

1. What happens in the chapter?

The events in this chapter take place on the second day after Simon's death very early in the morning. Ralph, Piggy and Samneric gather by the dead fire but cannot find a spark. Ralph says they will never be rescued without a fire and that he would have given Jack fire if he had asked for it. Without his glasses Piggy is almost blind and he wants to go to Jack and tell him to give him back his glasses because "what's right's right". Ralph wishes he could clean himself up and look respectable, even though the tribe will be painted.

As they approach Castle Rock they are challenged by Roger from the rock above the entrance and they hear war cries. Jack's tribe, all of them painted, appear when Ralph blows the conch and Roger throws stones at him. Then Jack appears behind him with his hunters and their kill. Ralph confronts (challenges) Jack and demands Piggy's glasses. When Ralph calls him a thief, Jack attacks. Ralph tries to reason with him and Jack responds by ordering his tribe to seize Samneric and tie them up. Ralph tries to make the boys see sense, but the tribe prepares to charge at him. Roger pushes a large rock over the edge and it hits Piggy, sending him flying through the air and on to the rocks in the sea below. The waves wash his body out to sea. The conch breaks into pieces and the tribe advances on Ralph, throwing their spears. Ralph runs for his life and hides in the dense (thick) forest.

2. Who is involved?

Ralph

- Ralph wants to behave in a civilised way and would like to look the way he did before the crash. He tells Eric he and his three followers will not paint their faces: "because we aren't savages".
- Ralph shows his sense of fairness and order when he says: "We'd have given them fire if they'd asked."
- Perhaps because Ralph is so stressed he again has a problem with concentration and he struggles to remember why they need smoke.
- Ralph faces up to Jack without fear but loses his temper when Jack will not give back the glasses. He then tries to maintain civilised behaviour by reasoning (unsuccessfully) with Jack; he is still motivated by very English ideas about fair play and "playing the game". But when he is attacked he defends himself and fights back bravely until he is forced to flee for his life.

Piggy

- Piggy is helpless and cannot find his way without his glasses; he turns to Ralph as the elected leader to help him get them back.
- Piggy is kind when Ralph has a problem remembering, saying: "You're Chief, Ralph. You remember everything."

- Piggy wants to appeal to Jack's sense of morality. He naively (innocently) thinks Jack might listen to him. (He is wise in many ways, but not when he still expects Jack to respect what is right or worry about what the adults would say.)

- When Piggy walks he is terrified as he cannot see where he is being led, but he finds the courage to blow the conch and try to persuade Jack and the tribe to be: "sensible like Ralph is".

- Piggy's death is cruel and unnecessary.

Jack

- Jack has lost all sense of morality and, like a true dictator, will force others to obey him, for instance, when he orders Samneric to be tied up.

- Jack will try to destroy whoever opposes him.

- Jack feels no guilt or pity when Piggy is killed but tries to kill Ralph too.

- Jack has become the embodiment (a perfect example) of evil.

Roger

- Roger throws stones to torment Ralph's group and, when the tribe is getting ready to charge, seizes the opportunity to fulfill his desire for blood by pushing down the rock which kills Piggy.

- We see Roger's sadism again as he moves towards Samneric, who are still tied up, obviously looking forward to torturing them.

Samneric

- The twins Sam and Eric (Samneric) are aware of the "liberation into savagery that the concealing paint brought" and they would like to paint their faces too, and enjoy the freedom from law and order that this "disguise" would give them.

- However, so far as the twins remain loyal to Ralph, they are the only biguns who are loyal, apart from Piggy.

- Sam and Eric still show the innocence of well-brought-up English schoolboys in their polite protests when they are being tied up: "Oh, I say!" - "Honestly!"