

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH IIA

The Lord of the Flies Comprehension Questions

CHAPTER 1:

1. What circumstances have brought the boys to the island?
2. Why are there no adults on the island?
3. Of what use is the conch?
4. Why does Jack feel he should be elected chief?
5. What qualities about Ralph make him desirable as chief?
6. Who becomes the first leader on the island? Why?
7. What job does the choir take?
8. What do the boys discover while exploring?
9. Why can't Jack kill the piglet?

CHAPTER 2:

10. What is the purpose of the army?
11. What is the beastie? How does it make them feel?
12. Explain the plan the boys have to be rescued.
13. How do the boys start the fire?
14. What important job does Piggy forget to do?
15. What happens to the little boy with the mark on his face?
16. How is Piggy's point of view different from the rest of the boys?

CHAPTER 3:

17. Why does Ralph feel it's important to have shelter for the little ones?

18. What are the various jobs assigned to the boys? Why don't the boys do their jobs?
19. Describe Simon. Why does he go off alone up the mountain?

CHAPTER 4:

1. Who are the littluns? What did they do with their time?
2. Why do the boys paint their faces with dazzle-paint? Does this give them a new attitude?
3. Why doesn't the passing ship spot the boys?
4. Why is the fire allowed to go out?
5. What are the hunters preoccupied with? Why do they repeat the chant, "Kill the pig, cut her throat."
6. How does Ralph reclaim his position as chief?
7. What other crisis develops regarding the fire?

CHAPTER 5:

8. Why does Ralph hold an assembly? What are some of the concerns he brings up?
9. How are things breaking up?
10. Why do the littluns cry in their sleep?
11. Why was Percival Wemys Madison afraid?
12. Ralph says, "You're breaking the rules...the rules are the only thing we got!" What does he mean? What will happen if they don't follow rules?
13. Why does Jack hate Ralph?

CHAPTER 6:

14. Why are Sam 'n Eric so terrified?
15. Is there really a beast? How do you know?
16. Why does Piggy only have "one" eye?
17. How do Sam 'n Eric describe the beast?

18. Why doesn't Jack really care about being rescued?
19. What is the attitude of the boys when they are going off to look for the beast?
20. Do any of the boys really believe in the beast?

CHAPTER 7:

1. Describe the physical changes that Ralph notices about himself.
2. What does Ralph daydream about his home?
3. What is the game the boys play after spearing the pig? What is their mood?
4. Why do you think Jack hates Ralph so much? Why won't he talk it over with him?
5. What evidence did the boys find to prove there is a beast? Why are they so gullible?

CHAPTER 8:

6. How is Piggy treated by the boys? Why?
7. How does Ralph describe the beast?
8. Why does Jack call an assembly? How does he persuade the boys to elect him as chief?
9. Do the boys support Jack? Do they like Jack? Do they fear Jack? Explain why.
10. Why does Jack want and need to be chief?
11. Why do they have to move the fire? How do the littluns react to this? Why?
12. Describe the killing of the sow. What do the hunters do with the blood?
13. What do they do with the sow's head?
14. What is Simon's reaction to the pig's head? Why?
15. How does Jack lure the boys into his tribe?
16. In what ways are the boys becoming like savages?
17. Why did the hunters raid Ralph's group?
18. What threat does the Lord of the Flies make to Simon? Does he really speak? Is Simon crazy?

CHAPTER 9:

19. What are the reasons the other boys go to Jack's party?
20. Why did Ralph and Piggy join the party?
21. What was Simon trying to warn the boys about when he stumbled into the horseshoe?
22. Why did the boys kill him?
23. Did the boys deliberately kill Simon? Did they know what they were doing?
24. What happened to Simon's body? What happened to the parachute figure? What was similar about these two characters?

CHAPTER 10:

1. How does Piggy justify Simon's murder? Why does he need to justify it if he didn't kill Simon?
2. Who is left in Ralph's group?
3. Did Ralph and Piggy take part in the murder? Do they feel responsible? Why?
4. In what ways do Jack and his group act like savages?
5. Why was the double function of the fire? What does the fire symbolize?
6. Why didn't the hunters steal the conch? What does the conch symbolize?
7. Why did the hunters steal the glasses?
8. What will happen to Piggy without his glasses?

CHAPTER 11:

9. What do Ralph and his group plan to do to get Piggy's glasses back? Why are they so concerned about how they will look when they go to meet Jack's group?
10. Explain what this passage meant, "They understood only too well the liberation into savagery that concealing paint brought."
11. Is the rivalry between the groups a game? Do the boys think it is serious?
12. Why doesn't Jack's group worry about a signal fire?

13. What is Jack's response to Ralph's question, "Which is better—law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?"
14. What is the symbolic meaning of the shattered conch?
15. How is Piggy killed?
16. Why does Jack force Samneric to join his tribe?

CHAPTER 12:

17. Why does Ralph know he's an outcast?
18. How does Jack plan to kill Ralph? How does Ralph find out about the plan?
19. What do you think Ralph could do to protect himself?
20. What was the purpose of the stick sharpened at both ends?
21. Explain what Jack does to force Ralph out of the thicket?
22. Why and how are the boys rescued?
23. What do you think would have happened to Ralph if the officer hadn't intervened? What would have happened to the rest of the boys?
25. Does the officer believe Ralph about the boys who are killed? What did he expect from British boys?
26. Why does Ralph break down? What does he realize about mankind in general?