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## Objectives

- Students will be able to identify symbolism in a work of fiction.
- Students will be able to understand the relationship between plot, setting, and character in a work of fiction.
- Students will be able to identify examples of internal and external conflict in a work of fiction.
- Students will be able to correctly use vocabulary words.

## Symbolism

It should be understood from the beginning that *Lord of the Flies* is constructed almost entirely of symbols. A **symbol** is something that is not only itself, but represents some idea far greater than itself. Here are some of the symbols in this section:

The conch shell itself is the first and most important symbol in the story. It represents many things during the course of the story, but initially it represents hope, civilized order, courtesy, and organization.



The true symbolism of the “black, bat-like creature that danced on the sand” is not revealed until deep into the story, but it represents an ominous symbol of evil and of human’s ability to change their nature. It also invokes questions of illusion and reality that play a significant role in the story.

The marching choir boys dressed in black cloaks symbolize war and death. They also foreshadow a fundamental difference in philosophy and character between the egalitarian Ralph and the authoritarian Jack.

## Setting, Characters & Plot

The **setting** for this section is the beach of the tropic island. The **characters**, Ralph and Piggy have met with Jonny and many of the other boys, including Jack. The **plot** continues with Ralph learning how to use a conch shell as a horn. He blows it, which sends the rest of the boys running in hopes that the sound was from a rescue ship. Jack proves to be a cruel leader of the choir boys.

## *Internal & External Conflict*

**External conflict** occurs when a character is struggling against some sort of external, or outside, force. The force can be caused by another character, natural forces, a group, or society. External conflict can also consist of a verbal confrontation between two characters. Here is an example from this section:

“Aren’t you going to swim?”

Piggy shook his head. “I can’t swim. I wasn’t allowed. My asthma—”

“Sucks to your ass-mar!”

Piggy bore this with a sort of humble patience.

Even though good-natured, Ralph’s taunting of Piggy represents a type of **external conflict**.

**Internal conflict** is when a character struggles within over a decision. At this point of the story, much of the conflict is internal. Here are some examples from this section:

“How does he know we’re here?”

Because, thought Ralph, because, because. The roar from the reef became very distant.

Ralph’s questioning how anyone knows where the boys are shakes his firm optimism. This is an example of an internal conflict.

“They’re all dead,” said Piggy, “an’ this is an island. Nobody don’t know we’re here. Your dad don’t know, nobody don’t know—”

His lips quivered and the spectacles were dimmed with mist.

“We may stay here till we die.”

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

The struggle to maintain emotional composure is an internal conflict.

“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. "Isn't there a man here?"

Jack's confusion and eventual realization that there is no support or sign of rescue for the boys conflicts him.

## **Vocabulary**

Being able to understand the vocabulary in *Lord of the Flies* will help you better understand and appreciate the story. The following is a list of words from this section that you can use to help expand your vocabulary.

**Enmity** – noun – a feeling or condition of hostility; hatred; ill will; animosity; antagonism.

The football teams' rivalry was intense. The players felt *enmity* towards their opponents.

**Effulgence** – adjective – brilliance; radiance

The polished jewels were dazzling. Their *effulgence* lit the entire room.

**Mirage** – noun – an optical illusion caused by heat waves rising from the ground

When crossing the desert it is common to see the *mirage* of an oasis on the horizon.

**Swath** – noun – An area of grass or grain that has been cut or mowed

I took a machete and cut a *swath* through the thick jungle for our group to follow.

**Immerse** – verb – to plunge into or place under a liquid; dip; sink

To wash my plate I *immersed* it in a pail of soapy water.

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## Growth & Assessment:

1. What is the first and most powerful **symbol** in the story?
  - a. The lagoon
  - b. The conch shell
  - c. The beach
  - d. The palm trees
2. What is the **setting** for this section?
  - a. In the jungle
  - b. On a mountain
  - c. A tropic island
  - d. In the forest
3. Which **character** is the leader of the Choir boys?
  - a. Piggy
  - b. Johnny
  - c. Ralph
  - d. Jack
4. What **internal conflict** does Jack experience in this section?
5. What is a “swath”?