
Objectives

- Students will be able to identify symbolism in a work of fiction.
- Students will be able to understand the relationship between plot, setting, and character in a work of fiction.
- Students will be able to identify examples of internal and external conflict in a work of fiction.
- Students will be able to correctly use vocabulary words.

Symbolism

Lord of the Flies is constructed almost entirely of symbols. A **symbol** is something that not only represents itself, but also some idea far greater than itself. Here are some of the symbols in this section.

“We got no fire on the mountain. But what’s wrong with *a fire down here*? A fire could be built on them rocks. On the sand, even. We’d make smoke just the same.”

Piggy’s idea again proves that he’s the intellectual of the group, but his suggestion symbolizes the formation of two separate, rival camps on the island.

Ralph finished his inspection and looked up into the air. The sky, *as if in sympathy with the great changes among them*, was different today and so misty that in some places the hot air seemed white. The disc of the sun was dull silver as though it were nearer and not so hot, yet the air stifled.

The passage is symbolic of the changes taking place in the group with the formation of two separate camps.

He shifted restlessly but there was no avoiding the sun. Presently he was thirsty, and then very thirsty. He continued to sit.

Simon’s self-imposed isolation symbolizes Jesus’ forty days of fasting in the desert.



The last scene in this section is one of the hunters ambushing sleeping pigs. This foreshadows surprise attacks on the other camp.

Setting, Characters & Plot

The **setting** is the place where the story takes place. In this section the setting begins at the assembly platform by the beach. It then shifts to Jack's camp at the far end of the island. The **characters** are the people in the story. In this case all characters are involved. The **plot** is the storyline. Jack went on a pig hunt and was unsuccessful. Jack openly challenges Ralph's chieftainship with a vote. No one votes to oust Ralph. Humiliated, Jack storms away to set up his own camp. Many of the biguns follow him.

Internal & External Conflict

External conflict occurs when a character is struggling against some sort of external, or outside, force. The force can be another character, a natural force, an animal, a group, or society. External conflict can also consist of a verbal confrontation between two characters.

"Talk," said Ralph bitterly, "talk, talk, talk." He took the conch from Jack. "This meeting—"

Jack interrupted him "I called it."

"If you hadn't called it I should have. You just blew the conch."

"Well, isn't that calling it?"

"Oh, take it! Go on—talk!" Ralph thrust the conch into Jack's arms and sat down on the trunk.

This is the scene when Jack formally challenges Ralph as chief. To Jack's humiliation, nobody votes to oust Ralph. The direct challenge for leadership is an external conflict.

"All this talk!" shouted Ralph. "Talk, talk! Who wanted it? Who called the meeting?"

Jack turned, red in the face, his chin sunk back. He glowered up under his eyebrows.

"All right then," he said in tones of deep meaning, and menace, "all right."

This scene is another humiliation for Jack, since it is Ralph who is critical of all the talk and no action. When Jack realizes that Ralph is correct, he yields the point but fumes on the inside. Ralph's turning Jack's failure to accomplish anything for the group into a charge of all talk and no action is a powerful external conflict between the boys.

Internal conflict is when a character struggles within over a decision. Here are two important examples from this section that change the course of the story.

He laid the conch with great care in the grass at his feet. The humiliating tears were running from the corner of each eye. "I'm not going to play any longer. Not with you."

Most of the boys were looking down now, at the grass or their feet. Jack cleared his throat again.

Jack's tears of humiliation at the hands of his rival Ralph are finally too much to endure. Jack's internal conflict causes him to decide to leave the group.

Jack turned and looked back at Ralph. For a moment he paused and then cried out, high-pitched, enraged. "—No!"

This is a portrayal of the last moment of indecision Jack has about the course he is choosing.

Vocabulary

Being able to understand the vocabulary in *Lord of the Flies* will help you better understand and appreciate the story. The following is a list of words from this section that you can use to help you expand your vocabulary:

Sanctity – noun – The quality or state of being holy or sacred; inviolability

The *sanctity* of the temple was respected by everyone who came to visit or worship.

Sensuous – adjective – Producing or characterized by gratification of the senses

Brushing the open rose petal lightly against my lips was completely *sensuous*.

Demure – adjective – Affectedly modest, reserved, or serious; coy

The debutante acted *demure*, but everyone knew she was really a party girl.

Dung – noun – Animal feces

Cows leave piles of *dung* out in their pastures.

Sow – noun – A female pig

The *sow* happily nursed her piglets.

Growth & Assessment

1. Whose idea is it to build the fire in a different location **symbolizing** the creation of two different camps on the island?
 - a. Simon's
 - b. Piggy's
 - c. Ralph's
 - d. Roger's
2. In the **plot** for this section, who challenges Ralph's chieftainship?
 - a. Jack
 - b. Piggy
 - c. Simon
 - d. Henry
3. In the **plot** for this section, who votes for Ralph to *not* be leader?
 - a. Roger & Jack
 - b. Roger & Simon
 - c. Simon & Piggy
 - d. No one
4. Describe the **internal conflict** Jack experiences at the end of this section.
5. What is a "sow"?