

Lesson Name : 3

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 1, Section 2

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [*Lord of the Flies*](#), Chapter 1, pages 15-25.



Symbolism

A **symbol** is a word or object that stands for a larger or greater concept or idea. Authors use **symbols** as a way to discuss larger issues within a story.

The novel *Lord of the Flies* is built upon many layers of symbolism - many objects and events taking place on the island represent greater ideas and meanings.

The conch shell is an important **symbol** for the boys as they try to communicate and create order out of their situation on the island. By using this shell as a horn, they are able to signal the rest of the boys. They organize a meeting and discuss how they will survive and try to be rescued. Here is a passage that shows the conch shell as a **symbol** for order, and hopefully for freedom:

The conch was silent, a gleaming tusk; Ralph's face was dark with breathlessness and the air over the island was full of bird-clamor and echoes ringing.

"I bet you can hear that for miles."

Ralph found his breath and blew a series of short blasts.

Piggy exclaimed: "There's one!"

A child had appeared among the palms, about a hundred yards along the beach.

Plot, Setting, and Characters

The **plot** is the storyline, or the sequence of events that makes up a story. The plot for this lesson shows Ralph and Piggy getting to know each other, and resolving to reach out to the boys on the island. The conch shell serves as a means to summon the group, and at the sound of the conch, the boys begin to gather.

The last group to arrive is made up of choirboys dressed in black cloaks, led by a boy named Merridew. Yet nameless to Ralph and Piggy, he demands to know where the man with the horn is and Ralph explains that it is just a shell.

The **characters** are representations of people in the story. The **characters** in a story act out the **plot**.

The **character** of the boy Merridw is described in a way that seems to be threatening and menacing. Here is the description from the text:

Inside the floating cloak he was tall, thin, and bony; and his hair was red beneath the black cap. His face was crumpled and freckled, and ugly without silliness. Out of this face stared two light blue eyes, frustrated now, and turning, or ready to turn, to anger.

The **setting** is the time and place where the story takes place. It is the location for the characters to act out the story.

The **setting** is described as Ralph and Piggy debate if and how they should get the group together from their spot on the island. Here is the description of the **setting** from the text:

Here and there, little breezes crept over the polished waters beneath the haze of heat. When these breezes reached the platform the palm fronds would whisper, so that spots of blurred sunlight slid over their bodies or moved like bright, winged things in the shade.

Internal & External Conflicts

Internal conflicts take place within a character's mind. You can see an **internal conflict** when a character struggles to make a decision.

The leader of the choirboys has an **internal conflict** as he arrives to find that it was not a "man" who made the sound to summon the group, but only Ralph with a shell. Here is the description from the text:

“Where’s the man with the trumpet?”

Ralph, sensing his sun-blindness, answered him.

“There’s no man with a trumpet. Only me.”

The boy came close and peered down at Ralph, screwing up his face as he did so. What he saw of the fair-haired boy with the creamy shell on his knees did not seem to satisfy him. He turned quickly, his black cloak circling.

“Isn’t there a ship, then?”

Inside the floating cloak he was tall, thin, and bony; and his hair was red beneath the black cap. His face was crumpled and freckled, and ugly without silliness. Out of this face stared two light blue eyes, frustrated now, and turning, or ready to turn, to anger.

External conflicts exist between a character and another outside force, such as another character, an animal, nature, or even society.

Ralph and Piggy have an **external conflict** as Piggy warns Ralph to be careful with the shell so that they can use it to communicate with the others. Ralph clearly does not like to be told what to do and tells Piggy to “shut up.” Here is the passage from the text:

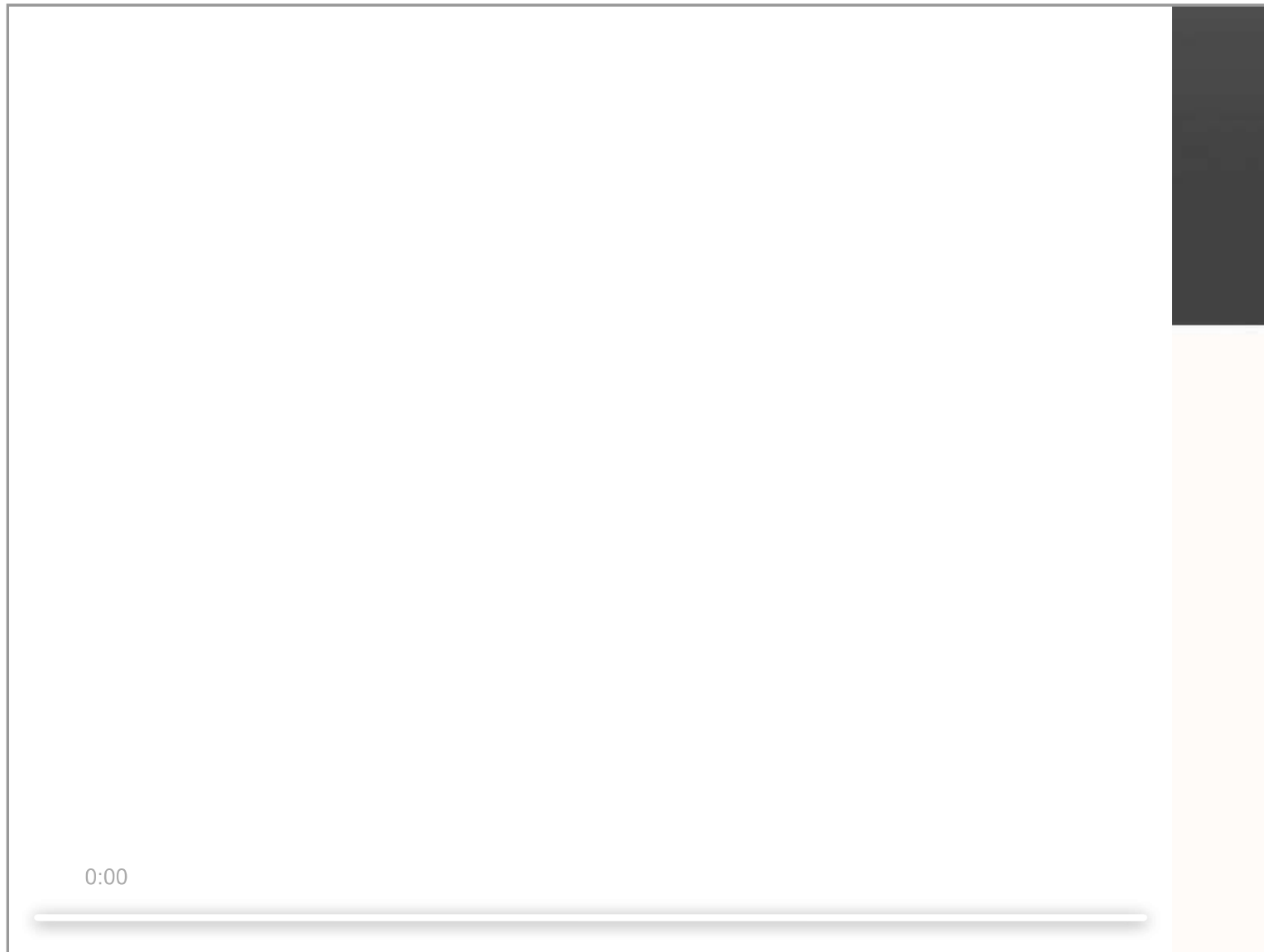
“S’right. It’s a shell! I seen one like that before. On someone’s back wall. A conch he called it. He used to blow it and then his mum would come. It’s ever so valuable—”

Near to Ralph’s elbow a palm sapling leaned out over the lagoon. In- deed, the weight was already pulling a lump from the poor soil and soon it would fall. He tore out the stem and began to poke about in the water, while the brilliant fish flicked away on this side and that. Piggy leaned dangerously.

“Careful! You’ll break it—”

“Shut up.”

Ralph spoke absently.



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Vocabulary

Understanding vocabulary words can help you to gain more meaning from the work. Let's look at some of the vocabulary from this lesson.

1. **effulgence** – noun – brilliance; radiance
2. **enmity** – noun – hostility
3. **decorous** – adj. – correct and polite in a particular situation
4. **sapling** – noun – a young tree
5. **interposed** – verb – placed between two people
6. **embossed** – adj. – carved decoration or design on the surface of an object
7. **intricacies** – noun – things that are complex or detailed
8. **strident** – adj. – sounding harsh and unpleasant