

Roger

- Roger appears secretive and says little.

Samneric

- Sam and Eric are identical twins. Together they are called Samneric and they are both enthusiastic about collecting firewood.

3. Themes

Innocence

- In the beginning the boys are excited about being on the island, which seems to be a beautiful, unspoilt paradise, and "a kind of glamour was spread over them".

Order and disorder

- The boys obey the sound of the conch, which represents authority and also democracy, as they then vote for a leader. This is an example of how the boys start to create order out of the disorder of their arrival on the island.
- Piggy also tries to bring order by collecting the boys' names.

Leadership

- Jack is the leader of the choir boys, he controls them.
- Ralph shows leadership when he says they should explore the island.

Civilisation and savagery

- Jack's inability to use his knife to kill the pig suggests he is still influenced by civilisation.
- The way Jack sticks the knife into a tree trunk is a hint of violence to come and suggests savagery.

Good and evil

- At this time there is friendship among the boys, particularly between Jack and Ralph. But when the boys push a rock down the mountain, destroying the plants, this already shows how destructive humans are and is a sign of evil entering paradise.



4. Symbols

The conch

- The conch symbolises order and authority, and the boys obey its call.
- The title of the chapter, "The Sound of the Shell", also points us to the themes of leadership, authority and democracy.



5. Diction and figurative language

The author's use of metaphors, personifications and similes helps us to imagine the rock and the plants in the forest as living things, like people.

Metaphors

- Metaphors are used to describe the beauty and peace of the island. For example: "The air was thick with butterflies, lifting, fluttering, settling ...". By describing the air as "thick", as though it were a syrupy liquid, Golding helps us to see how many of these delicate, lovely butterflies filled the air.

Personification

- Personification is when an author writes of a thing or animal as though it were a person. When the boys push the rock it becomes almost human: "The great rock loltered, poised on one toe, decided not to return ...".

Similes

- Similes are used in the chapter. For example, when the rock falls, one of the boys shouts: "Like a bomb!" This suggests the loud noise and damage created by the moving rock. Another example of a simile is the plant creepers the boys struggle through as they climb the mountain which are "as thick as their thighs".

Diction

Authors choose words that will maximise the effect of an idea. Golding first shows us the candle-flower bushes as beautiful, the way Simon sees them. Then he suddenly changes the tone by using the strong, harsh word "slash" and we realise how little Jack appreciates the beauty. What Jack does feels almost like a small murder, with the scent as the plant's blood. In chapter one we read that the bushes were dark, evergreen and aromatic and the many buds were waxen green and folded up against the light. Jack slashed at one with his knife and the scent spilled over them.