

1. What happens in the chapter?

The events in this chapter take place the next day and night. Piggy and Samneric are the only biguns left in Ralph's group. Ralph is full of guilt at having joined the mob that killed Simon and he calls it murder. Piggy, who remained outside the dance, will not face this truth and insists that Simon's death was an accident and even blames Simon himself. Ralph then says he too was outside the dance. Samneric arrive with some wood and also claim they were not involved. None of them can face their guilt and shame.

On the other hand, Jack, now called "The Chief", tells his uneasy followers that they did not kill the beast and that it will return. This way he removes their guilt and holds on to his power by making sure they are still afraid of the beast, from which he will protect them. He is being manipulative. He has moved his tribe to the castle rock, which can be defended by pushing rocks down on the narrow entrance. He now punishes harshly anyone who displeases him.

On the beach Ralph and the other three cannot collect enough wood to keep the fire going at night, although they would like its comfort in the dark. They are woken up by Jack, Roger and Maurice who attack them and steal Piggy's glasses so they can light their fires. However, they do not bother to take the conch.

2. Who is involved?

Ralph

- Ralph is horrified by the killing of Simon and his own part in it, but then lies and says he was not involved. We see how he has been corrupted in spite of his basically good values.
- Ralph shows insight when he says that he is frightened "of us". Ralph comforts himself at night by imagining going home, but at the same time the outside world is fading from his memory as he struggles to remember the war against the "Reds" (Communist Russia). His concentration has also been affected by fire on the island and he again struggles to express what he needs to say about the signal fire.

Piggy

- What happened to Simon is too dreadful for Piggy to admit.
- Piggy was the only one of his group who did not participate in the killing.
- As always, Piggy is aware of how adults might judge the boys and insists that he and Ralph pretend they were not at the dance: "We never done nothing. We never saw nothing."
- Piggy does not help collect wood because of his asthma - or his laziness?
- When his glasses are stolen Piggy is very distressed as without them he is almost blind and is helpless.

Jack

- Jack lies about Simon's death to maintain his power and authority; the only sign of any guilt he might feel is when he moves uncomfortably ("squirmed") and looks down when it is first mentioned.
- Jack uses fear and cruelty to ensure obedience from his tribe and a boy, Wilfred, is tied up and beaten.
- Like all leaders who seize power illegally, Jack is afraid of an attack from others who might do the same to him and places guards at the entrance to the castle rock, using the big rocks as weapons.
- Jack lies about the beast not being dead as fear of the beast will keep his tribe loyal.
- Jack has no morals left and steals Piggy's glasses in a violent night raid.

Roger

- Roger does not seem to give a thought to the horrific killing of Simon.
- As we have seen before, Roger is a sadist and when he hears of Wilfred's punishment he realises that "the possibilities of irresponsible authority" will give him opportunities to enjoy more cruelty.
- Roger also approves of Jack as a "proper Chief" because he is warlike and is prepared to use weapons, like the big rocks, against his enemies.

3. Themes

Good and evil

- The forces of evil in the person of Jack and his followers are winning against the good. Simon is dead, Ralph has lost his leadership position and Piggy is made helpless when his glasses are stolen.

Civilisation and savagery

- Savagery is winning over civilised values. Jack is now always half naked and painted and rules by means of fear and cruelty. The author is now calling Jack and his group "savages".

Leadership

- Jack is a dictator and Ralph, the democratically elected leader, has no authority over most of the boys. Democracy has been replaced by dictatorship. The chapter also shows how bad leaders can manipulate others by using fear (of harsh punishment) and suspicion.