

Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

Lord of the Flies

by William Golding

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Chapter One

The Sound of the Shell

1. Have you ever fantasized about being stranded on an uninhabited island? If not, consider it for a moment. If so, write a short scenario about what you can envision. Can you imagine some good and bad things about the experience?
2. If you can understand why Ralph is so happy when Piggy suggests there probably are no adults on the island explain it to a friend who doesn't understand why some kids would be happy with no adults around.
3. When Piggy reveals the name the kids at school called him, he is placing his trust in Ralph not to tell anyone else. When did you realize that this trust in Ralph was a mistake? Were you surprised that Ralph mishandled Piggy's trust?
4. Describe a scene from a movie or an incident in life in which someone betrayed a trust as Ralph had done.
5. When Jack and the choir arrive in their uniform cloaks with insignias, we are told, "Piggy, asked no names. He was intimidated by this uniformed superiority and the off-hand authority in Meridew's voice." Relate an incident from your life when you or someone you know felt intimidated by a person who gave the appearance of authority.

Response Journal

6. Shortly after revealing Piggy's secret, we are told, "Ralph, looking with more understanding, saw that he [Piggy] was hurt and crushed. He hovered between the two courses of apology or further insult." Can you recall any time you ever hurt someone by insulting him or her and regretting it later, but still you could not bring yourself to apologize? Briefly describe the incident and the reasons you failed to apologize for your actions.
7. As Simon, write a letter home telling your parents about your new friends, Ralph and Jack.
8. As Piggy, write a letter to your Auntie describing what has happened to you and telling her how you feel about it.
9. The boys push the rock off the ledge and, although there was no point to it, they feel quite proud of their accomplishment. Can you recall any difficult task you undertook with others that gave you a similar sense of pride in the group's accomplishment? Write an article for the school newspaper detailing the task your group completed and how the success made you feel.
10. On the island, the conch shell becomes a symbol of authority. Identify some things that are symbols of authority in your world.

Chapter Two

Fire on the Mountain

11. Because everyone is talking at once, Ralph says that they'll have to have rules. "We'll have to have 'hands up' like at school." Shortly after, Jack says, "We'll have rules...Lots of Rules! Then when anyone breaks em—." The implication is that punishment for breaking rules will be severe. Write an entry in your diary describing this scene and explain what you think it reveals about Jack.
12. Fascists are said to have too many rules when they govern, and anarchists believe there should not be any rules. How do you feel about the number of rules you face in your home, school, or where you live?
13. As Ralph is trying to convince the others that there is no beast on the island, we are told, "Ralph was annoyed and, for the moment, defeated. He felt himself facing something ungraspable." Relate a time that you felt frustrated or saw someone else feeling frustrated because of an inability to get an idea across to others.
14. Amid the anxiety and fears of the group of boys, Ralph says, "We want to be rescued; and of course, we shall be rescued." And then we are told, "The simple statement, unbacked by any proof but the weight of Ralph's new authority, brought light and happiness." Why do you suppose it is important for a leader of a group in a bad situation to always keep a positive attitude, whether he or she really feels that way or not?

Response Journal

15. After all the children run off to participate in the fire building, Piggy says disgustedly, “‘like a crowd of kids.’ Then with the martyred expression of a parent,” he goes after them. Relate a time when you or someone you know followed a group against his or her better judgement. Why do you think that happens?
16. On the mountaintop, Jack and Ralph share the burden, glamour, and adventure of life on the island. In your opinion, in what ways are Jack and Ralph similar and in what ways are they different?
17. After piling up all the firewood, the boys realize, embarrassingly, that they have no matches. Describe an incident in which you prepared for something but forgot an essential part.
18. “If I say anything,” cried Piggy, with bitter realism, “you say shut up; but if Jack or Maurice or Simon...” Piggy’s complaint to Ralph appears to be valid. Have you ever recognized this kind of discrimination? Briefly describe the incident. Why do you suppose people seem to favor others at the expense of one individual?
19. In your opinion, what do you think that the fire on the mountain might represent to the boys: wrath, light, hope, or something else?

Chapter Three

Huts on the Beach

20. We are told that Jack and Ralph both come to hate each other. Write a character sketch about someone you have known that you liked and disliked at the same time.
21. Jack appears to be obsessed by the idea of killing a pig, so much so that he puts it before more urgent needs. Have you ever felt that way or have you known anyone who has been obsessed by an idea? Write about that obsession and the power it had to dictate behavior.
22. Ralph is frustrated and disappointed because, except for Simon, none of the others are much help. If someone you knew were similarly disappointed, what advice would you give your friend?

Chapter Four

Painted Faces and Long Hair

23. We are told that mornings on the island are bright and full of hope, while the afternoons are shifting. Relate some of your strong feelings about summer days, and the differences between nighttime and daytime.