

Lesson Name : 30

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 10

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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**Essential Instruction**

Read Chapter 10 of [\*Lord of the Flies\*](#) (pages 222-242).

### **Plot**

After Simon's death, Ralph, Piggy, Sam, and Eric struggle with the guilt they feel about their role in the murder. This contrasts with Jack's denial that any killing took place, or that the victim was anyone other than the beast in disguise. The way the two groups view Simon's death helps to reinforce the contrast between civility and savagery that the two groups represent.

That night, as Ralph, Piggy, Sam, and Eric sleep, Jack and two of his followers sneak into the shelter and attack. The boys brawl; Ralph, Sam, and Eric manage to fight them off. However, Jack succeeds in stealing Piggy's glasses, which he needs in order to start fires. Without the glasses, Ralph and the other boys will be unable to keep the signal fire going, and all hope of rescue will be lost.

### **Symbolism**

A **symbol** is an object that represents an abstract concept. In Chapter 10 of the novel, Golding further establishes the symbolic nature of Ralph's group and Jack's group through their views of Simon's death.

Ralph's group, which recognizes Simon's death and whose members show guilt and remorse for what happened, represents civilization. As a civilized society, they recognize that what they did was wrong, and they struggle to deal with their role in the murder. This helps to reinforce the idea that Ralph's group represents civilization.

Jack's group, on the other hand, does not even acknowledge Simon. Jack describes Simon's death as follows:

"—and then, the beast might try to come in. You remember how he crawled—"

The semicircle shuddered and muttered in agreement.

"He came—disguised. He may come again even though we gave him the head of our kill to eat. So watch; and be careful."

Stanley lifted his forearm off the rock and held up an interrogative finger.

"Well?"

"But didn't we, didn't we—?"

He squirmed and looked down.

"No!"

In the silence that followed, each savage flinched away from his individual memory.

"No! How could we—kill—it?"

This passage shows Jack's belief that Simon was nothing more than a beast and his denial that anything happened. This lack of conscience or understanding of the murder reinforces the idea that Jack's group symbolizes savagery, or a world without law or conscience.

### Internal and External Conflicts

In a narrative, a **conflict** is a struggle between two opposing forces. **Internal conflict** is a conflict that occurs within a character's mind.

Ralph experiences an internal conflict after Simon's death. Because he played a role in Simon's death, he feels guilty and conflicted about how to handle the situation. Reread the description from the text:

"Oh, Piggy!"

Ralph's voice, low and stricken, stopped Piggy's gestures. He bent down and waited. Ralph, cradling the conch, rocked himself to and fro.

"Don't you understand, Piggy? The things we did—"

In this passage, Ralph and Piggy discuss Simon's death. Ralph is distraught and conflicted about his role in Simon's murder.

An **external conflict** is a conflict that occurs when a character struggles with an outside force, such as another character, society, or nature. One of the main external conflicts in this chapter occurs when Jack and his friends attack Ralph and his friends in the middle of the night and steal Piggy's glasses. The fight between the boys is a struggle between characters.

### Vocabulary

Understanding vocabulary words can help you to gain more meaning from the work. Following are some vocabulary words from this chapter of the reading.

1. **befouled** – adj. – dirty
2. **stifled** – adj. – restrained; suppressed

3. **torrid** – adj. – very hot and dry
4. **assimilating** – verb – fully understanding
5. **barmy** – adj. – crazy or foolish