloomed again: and then at his firmer pressure, the note, fluking up an octave, became a strident blare more penetrating than ever before.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

6. Even the choir applauded: and the freckles on Jack's face disappeared under a blush of mortification.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

7. Then, with the martyred expression of a parent who has to keep up with the senseless ebullience of the children, he picked up the conch....

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

8. There was pushing and pulling and officious cries.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

9. The air moved a little faster and became a light wind, so that leeward and windward side were clearly differentiated.

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

10. "Any day there may be a ship out here"-he waved his arm at the taut wire of the horizon...

Your Definition:

Dictionary Definition:

Character Study:

Characters in literature are revealed through their speech, their actions and how others respond to them. For each of the passages below, write down what the passage reveals or suggests about the character.

1. Ralph:

The fat boy waited to be asked his name in turn but this proffer of acquaintance was not made; the fair boy called Ralph smiled vaguely, stood up, and began to make his way once more toward the lagoon.

2. Ralph:

...what intelligence had been shown was traceable to Piggy while the most obvious leader was Jack. But there was a stillness about Ralph as he sat that marked him out: there was his size, and attractive appearance; and most obscurely, yet most powerfully, there was the conch. The begin that had blown that, had sat waiting for them on the platform with the delicate thing balanced on his knees, was set apart.

3. Jack:

"I got the conch," said Piggy indignantly. "You let me speak!"

"The conch doesn't count on top of the mountain," said Jack, "so you shut up."

4. Piggy

"-and them little 'uns was wandering about down there where the fire is. How d'you know they aren't still there?"

Piggy stood up and pointed to the smoke and flames. A murmur rose among the boys and died away. Something strange was happening to Piggy, for he was gasping for breath.

"That little'un-" gasped Piggy-"him with the mark on his face, I don't see him. Where is he now?"

Questions:

1. *Setting* is the time and place in which a literary work occurs. What is the setting of *Lord of the Flies*?
2. Why are the boys alone on the island?
3. What did the pilot say happened to the people at the airport?
4. What is the conch and what do the boys use it for?
5. What are the smaller boys afraid of?
6. How do Ralph and Jack respond when others talk of the beast?
7. Why does Ralph say they need to build a fire?
8. What happens to the little boy with the purple mark on his face?

Analysis:

9. Ralph, Piggy, and Jack are the three main characters of the novel. How do each of the boys respond to being on the island?
10. Why does Jack say he should be chief? Why do the boys choose Ralph as their chief? Who do you think would make a better leader? Why?
11. Why is the conch so important to the boys?
12. How do you the boys react when Ralph states simply that they will be rescued? Why do you think they react this way?
13. What malicious attitudes are seen in the boys' behavior toward each other?
14. How do the leaders react to the little boys' death? Why do you suppose they respond this way?
15. What evidence do the first two chapters give of the innocence of the school boys?
16. Review the scene in which Jack and his choir arrive. What kind of institution did Jack and his choir come from? Give examples from the book to support your answer.

Deeper Analysis:

17. Look up the name *Beelzebub* in a dictionary. Who was *Beelzebub*?
Allusion is a reference in literature to a familiar person, place, thing, or event. Consider the title of the novel. Who, or what, is the author alluding to with the title *Lord of the Flies*?
18. A *symbol* is a person, place, thing or event that is used to represent something else. What might the conch symbolize?
19. What might the scar symbolize?
20. *Foreshadowing* is a literary term that hints at or suggests what might happen later in the story. Chapter 2 ends with the sentence, "Beneath them, on the unfriendly side of the mountain, the drum-roll continued." What is the usual

significance of a drum-roll? What does this, combined with the death of the little boy, foreshadow?

21. Golding uses very specific language to describe the beginning of the fire in a long paragraph near the end of Chapter 2. Near the beginning of the paragraph, Golding says the fire “touched a tree trunk and scrambled up like a bright squirrel.” What impression of the fire does this description create? What other words does he use to describe the fire? How does our perception of the fire change by the end of the paragraph? List a few more descriptions of the fire from the next few pages.
22. The small boys on the island are afraid of the “snake-thing,” the “beastie.” Describe Ralph’s and Jack’s reactions to the little boys’ fears.
23. What is the consequence of Ralph’s and Jack’s reactions to the boys’ fears of the “beastie”?
24. As the boys are meeting to decide what they will do, Jack gets very excited about having rules, “We’ll have rules!....Lots of rules! Then when anyone breaks ‘em-” Why is Jack so excited about having rules? What do you think he intends for boys who break the rules?
25. Read Genesis 2:15-17, 25, 3:1-24. What parallels do you see between these passages and the first two chapters of *Lord of the Flies*? What implications might this have for the theme of the book?

Extra Credit:

-Ralph, Jack, and Simon surveyed the island. Draw a map of the island as seen through the eyes of these boys.