

4. Symbols

Many of the symbols have changed their significance (meaning) as the situation on the island worsens.

The conch

- The conch has lost its authority. Democracy has lost and Jack does not even bother to take the conch when he steals the glasses. He has no interest in democracy and any laws will be his own.



Fire

- For Ralph fire now means not only rescue but also comfort in the dark. For Jack it is only a means of cooking food and adding excitement to the dance.



Piggy's glasses

- Without his glasses Piggy is helpless: he will no longer give his good advice. In Jack's possession the glasses mean nothing more than a way to light a fire. His rule is based on power and fulfilling his desires, not on reason or thoughtfulness.
- The **chapter title**, "The Shell and the Glasses", refers to the loss of both democracy (the conch being left behind like something that has no value) and intelligent thought (Piggy's glasses being stolen).



5. Diction and figurative language

The writer uses sarcasm and humour to help us to imagine and understand what he is describing. For example:

Sarcasm

- The author uses sarcasm when he states: "Memory of the dance that none of them had attended shook all four boys convulsively." He is writing about the fact that they deny being involved in Simon's death. Sarcasm is an ironic expression, or tone. Here we know that the opposite of what is stated is true – of course the boys attended the dance!
- One of the few touches of humour in the novel comes when the boys boast of how they fought their attackers and we realise they were actually fighting one another in the dark.

Chapter 11

Lord
of the
Flies

Castle Rock

