**Chapter 1 – The Sound of the Shell**

* Ralph and Piggy are the first two boys we meet.
* They quickly come to the conclusion that their plane was shot down.
* The two boys look around the beach – wondering about the other boys from the plane.
* They come across a conch shell (seashell) – Piggy declares that it could be used as a trumpet.
* Ralph blows it and a group of boys find their way to the beach.
* The boys range in age from 12 – 6.
* One of the boys, Jack shows up on the beach with his group of boys from the choir – all dressed in black and walking in parallel lines.
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The Conch Shell:

* Represents law and order = authority
* It brings civilization to the boys.
* When it is blown, you go to it.
* The person who holds it has the right of speech.

**Chapter 2 – Fire on the Mountain**

* The explorer boys come back onto the beach and blow the conch again to call another meeting.
* The boys create some rules such as whoever has the conch has the right to speak, everyone else will listen.
* The boys only now seem to realize they could be stuck on this island for a long time.
* One of the younger boys claims he saw a beast that resembled a snake. The older boys reassure them that there is no monster.
* In hopes of being rescued, Ralph announces that they must build a fire at the top of the mountain to be used as a signal.
* Everyone runs up the mountain to get started on the fire.
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The Signal Fire:

* Represents a tie to a civilized society.
* As long as the fire burns, there is hope to be rescued.
* If the fire burns out, they would disconnect from civilization.

**Chapter 3 – Huts on the Beach**

* Jack is in the jungle trying to chase down a pig with a makeshift spear. Frustrated when it got away, he decide to go back to the beach.
* Ralph and Simon are attempting to make huts for shelter, but the huts won’t stay up and none of the other boys will help (The other boys are playing in the lagoon).
* Ralph is irritated – Jack won’t help with the huts either and feels that they are using their “hunter roles” to avoid helping out and they haven’t even caught a pig yet.
* Tension builds between Ralph and Jack as they become hostile towards one another.
* Simon wanders into the jungle alone where he finds a few of the little boys (now referred to as “littluns”) trying to get fruit from a tree.
* Simon helps them get some fruit down and continues walking into the jungle. He eventually finds an open space filled with flowers, butterflies and birds. He sits down alone and marvels are the beauty around him – Simon has a connection to the natural world.

The Huts:

* Represents civilization
* Ralph and Simon are trying to create a civilization on the island in order to create order and for survival

 Biblical Allusion:

* Simon: Christ-like figure that is alluded to the Messiah
* Meditation: Simon goes to meditate by himself. He is surrounded by light and tranquility (Church Imagery)
* Struggle between GOOD VS EVIL

**Chapter 4 – Painted Faces and Long Hair**

* The boys begin to get into a daily routine.
* The afternoons are hot so many of the boys choose to nap, but many of them are troubled by images they see flicker over the water – Piggy claims they are mirages.
* The boys find nighttime the hardest because it is dark and frightening.
* The little boys have nightmare and continue to talk about the “beastie” and are worried that it will hunt them at night.
* The “littluns” and the older kids live very different lives as the older kids have much more responsibility. The older kids tend to pick on and bully the “littluns” – Roger and Maurice threw stones at them.
* Jack has become obsessed with hunting. Jack and a few of the other boys camouflage their faces and run into the jungle looking to fins a pig.
* Meanwhile, Piggy and Ralph see a ship on the horizon, but notice the signal fire has gone out. They run up the mountain, but are too late as it has already burnt out and the ship has passed.
* The hunters come out of the jungle – covered in blood, chanting a song and carrying a pig.
* The hunters were in charge of maintaining the fire so Ralph is furious with Jack and his pack of hunters. Ralph and Piggy complain to Jack. Jack slams Piggy down and cracks one of his lenses. Jack apologizes for letting the fire out.
* Ralph uses Piggy’s glasses to start a fire – Jack resents Ralph.

Jack’s Mask:

* Represents the continuation of savagery
* The savagery is escalating among the boys.
* They have painted their faces like barbarians.

Biblical Allusion:

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**Chapter 5 – Beast from Water**

* As Ralph walks alone along the beach he is lost in his thoughts. He is angry with his hair – it is too long and gets in his way.
* He blows the conch shell and the boys meet him at the beach. At the meeting Ralph reprimands the boys for not following the rules and not doing their duties – they let the signal fire out, they don’t help build shelters, they don’t help get drinking water, etc.
* Some of the littluns share their concerns about the beast – the older boys try to subside their fear by reminding them that there is no monster there.
* One little boy claims he has seen the beast and when the boys question where it could hide during the day – it is said that maybe it comes from the water.
* This causes an uproar – Jack claims that if there is a beast, he will kill it and they all run off except for Ralph, Piggy and Simon.
* Though Piggy advises Ralph to blow the conch again so they will reassemble, he chooses not to. WHY?
* Ralph is scared that if they ignore it, all sign of civilization and order will be gone forever.
* This chapter causes the rift between Ralph and Jack to grow increasingly – the boys are both trying to rule the island in the way they see fit.

The Beast

* Represents the evil and savagery each individual contains
* Each of us has a beast trapped within which will be released under the proper circumstances.
* We are all capable of becoming the beast
* Symbol of savagery, power and fear

**Chapter 6 – Beast from Air**

* Military airplanes battle over the island – creating explosions but none of the boys see this because Sam and Eric fell asleep when they were in charge of watching the signal fire
* A dead man in a parachute floats down to the island, but his parachute gets stuck in some rocks and his shadow creates a large fearful image below.
* Sam and Eric wake up and fix the fire. They see the man and his parachute, but mistaken it for the beast. The boys run to the beach to tell everyone else.
* All the boys (except for Piggy and the littluns) take off to explore the island for monsters with spears in their hands.
* The boys come across a new part of the island that they have never explored before – a thin walkway that leads to a hill and caves.
* Ralph begins to explore by himself as the other boys were all too afraid to go. Eventually the rest of them follow and begin to play and make plans to build a fort.
* Ralph reminds them they are here to find the beast and they must go to the mountain to rekindle the fire – they grudgingly obey.
* The power struggle between Jack and Ralph continues as the thought of a beast become more real.

Man in the Parachute

* Represents the raging war both on the island and in the outside world.
* Ralph and Jack are constantly battling over power just as the planes in the sky (which the man fell out of) were doing in the air.
* Savagery vs Civilization both on and off the island

**Chapter 7 – Shadows in Tall Trees**

* Ralph is worried they will never make it home – Simon reassures him that they will
* While they are searching for the beast, the boys decide to hunt for a pig. This is Ralph’s first hunting experience and he quickly gets wrapped up in the excitement of the chase.
* The boys reenact the chase with Robert being the pig – they get so caught up and start hitting him with their spears. Robert manages to drag himself away so that the boys remember this was only supposed to be a game.
* Jack makes a joke that they should use a littlun next time = darkness, evil and savagery
* Every person, no matter how good they might seem, are capable of evil (Ralph has been good and stayed away from savagery until now).
* The boys continue on their journey to the mountain.
* Although Ralph wants to wait till morning to climb the mountain, Jack teases him for being afraid.
* Jack, Ralph and Roger climb up the mountain and see the dark figure – they run back down the mountain to warn the others.

Chase/Hunt

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**Chapter 8 – Gift for the Darkness**

* Back on the beach, Jack blows in the conch and announces that they saw the beast and Ralph was afraid so he should be stripped of his chief title. Everyone refuses to do so.
* Jack storms off and welcomes anyone to join him if they want.
* Piggy suggests they build a new signal fire on the beach and the boys begin to set it up while many of them sneak away in the night to Jack.
* Further on the beach, Jack is becoming the chief of his new tribe – in their savagery, they kill a sow (female pig) while she is feeding her babies. They place the head of the sow on a sharpened stick and leave it on the beach as an offer to the beast.
* Jack and his troup invade the beach full of excitement over their most recent hunt.
* The invite the boys to come join their feast tonight.
* Simon slipped away and returned back to the glade full of beautiful nature that he went to previously, but this time he finds the sow’s head on a stake – which is now swarming with flies.
* Simon is mesmerized by this and the sow’s head begins speaking to him – it claims it is “The Lord of The Flies”.
* The sow’s head reveals that he lives in all of them and that Simon will never be able to escape him.
* Simon faints.

The Sow’s Head/ “Lord of the Flies”:

* Represents the savagery and evil that exists in all the boys.
* Simon understands as he realizes even the good ones are capable of such evil
* Realization that the beast lives in ALL OF THEM
* Watch for the reference to the butterflies in this killing scene. What does this mean? (purity loses to violence) = innocence and beauty is lost in the world of savagery.
* Sow head on the stake – a gift for the beast – it becomes another symbol of terror.
* The title “Lord of the Flies” = literally translated to “Beelzebub” (the devil in the Bible)
* The head of the pig represents the evil of unreason – not the evil of sin (as in the Bible)
* The flies buzzing around the head are doing it instinctively and represent the primitive urges beginning to dominate the boys (just as the flies are subject to the influence of the “Lord of the Flies” so are the boys)
* The Lord of the Flies answers the question why the civilization of the boys is a failure – the destructive element is in the boys themselves – in every one of them no matter how good they may seem.
* The symbolic encounter between Simon and the Lord of the Flies represents the conflict between good and evil as it occurs in every human being.
* Simon and the Lord of the Flies each represent universal tendencies (cruelty, destructiveness, intellect, creativity) that are found in everyone to varying degrees… these are all present as impulses in the human personality
* \*\*\*Therefore, this novel both explores the disintegration of a society, and also a study into the identity of man.
* \*\*\*Golding deliberately leaves it up to the reader to decide if this is all in Simon’s imagination, but it is clear Golding is saying it doesn’t matter what name you give to evil (devil, sin, neurosis, hate, violence, brutality) – the important fact is that evil exists inside man and that it is a necessary part of the human condition.

**Chapter 9 – A View to a Death**

* Simon wakes up – nose bleeding and the air is dark and humid (a storm in coming).
* He staggers up the mountain where he sees the man and the parachute – Simon realizes that it is not the beast and understands that the other boys have mistaken it as one.
* Once he sees the dead corpse, he vomits and then untangles it from the rocks.
* Eager to prove to the other boys what he has discovered, he makes his way to the glowing fire of Jack’s tribe.
* At the fire, Jack is sitting like a kind, using the other boys as his slaves. He is also recruiting boys from Ralph’s tribe. Once it begins to rain, Ralph asks what Jack plans to do since they made no shelters. Jack’s response = orders his tribe to do their wild hunting dance and chant.
* The boys get swept up in the exhilaration of the dance (including Ralph and Piggy) – they begin to reenact the hunting of the pig once again.
* A dark figure appears out of the forest and without hesitation, the pack of boys attack and start tearing it apart.
* It is Simon, he yells and scrambles to get away, trying to explain what he has seen. In his attempted escape he trips over some rocks and plunges onto the beach. The boys chase after him and kill him violently.
* The storm explodes and washes Simon’s body into the ocean – the boys run for cover and the wind flies the man and his parachute onto the beach – the boys scream and run away.
* The beast has become a common enemy for them all.
* All the boys, including Ralph ad Piggy, join in the killing which indicates the universality of the guilt – thus Golding is stressed that the potential for destruction exists in everyone
* It is a human’s natural tendency to get over guilt by using a scapegoat (a word that comes from the practice of sacrificing a goat to God so man could escape blame for their sins).
* Simon becomes this scapegoat and by killing him, the boys are trying to get over their guilt over their past failures and crimes and lose their fear and self-awareness in a ritualistic act of murder where Simon becomes a “beast” responsible for all the evil on the island.
* Previously, the pigs were the scapegoat – but they went through a progression from pig to sow, to human (just as most serial killers do).
* The vanishing of the parachute and corpse into the ocean at the moment of Simon’s death signifies the beast on the top of the mountain is no longer necessary – the human beasts have taken over.
* IRONY – Simon who hoped to dispel the beast by enlightening the boys is replaced by the beast as the imagined source of evil.

Simon’s Death:

* Represents the last of civilization being washed away
* Simon was the character that represented goodness – his death is brutal and chaotic just as the island is now without any influence of good or civilization left.

SIMON’S DEATH IS THE CLIMAX – first time they take a human life = the darkness is unstoppable inside of them now.

**Chapter 10 – The Shell and the Glasses**

* Piggy and Ralph meet up in the beach the next morning – both ashamed for their part in Simon’s death.
* Piggy is unable to confront his role in his death – he claims it was an accident. Ralph is hysterical, but claims they helped with the murder.
* The two boys are alone – only a few others have refused to join Jack’s tribe.
* Jack’ Tribe:

- They reside at Castle Rock (Mountain of the Island)

- Jack punishes boys for no reason

- Jack warns his tribe that Ralph and his group are a danger to them.

- They truly believe Simon was the beast and that the beast has the ability to disguise itself = it is never dead

* On the beach, Ralph’s group is depressed – they have all went to bed (Ralph, Piggy. Sam and Eric and a few littluns).
* They wake up to howling and are suddenly attacked by Jack’s tribe. Ralph is badly beaten and they have stolen Piggy’s glasses.
* Kill or be killed becomes the motto on the island.

Piggy’s Specs:

* Represents the power of reason and logic in society
* The crack symbolizes a break in the rationality and civilization.
* The specs now being in Jack’s hands symbolizes the power to create fire.
* Now that Jack has Piggy’s specs, he will have even more power. One person who rules on savagery has all the power and he can use it in whichever way we want.

**Chapter 11 – Castle Rock**

* The following morning, Ralph’s group attempts to start a fire but it is no use without the glasses. They have a meeting and decide that the only thing they can do is go to Castle Rock and make Jack and his followers see reason.
* At Castle Rock – There are guards keeping Ralph and his group from getting to the summit of the mountain.
* Jack and Ralph fight, Jack orders his hunters to tie up Sam and Eric, they fight again, and Roger shoves a massive boulder over the edge towards them. Ralph dodges it, but it hits Piggy off the mountainside onto the rocks to his death.
* The tribe throws their spears at Ralph, but he is able to escape into the jungle.
* The tribe begins torturing Sam and Eric until they submit to join his tribe
* Death of Simon: Represents the death of ideals of religion and poetry
* Death of Piggy: Represents the death of the highly developed laws of society and social intercourse

The Broken Conch Shell:

* Represents civilization is no more and now that it is broken, they have reached the point of no return. There is no way to get back that civilization they once had.
* The smashing of the conch shell: At the moment of Piggy’s death, it represents the loss of traditional systems of authority (and significant that the sea-controlled by Triton who has the conch as one of his symbols, snatches Piggy’s Body away after the conch is shattered).

**Chapter 12 – Cry of the Hunters**

* Jack hides in the forest. He comes across the sow’s head (which is now just a skull). He takes the stake to use as a weapon against Jack.
* Later that night, Ralph sneaks back to Castle Rock where Sam and Eric are guarding the entrance – they refuse to go with him and warn him that Jack and the others are coming for him tomorrow.
* Ralph hides in a thicket overnight (dense group of bushes/trees.
* The following morning, Sam and Eric are tortured until they give up Ralph’s hiding place – the boys try to get in to the thicket, but struggle.
* Ralph smells smoke and suddenly realizes Jack has set the forest on fire in hopes of running Ralph out.
* Ralph runs out and manages to get fend off Jack and his group – takes off running with Jack and his tribe close behind.
* He reaches the beach and collapses of exhaustion knowing the tribe is not far behind.
* Suddenly Ralph looks up to find a naval officer standing over him – the office explains how his ship has come after seeing the forest fire.
* Jack and his tribe stop once they see the officer – the officer is in disbelief when he realizes what has happened here.
* The boys all break down in tears.
* At the end of the novel, the boys’ destructiveness, carelessness and irresponsibility is further developed by the total destruction of the island by fire. This scorched landscape draws further parallel to the “civilized” world that is currently scorched by atomic warfare.

Naval Officer:

* Represents civilization making its way back in to the boys’ lives.
* Irony: The officer is disgusted that the boys could be so violent though he is an officer of war (hypocrisy). Though he brings civilization, he comes from the world of both civilization and violence.