

Lesson Name : 17

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 4, Section 2

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [*Lord of the Flies*](#), Chapter 4, Pages 94-106.



Symbolism

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

The novel *Lord of the Flies* includes many objects and events taking place on the island that represent greater ideas and meanings.

The “scar” of the island is the area where the plane crashed, interrupting the growth of trees and life around it. As time passes, the “scar” begins to heal as new life grows over it. This is **symbolic** of how the boys are adapting to life on the island, and their pain and trauma from the crash begin to fade into the “complex undergrowth.”

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 in Chapter 4 shows the passing of the ship on the horizon without the boys being able to signal it for help. As the ship vanishes, so do any hopes for rescue. The fire could not be used because Jack allowed those boys to accompany him on his hunting trip and, as a result, the fire went out.

This makes Ralph very angry and he and Jack argue to retain control of the group. The boys rebuild the fire and Ralph calls a meeting at the platform.

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

The difference between Ralph and Jack's **characters** is further explored. Jack willingly allowed the signal fire to go out. After arguing, the boys agree to rebuild the fire. Jack begins to direct and lead the group in this restructuring of the fire.

As they begin to rebuild the pyre, Ralph refuses to move from the spot of the old fire. This forces the boys to move. This silent control of the boys' actions shows Ralph's authority. The rift between Ralph and Jack grows, as is demonstrated in the following passage from the text:

With some positive action before them, a little of the tension died. Ralph said no more, did nothing, stood looking down at the ashes round his feet. Jack was loud and active. He gave orders, sang, whistled, threw remarks at the silent Ralph—remarks that did not need an answer, and therefore could not invite a snub; and still Ralph was silent. No one, not even Jack, would ask him to move and in the end they had to build the fire three yards away and in a place not really as convenient. So Ralph asserted his chieftainship and could not have chosen a better way if he had thought for days. Against this weapon, so indefinable and so effective, Jack was powerless and raged without knowing why. By the time the pile was built, they were on different sides of a high barrier.

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 the top of the mountain as Ralph arrives to find the fire is out with no one attending it. Here is the description of the **setting** from the text.

The fire was dead. They saw that straight away; saw what they had really known down on the beach when the smoke of home had beckoned. The fire was out, smokeless and dead; the watchers were gone. A pile of unused fuel lay ready. Ralph turned to the sea. The horizon stretched, impersonal once more, barren of all but the faintest trace of smoke. Ralph ran stumbling along the rocks, saved himself on the edge of the pink cliff, and screamed at the ship.

Internal and External Conflicts

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

Ralph experiences an **internal conflict** as he makes some quick decisions about how to get the passing ship to notice their smoke and rescue them. He doesn't know if he should take the time to get Piggy's glasses to intensify the fire, or if he should just rush ahead and try to do it manually. Here is the passage from the text:

"Piggy's specs!" shouted Ralph. "If the fire's all out, we'll need them—"

He stopped shouting and swayed on his feet. Piggy was only just visible, bumbling up from the beach. Ralph looked at the horizon, then up to the mountain. Was it better to fetch Piggy's glasses, or would the ship have gone? Or if they climbed on, supposing the fire was all out, and they had to watch Piggy crawling nearer and the ship sinking under the horizon? Balanced on a high peak of need, agonized by indecision, Ralph cried out:

"Oh God, oh God!"

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

An example of an **external conflict** is when Jack and the boys finally kill a pig. Jack tells the story, which feeds his desire to be a savage hunter on the island. Here is the gruesome story that Jack tells in hope of gaining respect from the other boys:

“We spread round. I crept, on hands and knees. The spears fell out because they hadn’t barbs on. The pig ran away and made an awful noise—”

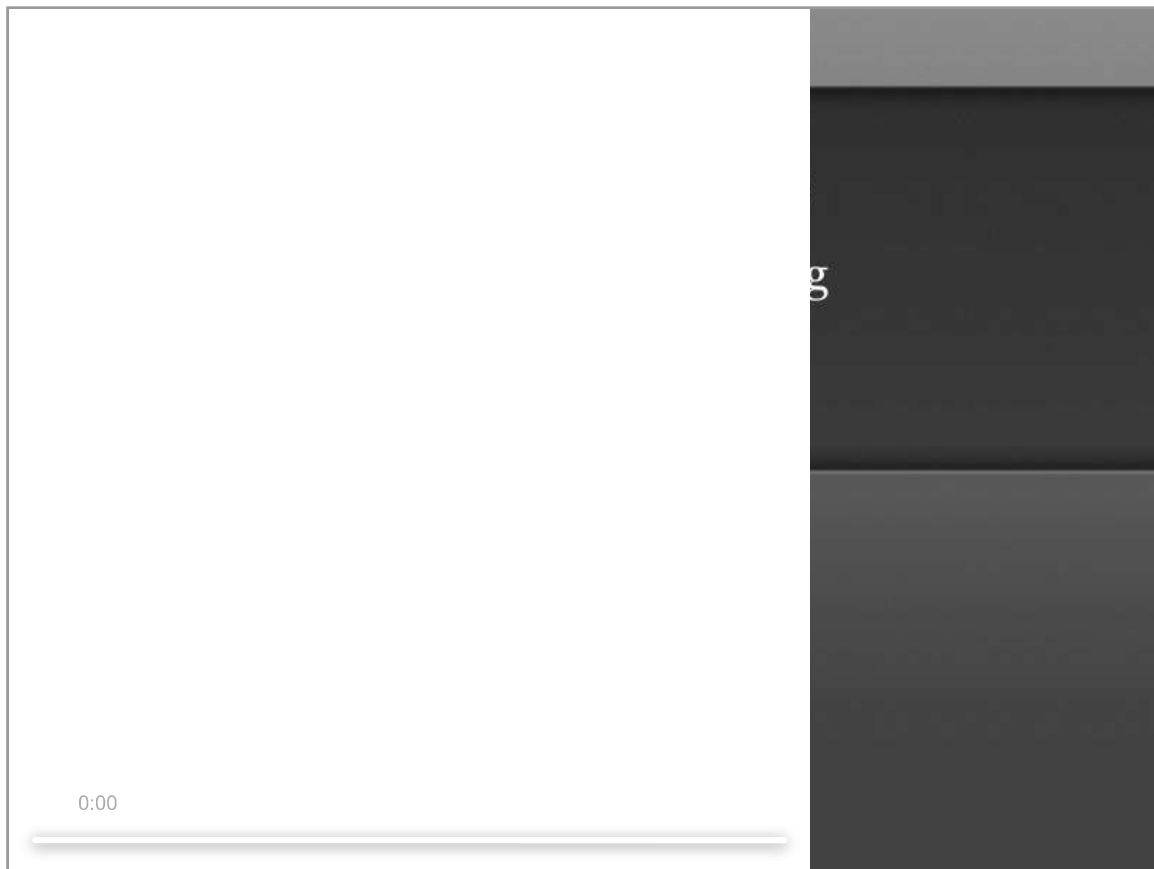
“It turned back and ran into the circle, bleeding—”

All the boys were talking at once, relieved and excited.

“We closed in—”

The first blow had paralyzed its hind quarters, so then the circle could close in and beat and beat—

“I cut the pig’s throat—”



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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. **inevitably** – adv. – predictably
2. **sniveled** – verb – complained or cried in an annoying way
3. **imposed** – verb – forced
4. **malevolently** – adv. – having or showing a desire to cause harm to another person
5. **gyration** – verb – the act of moving back and forth with a circular motion

6. **obscurely** – adv. – difficult or impossible to know completely and with certainty