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## Discussion questions lord of the flies chapter 5

Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 12 Chapter 12 11. T he boys discover that there are no adults on the island and try to model civilization as they know it by choosing a manager. How effective do you think this effort will be unsupervised? 2. Consider the cause of the conflict between Ralph and Jack. What does Ralph's attempt to appease Jack say about his basic character? Is it likely that Jack will settle for playing second fiddle? Why or why not? 3. What does Ralph's revelation about Piggy's name suggest to you about the basic nature of youth? Are they deliberately cruel to each other or just ruthless? Explain. 4. Why do you think the boys chose Ralph as their leader? 1. Consider Ralph's announcement of the group's two priorities. Are these the two priorities you would choose? What other things do you think the group might have to deal with? 2. One of the young boys expresses his fear of a beastie, while the others claim that there is no such thing. What does this event suggest about people and their fears in general? What things can we fear even when we are not facing the dramatic situation these boys are facing? Why? 3. Piggy thinks the first thing the group should have done was build shelters on the beach. Is this a valid point? Why or why not? 1. Does Jack's desire to kill a pig fit into any of the group's two main priorities set by Ralph? Is Jack concerned about the group's welfare? Explain. 2. Ralph wanted to express to Jack that people are never really what you think they are. Do you agree with Ralph or not? Support your position with an example of your own experience. 3. Simon finds a secluded place in the high jungle where he can be alone. Why do you think he's doing this? What do you think this is suggesting about Simon? 1. Both Maurice and Roger torment the littluns, but they still feel guilty and are still conditioned by the civilization they knew before. How much time do you think has passed since the boys came to the island? Do you think that another passage of time will have no effect on their feelings of guilt and their previous conditioning? 2. Jack masks himself with mud and coal. What effect does this have on his behavior? What is the purpose of any mask, either real or imagined? Do we all wear masks every now and then? Explain. 3. Watching the hunters dance and sing, Ralph feels envy and resentment. Why do you think he feels these feelings? Of what is he jealous? What does he dislike? 1. Why does Ralph's complaint about the group apply? What do you think these errors indicate about the group in general? Explain. 2. Ralph tells the group to die before they let the fire go out. What does he mean by that comment? 3. Think Piggy's statement if there is nothing to fear and Simon's remark that if there is a beast it could be the boys themselves. Do these two comments have anything in common? Do you think Piggy's and Simon's statements make sense? Explain. 1. Ralph wishes a message from the adults. Skydivers can be such a message. What are some ideas about the arrival of this figure that may have suggested to the boys? What is then ironic about the twins' explanation that it was a beast? 2. None of the boys, not even Ralph or Jack, doubt for a moment that Sam and Eric have really seen a beast. Why are they all so ready to accept the presence of such a beast? 3. Simon comments to Ralph that he does not believe in the beast. Recall his previous inability to imagine the best that the twins described and his image of a heroic and sick man. Is it likely that anyone else will agree with him? Why or why not? Is Simon's distrust reasonable? 4. As Ralph tried to talk to the boys, something flittered in front of his mind, like a bat wing, obscures his idea. What do you think's going to happen to Ralph? How would you explain this short circuit? Remember his pounding his fist against the mountain. How would you describe Ralph's state of mind? 5. Recall Jack's ideas for the newly explored part of the island. Why do you think Jack thinks in these terms? Does he seem afraid of something? Why do you think the boys would need a fort? What would it defend them from? 1. Simon tells Ralph he's not sure, of course, but that he thinks Ralph will get back alright. Do you agree with Simon? Do you think any or all the boys will be rescued? Why or why not? Does Ralph think so? Why or why not? 2. When Ralph hits the boar on the nose with his spear, how does he feel? Afterwards, he immediately jabs at Robert with his spear. Then what does he feel? Is there any connection between the two events? Explain. 3. How would you describe the relationship between Ralph and Jack at this point? What is the source of their conflict? You think Jack hates Ralph? If so, why? 1. Throughout the novel there has been a conflict between Jack and Piggy. What do you think is the cause of this conflict? Why is it significant that Piggy, for the first time, helps to collect firewood only after Jack has broken from the group? Why does Piggy feel liberated? 2. Although Jack lists Ralph's fault, none of the boys are willing to unseat Ralph as manager. What explanation can you offer for this? 3. Comment on your reaction to Simon's encounters with the Lord of the Flies. You think Simon's hallucinating because of the heat? Remember, Simon is only a young boy, about 11 or 12. Does such a young person usually have the kind of understanding and insight that Simon seems to have? Do you think the Lord of the Flies' assessment of the other boys' feelings about Simon is correct? Is any evidence to support this? Do you think the Lord of the Flies' warning that the others will do Simon if he tries to interfere is realistic? 1. Discuss the organization of Jack's tribe and his position in it. Then discuss the kind of organization Ralph tried to establish with the entire group. How would you notice every leader and every system? Which would you prefer to be a member of? Explain why. 2. Lord of the Flies' prediction that Simon would be killed by the other boys turns out to be correct. Did you expect this, or were you surprised? Was Simon disturbing, something the Lord of the Flies warned him about, or did he try to save them all from the real beast, themselves? 3. What is the significance of the figure on the mountain dropping on the beach and then washing out to the sea? Remember Simon's efforts to call out his news to chanting, dancing tribesmen. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human being. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Thank you for your participation! What I mean is ..... maybe it's just us. See Important Quotes Explained When Ralph walks along the beach, he thinks about how much of life is an improvisation and how a large part of one's waking life is spent looking at his feet. Ralph is frustrated with his hair, which is now long, mangy, and always manages to fall before his eyes. He decides to call a meeting to try to get the group to get back in line. Late at night, he blows the conch shell, and the boys gather on the beach. At the venue, Ralph grips conch shells and criticizes the boys for their failure to enforce the group's rules. They have done nothing that is required of them: they refuse to work on building shelters, they do not collect drinking water, they neglect the signal fire, and they do not even use the designated toilet area. He disclosed the importance of signal fire and attempts to allay the group's growing fear of animals and monsters. The littluns in particular are increasingly plagued by nightmare visions. Ralph says there are no monsters on the island. Jack also claims that there is no beast, saying that everyone gets scared and it's just a matter of putting up with it. Piggy seconds Ralph's rational claims, but a ripple of fear goes through the group anyway. One of the littluns says away and claims that he has actually seen a beast. When the others press him and ask where it could hide during the daytime, he suggests that it may come up from the sea at night. This previously ill-considered explanation frightens all the boys, and the encounter plunges into chaos. Suddenly, Jack proclaims that if there is a beast, he and his hunters will hunt it down and kill it. Jack torments Piggy and runs away, and many of the other boys run after him. Eventually, just Piggy, and Simon's still here. In the distance, the hunters who have followed Jack dance and chant. Piggy urges Ralph to blow the conch shell and call the boys back to the group, but Ralph fears that the call will go ignored and that any trace of order will then disintegrate. He tells Piggy and Simon that he can forgo leadership in the group, but his friends assure him that the boys need his guidance. As the group glides away to sleep, the sound of a littlun cries echoes along the beach. Analysis The boys' fear of the beast is becoming an increasingly important aspect of their lives, especially at night, from the moment the first littlun claims to have seen a snake-monster in Chapter 2. In this chapter, the beast's fear finally explodes, destroying Ralph's attempt to restore order on the island and hasten the final division between Ralph and Jack. At this point, it is still uncertain whether the beast actually exists. In any case, the beast acts as one of the most important symbols of the novel, representing both the terror and the allure of the original desires for violence, power and barbarism that lurk in every human soul. In accordance with the overall allegorical nature of the Lord of the Flies, the beast can be interpreted in a number of different lights. In a religious reading, for example, the beast reminds the devil; in a Freudian reading, it can represent the id, the instinctive urges and desires of the human subconscious. But we interpret the beast, the little idea of monsters rising from the sea scares the boys because it represents the beast's emergence from its own subconscious. As Simon realizes later in the novel, the beast is not necessarily something that exists outside in the jungle. Rather, it is already inside every boy's mind and soul, the capacity for barbarism and evil that slowly overwhelms them. As the idea of the beast increasingly fills the boys with fear, Jack and the hunters manipulate the boys' fear of the beast to their own advantage. Jack continues to imply that the beast exists when he knows it's probably not—a manipulation that leaves the rest of the group scared and more willing to cede power to Jack and his hunters, more willing to overlook the barbarity of Jack's part to maintain the security of the group. In this way, the beast indirectly becomes one of Jack's main sources of power. At the same time, Jack effectively enables the boys themselves to act like the beast—to express the instinct for barbarism that civilization has previously kept in check. Since this instinct is natural and present within every human being, Golding claims that we are all capable of becoming the beast. Beast.