

Lesson Name : 27

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Chapter 8, Section 2

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Read William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Chapter 8, pages 193-207. Open Golding's [Lord of the Flies](#) in a new window.



Symbolism

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

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

The boys violently attack and kill a pig. At the very beginning of this section, Golding adds a reflection about the butterflies still dancing. This shows that despite the brutal and viciousness of nature, there is always a constant, noticeable beauty that exists at the same time. The butterflies do not acknowledge the brutality of a murder that is occurring in their presence. They **symbolize** the constancy and beauty of nature. Here is the description from the text:

Jack was on top of the sow, stabbing downward with his knife. Roger found a lodgment for his point and began to push till he was leaning with his whole weight. The spear moved forward inch by inch and the terrified squealing became a highpitched scream. Then Jack found the throat and the hot blood spouted over his hands. The sow collapsed under them and they were heavy and fulfilled upon her. The butterflies still danced, preoccupied in the center of the clearing.

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 begins with Jack's group killing a pig and putting its head on a stake as a sacrifice for the beast. This victory shows the division widening between Jack and Ralph and their leadership styles. Jack and some boys raid the old camp for fire, and Jack uses "fun" and meat as ways to lure the boys to come to his new camp. Ralph delivers a poor speech. He is losing belief in his own theories.

Simon is wandering around alone and encounters the pig's head. He has a hallucination of talking to the pig's head, and it tells him that there is no beast, and the boys are their own enemies. Simon thinks of the pig head as "Lord of the Flies."

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

Ralph and Piggy's **characters** are shown through the discussion that they have about the challenges they now face in running their camp with fewer boys. They realize that they are the only ones thinking practically, like "grown-ups," and Ralph asks Piggy a reason for it all. Piggy is **flattered** by the attention that he is receiving from Ralph. Here is the passage from the text:

"We can't keep one fire going. And they don't care. And what's more—" He looked intensely into Piggy's streaming face.

"What's more, I don't sometimes. Supposing I got like the others—not caring. What 'ud become of us?"

Piggy took off his glasses, deeply troubled.

"I dunno, Ralph. We just got to go on, that's all. That's what grown-ups would do."

Ralph, having begun the business of unburdening himself, continued. "Piggy, what's wrong?" Piggy looked at him in astonishment.

"Do you mean the—?" "No, not it. . . I mean. . . what makes things break up like they do?"

Piggy rubbed his glasses slowly and thought. When he understood how far Ralph had gone toward accepting him he flushed pinkly with pride.

"I dunno, Ralph. I expect it's him."

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

Simon describes the **setting** as he arrives at the scene where the pig's head is staked. Here is the passage from the text:

Up there, for once, were clouds, great bulging towers that sprouted away over the island, grey and cream and copper-colored. The clouds were sitting on the land; they squeezed, produced moment by moment this close, tormenting heat. Even the butterflies deserted the open space where the obscene thing grinned and dripped.

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.

Simon has an **internal conflict** as he approaches the pig's head that Jack's group left for the beast. He is conflicted about whether to run or to stay, and he appears to have a hallucination about the head actually talking to him and telling him to rejoin the others. This obviously bothers him, and he is visualizing his conflict with the head instead of within. Here is the passage from the text:

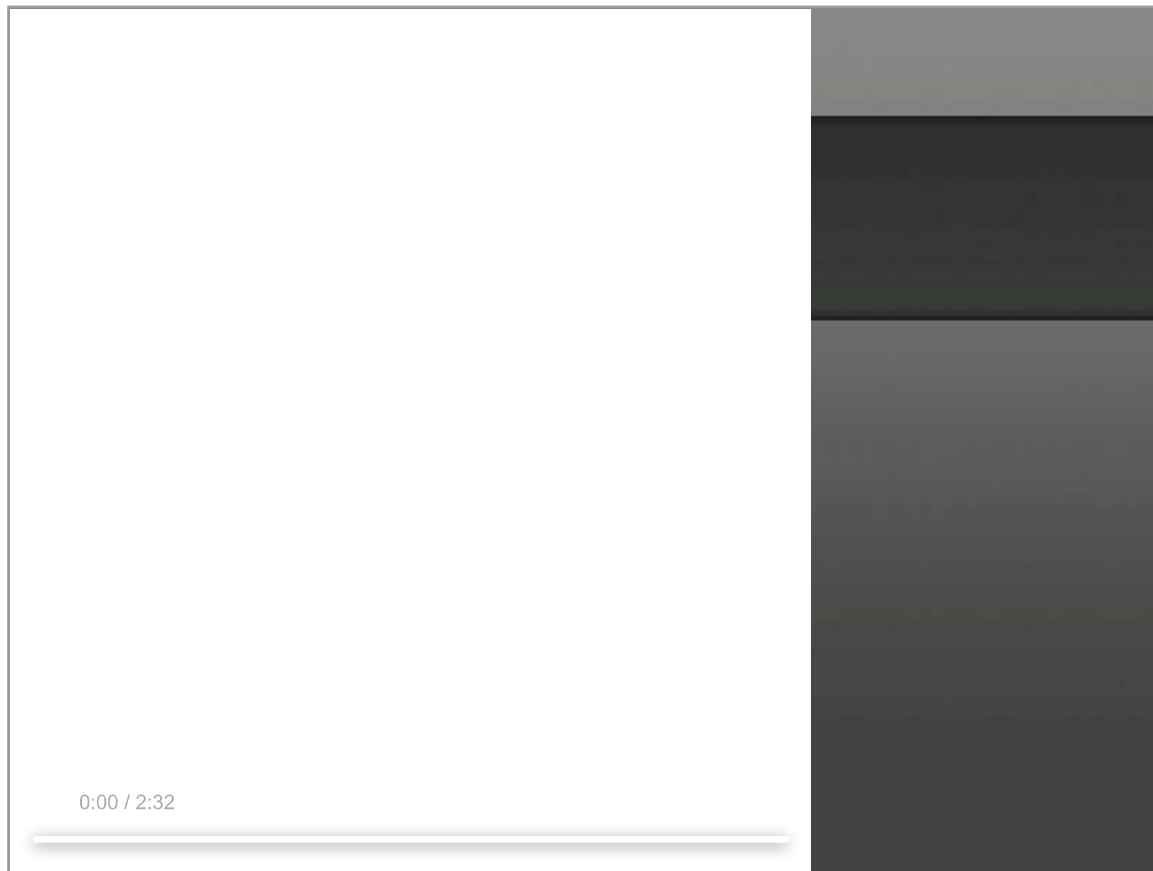
A gift for the beast. Might not the beast come for it? The head, he thought, appeared to agree with him. Run away, said the head silently, go back to the others. It was a joke really—why should you bother? You were just wrong, that's all. A little headache, something you ate, perhaps. Go back, child, said the head silently.

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

This lesson begins with an **external conflict** that shows Jack's group of boys attacking a group of sleeping pigs. This is an example of a conflict of characters against animals. Here is the passage from the text:

The drove of pigs started up; and at a range of only ten yards the wooden spears with fire-hardened points flew toward the chosen pig. One piglet, with a demented shriek, rushed into the sea trailing Roger's spear behind it. The sow gave a gasping squeal and staggered up, with two spears sticking in her fat flank. The boys shouted and rushed forward, the piglets scattered and the sow burst the advancing line and went crashing away through the forest.

"After her!"



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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. **blundered** – verb – moved in an awkward or confused way
2. **palled** – verb – lessened or faded
3. **obscene** – adj. – very offensive in usually a shocking way
4. **runnels** – noun – small streams
5. **iridescent** – adj. – shining with many different colors when seen from different angles
6. **taboo** – noun – not acceptable to talk about or do
7. **sufficiency** – noun – having or providing as much as needed
8. **grimaced** – verb – responded in a way that shows disgust, disapproval, or pain