

Lesson Name : 23

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 7, Section 1

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's [\*Lord of the Flies\*](#), Chapter 7, pages 156-165.



### 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.

There are many examples of **symbols** in *Lord of the Flies*.

Simon is compared to a prophet-like figure again in this lesson, as he reassures Ralph that he will be rescued. Ralph is surprised by Simon's statement because Simon does not explain the reasons for it.

The narrator also refers to Simon as speaking from a higher position “looking down from a higher rock,” which **symbolizes** his higher, or elevated, status over ordinary people that are “down to Ralph’s level.” Like Christ or a prophet, Simon speaks with wisdom from above and does not need reasoning to reassure people.

It is also interesting to note that he says “*you’ll* get back,” and not “*we’ll* get back.”

Here is the passage from the text:

Simon was speaking almost in his ear. Ralph found that he had rock painfully gripped in both hands, found his body arched, the muscles of his neck stiff, his mouth strained open.

"You'll get back to where you came from."

Simon nodded as he spoke. He was kneeling on one knee, looking down from a higher rock which he held with both hands; his other leg stretched down to Ralph's level.

Ralph was puzzled and searched Simon's face for a clue.

"It's so big, I mean—"

Simon nodded.

"All the same. You'll get back all right. I think so, anyway."

Some of the strain had gone from Ralph's body. He glanced at the sea and then smiled bitterly at Simon.

"Got a ship in your pocket?"

Simon grinned and shook his head.

"How do you know, then?"

When Simon was still silent Ralph said curtly, "You're batty."

Simon shook his head violently till the coarse black hair flew backwards and forwards across his face.

"No, I'm not. I just you'll *get back all right*."

For a moment nothing more was said. And then they suddenly smiled at each other.

### 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 shows the group retreating from the other side of the island and journeying to the top of the mountain to relight the signal fire. On the way, they decide to hunt.

Surprisingly, Ralph finds himself enjoying the hunt, and even feels proud when he hits the pig with his spear. The pig escapes, however, and they are unsuccessful. The group instead pretends that one of the boys, Robert, is a pig and they violently pretend to kill him. This is slightly alarming to some group members, and they continue on their journey to the mountaintop.

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

Ralph's **character** is explored as he realizes that he enjoys hunting with Jack and the others, as he experiences it first hand on their journey to the top of the mountain. He feels the rush of adrenaline as he aims at and successfully spears a boar, or wild pig, as it charges him. Here is the passage from the text:

Ralph found he was able to measure the distance coldly and take aim. With the boar only five yards away, he flung the foolish wooden stick that he carried, saw it hit the great snout and hang there for a moment. The boar's note changed to a squeal and it swerved aside into the covert. The pig-run filled with shouting boys again, Jack came running back, and poked about in the undergrowth.

"Through here—"

"But he'd do us!"

"Through here, I said—"

The boar was floundering away from them. They found another pig-run parallel to the first and Jack raced away. Ralph was full of fright and apprehension and pride.

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

Here is the description from the text of the unfamiliar **setting**:

Here, on the other side of the island, the view was utterly different. The filmy enchantments of mirage could not endure the cold ocean water and the horizon was hard, clipped blue. Ralph wandered down to the rocks. Down here, almost on a level with the sea, you could follow with your eye the ceaseless, bulging passage of the deep sea waves. They were miles wide, apparently not breakers or the banked ridges of shallow water. They traveled the length of the island with an air of disregarding it and being set on other business; they were less a progress than a momentous rise and fall of the whole ocean.

### Internal and External Conflicts

**Internal 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** when he realizes how much more harsh the water is on the other side of the island. This would possibly prevent ships from making it to the island to save them. Ralph becomes consumed by the possibility that they may remain on the island forever.. Here is the passage from the text:

Wave after wave, Ralph followed the rise and fall until something of the remoteness of the sea numbed his brain. Then gradually the almost infinite size of this water forced itself on his attention. This was the divider, the barrier. On the other side of the island, swathed at midday with mirage, defended by the shield of the quiet lagoon, one might dream of rescue; but here, faced by the brute obtuseness of the ocean, the miles of division, one was clamped down, one was helpless, one was condemned, one was—

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

An **external conflict** is suggested as the boys, rather violently, pretend to kill Robert, who they imagine to be a pig. They pin him down and jab him with a spear. Even Ralph gets wrapped up in the excitement and participates. Here is the passage from the text:

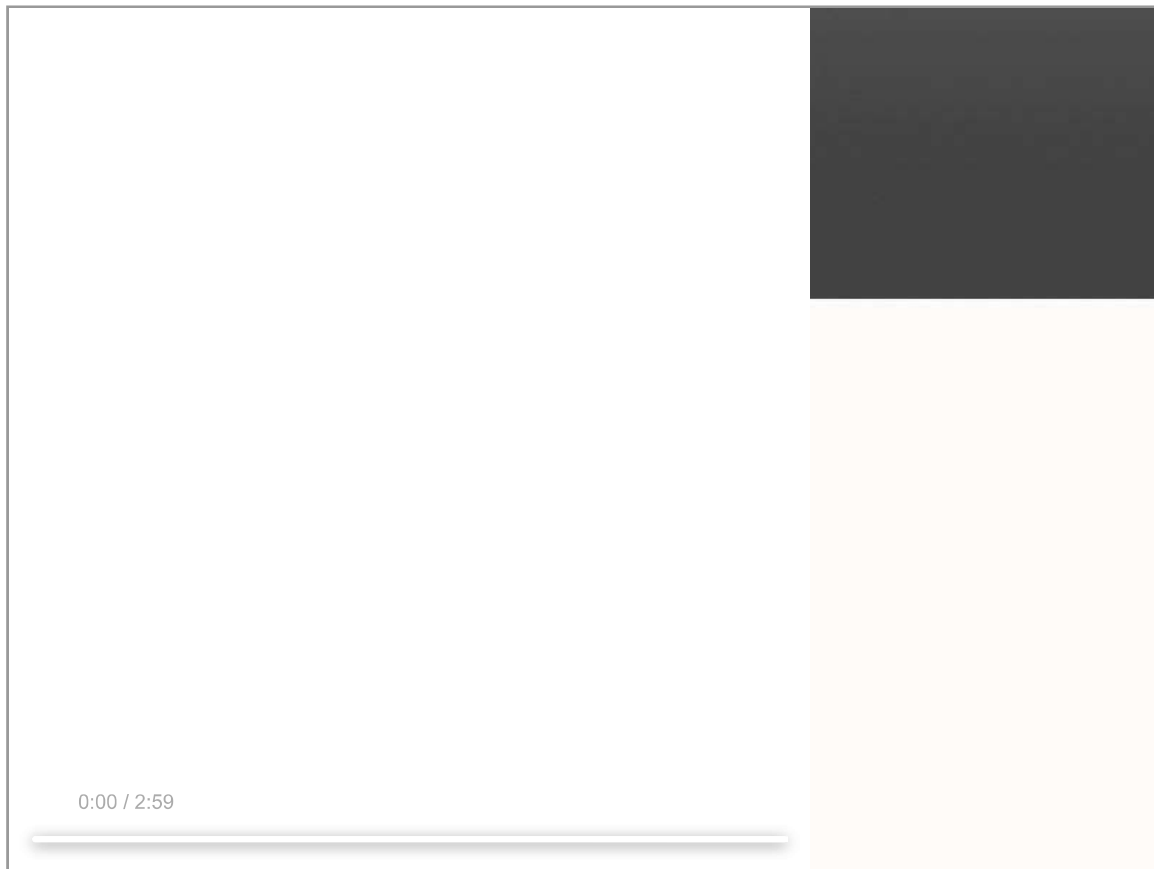
They got his arms and legs. Ralph, carried away by a sudden thick excitement, grabbed Eric's spear and jabbed at Robert with it.

"Kill him! Kill him!"

All at once, Robert was screaming and struggling with the strength of frenzy. Jack had him by the hair and was brandishing his knife. Behind him was Roger, fighting to get close. The chant rose ritually, as at the last moment of a dance or a hunt.

"Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!"

Ralph too was fighting to get near, to get a handful of that brown, vulnerable flesh. The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering.



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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. **coverts** – noun – shelters or hiding places
2. **wallow** – noun – a long, luxurious bath in deep water
3. **scurfy** – adj. – flaky quality of the skin
4. **walloped** – verb – hit something very hard
5. **ruefully** – adv. – pitifully; sorrowfully