

Lesson Name : 6

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 1, Section 3

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Read William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Chapter 1, pages 26-32. Open Golding's [Lord of the Flies](#) in a new window.



### 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 the context and narrative of the 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 choirboys **symbolize** cruelty and disinterest in those who are suffering. When one of the boys in their group faints, Merridew does not allow anyone in the group to help him. The boy's fainting spell is considered a sign of weakness. An example is made by not helping him. Here is the passage from the text:

Wearily obedient, the choir huddled into line and stood there swaying in the sun. None the less, some began to protest faintly.

"But, Merridew. Please, Merridew. . . can't we?"

Then one of the boys flopped on his face in the sand and the line broke up. They heaved the fallen boy to the platform and let him lie. Merridew, his eyes staring, made the best of a bad job.

"All right then. Sit down. Let him alone."

"But Merridew."

"He's always throwing a faint," said Merridew. "He did in Gib.; and Addis; and at matins over the precentor."

This last piece of shop brought sniggers from the choir, who perched like black birds on the criss-cross trunks and examined Ralph with interest.

## Plot, Setting, and Characters

The **plot** is the storyline or the sequence of events that take place throughout a story. The **plot** for this lesson shows the boys meeting and introducing themselves. Ralph is elected to be the leader instead of Jack Merridew, the leader of the choir boys. Ralph decides that they must first determine if they are on an island or if they are attached to more land, which would speed up their rescue.

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

Many of the boys' **characters** are introduced in this lesson, as they are all meeting each other for the first time. Here is a passage from the text describing their first group meeting:

Finally the laughter died away and the naming continued. There was Maurice, next in size among the choir boys to Jack, but broad and grinning all the time. There was a slight, furtive boy whom no one knew, who kept to himself with an inner intensity of avoidance and secrecy. He muttered that his name was Roger and was silent again. Bill, Robert, Harold, Henry; the choir boy who had fainted sat up against a palm trunk, smiled pallidly at Ralph and said that his name was Simon.

The **setting** is the time and place where the story takes place. It is the location for the characters to act out the story. In this section, the boys are on the beach next to a bathing pool.

## Internal and External Conflicts

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

Piggy confronts Ralph about Ralph telling the boys his hated nickname, "Piggy." Ralph experiences an **internal conflict** as he wavers between being a callous, or heartless, leader or a sympathetic friend. Piggy is upset and demands that Ralph acknowledge his role within the group. Here is the passage where Ralph decides whether to be sensitive or hardened to Piggy:

Piggy's glasses were misted again—this time with humiliation.

"You told 'em. After what I said."

His face flushed, his mouth trembled.

"After I said I didn't want—"

"What on earth are you talking about?"

"About being called Piggy. I said I didn't care as long as they didn't call me Piggy; an' I said not to tell and then you went an' said straight out—"

Stillness descended on them. Ralph, looking with more understanding at Piggy, saw that he was hurt and crushed. He hovered between the two courses of apology or further insult.

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

There is an **external conflict** as Piggy tries to get each boy to introduce himself to the group. Jack Merridew interrupts and calls Piggy "fatty." Ralph then tells the group that his name is Piggy, and everyone laughs at Piggy's expense. Here is the passage from the text that shows the **external conflict** and how it creates an internal conflict for Piggy:

"Then," went on Piggy, "that boy—I forget—"

"You're talking too much," said Jack Merridew. "Shut up, Fatty."

Laughter arose.

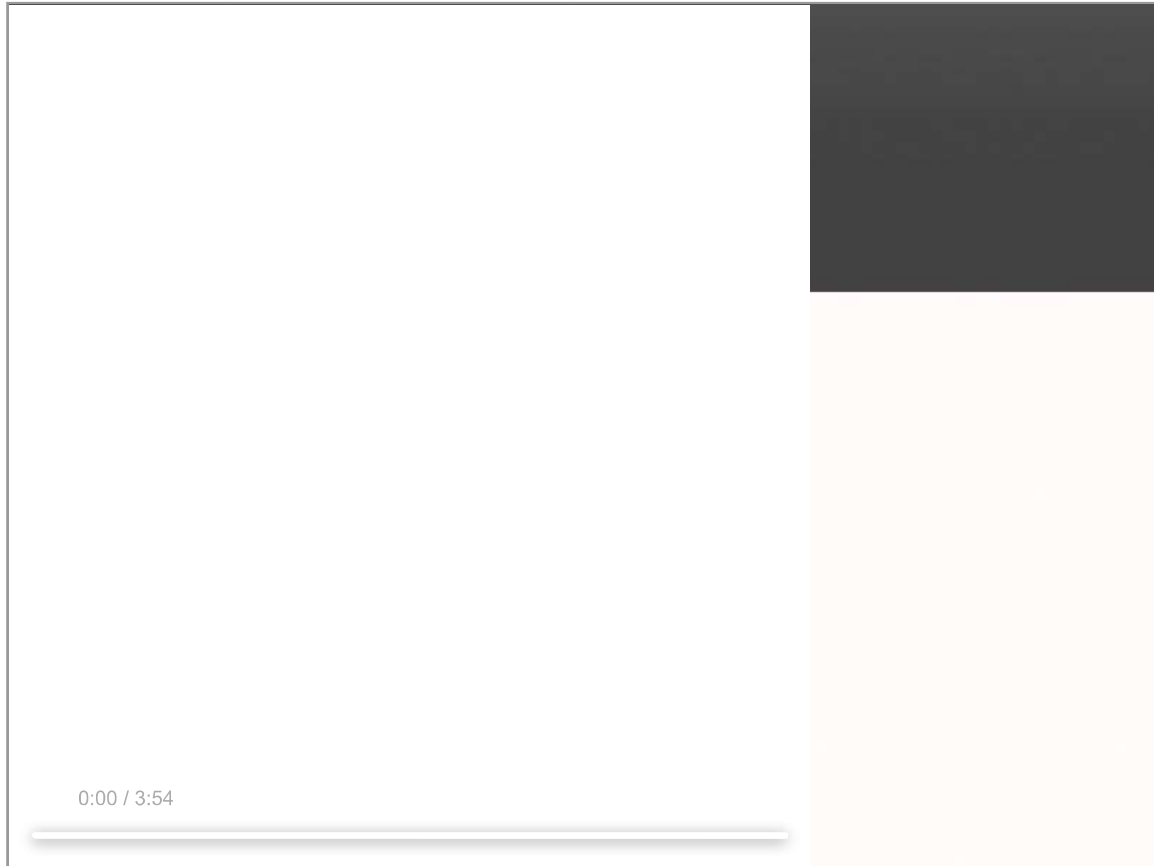
"He's not Fatty," cried Ralph, "his real name's Piggy!"

"Piggy!"

"Piggy!"

"Oh, Piggy!"

A storm of laughter arose and even the tiniest child joined in. For the moment the boys were a closed circuit of sympathy with Piggy outside: he went very pink, bowed his head and cleaned his glasses again.



[Open Video in New Tab](#)



### 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. **matins** – noun – services of morning prayer for some Christian religions
2. **precentor** – noun – a person who leads a congregation in its singing or prayers
3. **furtive** – adj. –quiet and secretive in an effort to avoid being noticed
4. **pallidly** – adv. – lacking color in a way that suggests poor health
5. **clamor** – noun – a loud or strong demand for something by many people
6. **suffusion** – noun – the process of gradually spreading through or over something
7. **indignation** – noun – anger caused by something that is unfair or wrong