

Lesson Name : 21

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 6, Section 1

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [*Lord of the Flies*](#), Chapter 6, pages 135-145.

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 a story.

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

The dead parachutist that falls to the island **symbolizes** the ongoing state of war that currently consumes the world of the “grown-ups.” This parallels the wars that the boys are facing on the island. Ralph wants to keep order, and Jack rebels and tries to institute a new system where he will undoubtedly act as the new leader. This conflict, like a war, is the struggle between maintaining order and seeking power. The body of the parachutist becomes the cause for another battle between Ralph and Jack and their different ideals.

Plot, Setting, and Characters

The **plot** is the storyline or the sequence of events that take place throughout a story. The **plot** is the basis of the story that makes it interesting for the reader.

Chapter 6 begins with a parachutist falling to the island after he has apparently been killed in a battle above:

But a sign came down from the world of grown-ups, though at the time there was no child awake to read it. There was a sudden bright explosion and corkscrew trail across the sky; then darkness again and stars. There was a speck above the island, a figure dropping swiftly beneath a parachute, a figure that hung with dangling limbs.

When the body lands at the site of the fire, it scares the twins who are on night watch. They think that it is the beast, and the theme of “fear” is again ignited. They race down to where the rest of the boys are sleeping in the shelter, and wake Ralph. Ralph summons an emergency assembly to discuss what had happened. Jack, again, defies Ralph’s wishes to proceed with order and organization, and they argue about how to pursue the beast that the twins claim to have seen.

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

The **character** of the dead soldier comes to land on the island. The figure is described in a peaceful and gentle way as he gently drops down, drags through the blue flowers, and comes to rest at the top of the mountain. Here is the passage from the text:

The figure fell and crumpled among the blue flowers of the mountain-side, but now there was a gentle breeze at this height too and the parachute flopped and banged and pulled. So the figure, with feet that dragged behind it, slid up the mountain. Yard by yard, puff by puff, the breeze hauled the figure through the blue flowers, over the boulders and red stones, till it lay huddled among the shattered rocks of the mountain-top. Here the breeze was fitful and allowed the strings of the parachute to tangle and festoon; and the figure sat, its helmeted head between its knees, held by a complication of lines. When the breeze blew, the lines would strain taut and some accident of this pull lifted the head and chest upright so that the figure seemed to peer across the brow of the mountain. Then, each time the wind dropped, the lines would slacken and the figure bow forward again, sinking its head between its knees. So as the stars moved across the sky, the figure sat on the mountain-top and bowed and sank and bowed again.

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

The **setting** is described as day begins to break and the twins and Ralph wait in the shelter to see what might serve as a dangerous threat outside. Here is the passage from the text:

The maze of the darkness sorted into near and far, and at the high point of the sky the cloudlets were warmed with color. A single sea bird flapped upwards with a hoarse cry that was echoed presently, and something squawked in the forest. Now streaks of cloud near the horizon began to glow rosily, and the feathery tops of the palms were green.

Internal and External Conflict

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

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

An **external conflict** is described as the twins describe their experience at the fire and how they were nearly attacked the beast. Here is their description that shows their horror and confusion:

"There were eyes—"

"Teeth—"

"Claws—"

"We ran as fast as we could—"

"Bashed into things—"

"The beast followed us—"

"I saw it slinking behind the trees—"

"Nearly touched me—"



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Vocabulary

Understanding vocabulary words can help you gain more meaning from the work. Let's look at some of the vocabulary from this lesson:

1. **unhandily** – adv. – awkwardly
2. **fitful** – adj. – not regular or steady
3. **contours** – noun – the outline or outer edges of something
4. **interminable** – adj. – having or seeming to have no end
5. **tremulously** – adv. – shaking slightly especially because of nervousness or weakness
6. **emphatic** – adj. – said or done in a forceful or definite way
7. **embroiled** – verb – involved in conflict or difficulties