

Lesson Name : 22

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 6, Section 2

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [*Lord of the Flies*](#), Chapter 6, pages 146-155.



Symbolism

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

The boys refer to the rocky and steep side of the island as the “castle,” which **symbolizes** protection from the danger surrounding them. It also **symbolizes** the unknown, as the boys believe the beast is hiding somewhere inside it.

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 6 shows the group’s decision to explore the area of the island known as the castle, which they believe to be the only place the beast could be hiding. Ralph, after debate, decides that he must be the one to go in to see if the beast is there, because he is the elected leader of the group. However, after he goes in he realizes that he is not really afraid of the beast. Jack joins him and they exit the area without encountering any danger.

Jack again becomes a source of frustration for Ralph, because he wants to do “fun” things like rolling boulders down the cliff, but Ralph is adamant, or stubborn, about them immediately restarting the fire instead. Again, these two have a visible clash of values.

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

Simon is still the only character who does not believe in the beast. This shows his strength of character and that he is a rational thinker, even when faced with fear and pressure from the other boys. In fact, Simon may inspire some rational thinking in Ralph in this passage from the text, where Simon sticks to his original beliefs and does not conform to what the rest of the boys think:

Simon mumbled confusedly: "I don't believe in the beast."

Ralph answered him politely, as if agreeing about the weather.

"No. I suppose not."

His mouth was tight and pale. He put back his hair very slowly. "Well. So long."

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 the boys set out to explore the area of the island called the castle and find the beast that they believe attacked their fire and the twins last night. Here is the passage that describes how the day is beginning to look:

This day promised, like the others, to be a sunbath under a blue dome. The beach stretched away before them in a gentle curve till perspective drew it into one with the forest; for the day was not advanced enough to be obscured by the shifting veils of mirage.

Internal & External Conflicts

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

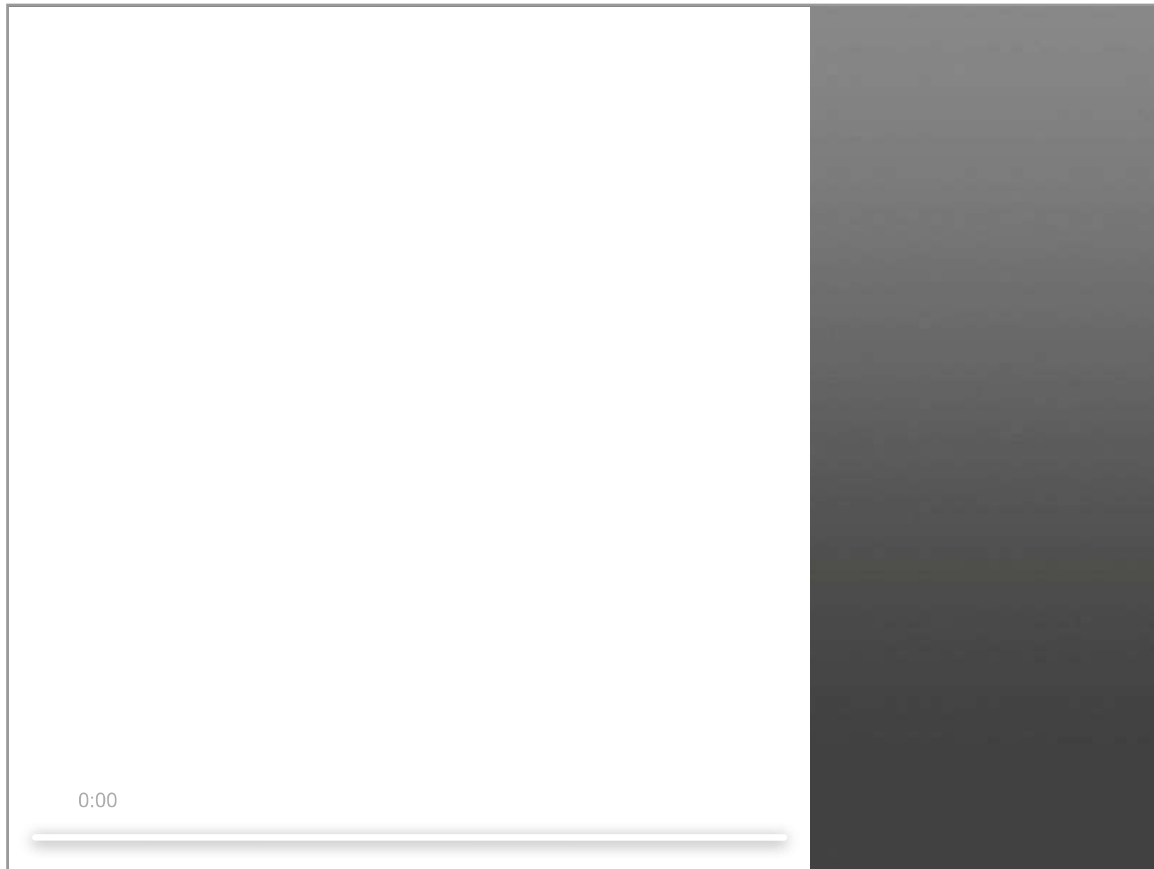
Ralph experiences **internal conflict** as he journeys to the castle alone to see if there is a beast. He has not been to this part of the island, and the terrain is new and intimidating. He wonders about the danger and also thinks about why he had not previously explored this area. Here is the passage from the text:

He was surrounded on all sides by chasms of empty air. There was nowhere to hide, even if one did not have to go on. He paused on the narrow neck and looked down. Soon, in a matter of centuries, the sea would make an island of the castle. On the right hand was the lagoon, troubled by the open sea; and on the left—Ralph shuddered. The lagoon had protected them from the Pacific: and for some reason only Jack had gone right down to the water on the other side. Now he saw the landsman's view of the swell and it seemed like the breathing of some stupendous creature.

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

Simon has an **external conflict** as he runs into a tree and receives a wound on his forehead. He is distracted and thinking happily that that the group had forgotten about him making a fool of himself earlier at the assembly. As he is walking, he crashes into the tree. Here is the passage from the text:

When he bashed into a tree Ralph looked sideways impatiently and Robert sniggered. Simon reeled and a white spot on his forehead turned red and trickled.



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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. **exasperation** – noun – the state of being very annoyed or upset
2. **incredulity** – noun – a feeling that you do not or cannot believe or accept that something is real
3. **diffidently** – adv. – lacking confidence
4. **chasm** – noun – an empty or open space in or between things
5. **leviathan** – noun – something that is very large and powerful
6. **plinth** – noun - a block of stone or wood that is used as the base for a pillar or statue
7. **guano** – noun – waste material from birds and bats that is used to help plants grow
8. **mutinously** – adv. – in a way that shows a desire not to do what someone has ordered you to do