

Lesson Name : 11

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

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [Lord of the Flies](#), Chapter 2, pages 55-65.



Symbolism

A **symbol** is a word or object that stands for a larger or greater word 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* includes many objects and events that represent greater ideas and meanings.

The signal fire in this lesson **symbolizes** destruction. This is contrary to its original purpose which was to help the boys be rescued. The fire threatens some of the boys' lives, specifically the boy with the mark on his face who is missing. The fire has started arguments between Ralph, Jack and Piggy and is also spreading and burning up all of their firewood. Here is the passage that shows the danger and fear caused by the fire:

A tree exploded in the fire like a bomb. Tall swathes of creepers rose for a moment into view, agonized, and went down again. The little boys screamed at them.

"Snakes! Snakes! Look at the snakes!"

In the west, and unheeded, the sun lay only an inch or two above the sea. Their faces were lit redly from beneath. Piggy fell against a rock and clutched it with both hands.

"That little 'un that had a mark on his face—where is—he now? I tell you I don't see him."

The boys looked at each other fearfully, unbelieving.

"—where is he now?"

Plot, Setting, and Characters

The **plot** is the storyline or the sequence of events that take place throughout a story. The **plot** for this section of Chapter 2 begins with the boys starting the fire by using Piggy's glasses. The fire ends up spreading and some of the boys are unaccounted for. Piggy feels neglected and begins to rant. This angers Ralph and Jack. Piggy appears to have an asthma attack at the end of Chapter 2 because of the fire's smoke.

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

The **characters** of Ralph and Jack have another power struggle over whether the conch maintains its power at places other than the platform. Jack says that it does not apply when they are on the top of the mountain, and Ralph responds that the conch does in fact indicate a meeting anywhere. Here is that passage from the text:

We've got to have special people for looking after the fire. Any day there may be a ship out there"—he waved his arm at the taut wire of the horizon—"and if we have a signal going they'll come and take us off. And another thing. We ought to have more rules. Where the conch is, that's a meeting. The same up here as down there.

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

The **setting** is described as the boys hope to see a ship that will come to rescue them. Here is that passage from the text:

They gazed intently at the dense blue of the horizon, as if a little silhouette might appear there at any moment.

The sun in the west was a drop of burning gold that slid nearer and nearer the sill of the world. All at once they were aware of the evening as the end of light and warmth.

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 has an **internal conflict** as he nervously shifts his plan for how he is going to lecture the boys about their mistake in allowing the fire to spread. He is upset because the boys constantly tell him to be quiet and do not listen to what he has to say. When he speaks and has their attention, he wants to make sure that no one can challenge his argument. Here is the passage from the text:

"How can you expect to be rescued if you don't put first things first and act proper?"

He took off his glasses and made as if to put down the conch; but the sudden motion toward it of most of the older boys changed his mind. He tucked the shell under his arm, and crouched back on a rock.

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

Ralph becomes irritated by Piggy's comments about the fire and they engage in an **external conflict**. The more the fire consumes, the more anger Ralph and the boys feel toward Piggy because he is telling them that it was their thoughtless mistake. Here is that passage from the text:

"You got your small fire all right."

Startled, Ralph realized that the boys were falling still and silent, feeling the beginnings of awe at the power set free below them. The knowledge and the awe made him savage.

"Oh, shut up!"



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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. **incompetence** – noun – lack of the ability to do something well
2. **officious** – adj. – bossy; overbearing in telling others what they should do
3. **leeward** – adj. – the side that is sheltered from the wind
4. **contemptuously** – adv. – with a feeling of deep hatred or disapproval
5. **recrimination** – noun – an angry statement in which you accuse or criticize a person who has accused or criticized you
6. **festooned** – verb – decorated