

Chapter 1: The Sound of the Shell

1. How do the boys end up on the island?
2. Who is "the voice" referred to on page 7? What does the voice represent?
3. How does the reaction of the fair-haired boy differ from the fat boy's at the realization that there are no adults around?
4. Golding's choice of vocabulary when describing Ralph (black shoes, kicked, fiercely, ripped off, skull-like coconuts, sliding over the skin, snake-like clasp) sets what kind of tone? What could it be foreshadowing?
5. How old is Ralph?
6. What do you like about the book so far? What are you struggling with?
7. On the bottom of page 8, Piggy says, "It wasn't half dangerous..." Again on page 13, he says twice, "You can't half swim." What does Piggy mean by "half"?
8. Describe Piggy.

9. Find the examples of personification on page 15, in describing light and breezes.
10. What gives the conch value?
11. In what sense do Ralph and Piggy complement one another while dealing with the conch?
12. What do you think the meaning of the word “dumb” in the statement “boys were making their way toward the platform through the hot, dumb sand” could be?
13. Why did the boys gather as Ralph blew the conch?
14. Describe Sam and Eric.
15. Reread the description of the choir leader, on page 20. Discuss Golding’s use of color and imagery, and what it may foreshadow.
16. What about Jack Merridew indicates that he is used to commanding?
17. Why is Ralph chosen over Piggy and Jack to be the leader?

18. What is the first mission for the boys?

19. What "unknown force" has arranged the rocks?

20. What is the first act of willful destruction? What is the boys' reaction?

21. Ralph, after the three explorers reach the top, makes the statement, "This belongs to us." What is the significance of this statement?

22. Describe the island and explain the significance of its shape.

23. Describe Jack's emotional state at the end of page 31.

24. What is the most notable symbol of chapter one and what does it represent?

25. What is the general goal of the group of boys throughout chapter one?

Chapter 2: Fire on the Mountain

1. In the first paragraph of Chapter Two, Golding writes, "The choir, noticeably less of a group, had discarded their cloaks." What does this statement convey?
2. What do you like about the book so far? What are you struggling with?
3. What decisions are made at the meeting held the first evening?
4. What allusion is made on page 34? Why is it referenced?
5. The little boy with the mulberry-colored birthmark comes forward to speak of what? What element does he introduce? How does he describe it? How does the descriptive phrase, "the small boy twisted further into himself" hint at a theme? (page 35)
6. Why does Ralph repeat the statement, "There isn't a beastie" five times?
7. Golding writes, "The shameful knowledge grew in them and they did not know how to begin confession" (p. 40). What is the shameful knowledge? How do they solve the problem?
8. On page 41, list some of the examples of alliteration in the paragraph beginning, "Life became a race..."

9. "The sun in the west was a drop of burning gold that slid nearer and nearer the sill of the world. All at once they were aware of the evening as the end of light and warmth." (p. 43) The first statement is an example of what? What did the group realize?
10. In what ways is Piggy the voice of reason?
11. How does Jack and Ralph's relationship develop during the building of the fire?
12. Does Piggy's place in this society seem to be any different from his place back home in England? Why is it hard for the boys to listen to Piggy?
13. What part of society does Piggy symbolically represent?
14. Cite the simile on page 46 describing the "littluns" and interpret it. What do you think it means?
15. On what ominous note does chapter two end?