

Lesson Name : 20

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 5, Section 2

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [\*Lord of the Flies\*](#), Chapter 5, Pages 125-134.



### Symbolism

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

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

Simon presents the possibility that the greatest danger to the group could be, not the beast or nature, but the group themselves. Simon is the prophet figure in the story. He is the most kind-hearted of the group and seems to comprehend the nature of the “beast” as being the boys’ fear. He tries to discuss “mankind’s essential illness” at the assembly, but he is a very insecure public speaker. Simon **symbolizes** the rational side of human nature, which contrasts the savagery and lack of order among the group.

Here is the passage from the text that shows Simon’s revelation:

“What I mean is. . . maybe it’s only us.”

“Nuts!”

That was from Piggy, shocked out of decorum. Simon went on.

“We could be sort of. . . ”

Simon became inarticulate in his effort to express mankind’s essential illness.

### Plot, Setting, and Characters

The **plot** is the storyline or the sequence of events that take place throughout a story. The **plot** for this part of Chapter 5 shows the unraveling of Ralph's assembly. The boys stop talking about their responsibilities and start to talk about the possibility of ghosts on the island. This conversation threatens the rational thinking that Ralph is presenting, and it weakens the purpose of his meeting.

Jack moves against Ralph as the boys' leader. The boys divide into two groups with Ralph, Simon, and Piggy wanting to retain order and organization and Jack leading the rest of the boys to a life of savagery and disorder.

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

Jack finally rebels openly against Ralph's leadership as he defies him in the assembly meeting. Ralph tries to keep order among the boys as they discuss the possibility of ghosts on the island. Jack finally rejects Ralph's leadership after Ralph tries to let Piggy speak while holding the conch. Here is the passage from the text:

"Jack! Jack! You haven't got the conch! Let him speak."

Jack's face swam near him.

"And you shut up! Who are you, anyway? Sitting there telling people what to do. You can't hunt, you can't sing—"

"I'm chief. I was chosen."

"Why should choosing make any difference? Just giving orders that don't make any sense—"

"Piggy's got the conch."

"That's right—favor Piggy as you always do—"

"Jack!"

Jack's voice sounded in bitter mimicry.

"Jack! Jack!"

"The rules!" shouted Ralph. "You're breaking the rules!"

"Who cares?"

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 Jack leads his group in a dance on the beach to protest the order of Ralph's leadership. Here is the description as the meeting breaks up:

At once the platform was full of noise and excitement, scramblings, screams and laughter. The assembly shredded away and became a discursive and random scatter from the palms to the water and away along the beach, beyond nightsight.

### 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.

Ralph experiences an **internal conflict** as the majority of the group leaves his orderly meeting to go into a wild frenzy of dancing and rebellion on the beach. Piggy and Simon plead with Ralph to again exert his leadership.

Ralph explains that if he tries and the boys don't obey him, then he will be officially dethroned as the chief of the group. But if he does not try, then he is giving in to their demands and they will live without rules anyway. Either way, he feels that they are trapped in a bad position. Here is the passage from the text:

"You got to be tough now. Make 'em do what you want."

Ralph answered in the cautious voice of one who rehearses a theorem. "If I blow the conch and they don't come back; then we've had it. We shan't keep the fire going. We'll be like animals. We'll never be rescued."

"If you don't blow, we'll soon be animals anyway. I can't see what they're doing but I can hear."

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

Piggy, Jack, and Ralph, among a few unnamed others, all struggle over the conch as they consider the possibility that the beast might be a ghost. The boys' fear of ghosts is disguised as anger and they all want to hold the conch so they can speak. Here is the passage that demonstrates this **external conflict**:

Piggy took the conch out of his hands. His voice was indignant.

"I don't believe in no ghosts—ever!"

Jack was up too, unaccountably angry.

"Who cares what you believe—Fatty!"

"I got the conch!"

There was the sound of a brief tussle and the conch moved to and fro.

"You gimme the conch back!"

Ralph pushed between them and got a thump on the chest. He wrestled the conch from someone and sat down breathlessly.



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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. **perilous** – adj. – dangerous
2. **tempestuously** – adv. – violently
3. **mimicry** – noun – imitation of another person
4. **bollocks** – interj. – British slang used to express contempt, annoyance, or defiance; an interjection meaning "nonsense"
5. **discursive** – adj. – wandering or rambling
6. **theorem** – noun – a formula or statement that can be proved from other formulas or statements