



Jack

- Jack can be intelligent, for example, he thinks of using Piggy's glasses to light the fire.
- Jack wants power and tries to take control, leading the boys in their rush up the mountain and ignoring Ralph.
- Jack is disrespectful and looks down on Piggy. He speaks rudely to him, telling him to "Shut up!"

Piggy

- Piggy is the most mature and sensible of the boys. He thinks the others are a "crowd of kids" when they rush off to make a fire without thinking first.
- Piggy shows he is responsible and caring as only he realises that a little boy is missing. He is horrified by the thought that the boy might have been killed in the fire.

Simon

- Simon is kind and fair. While others mock Piggy he defends him, telling Jack that Piggy helped because it was his glasses that lit the fire.

3. Themes

Order

- Ralph makes the rule that only the boy who holds the conch may speak.

Leadership

- Ralph is seen as the democratic leader, who wants to give everyone a chance to speak. Ralph loses control to Jack for a while but later stands up to him, saying, "Where the conch is, that's a meeting. The same up here as down there."

Fear

- Fear is introduced to the island when the little boy talks of the "snake-thing" and the "beastie".

Disorder

- There is disorder because making the fire has not been thought through properly and it sets the forest alight. The **chapter title**, "Fire on the Mountain", refers to this fire and its tragic result, the little boy who we think dies in the fire.



4. Symbols

The conch

- The importance of the conch as a symbol of order increases, as it now also stands for a form of democracy because anyone who holds it has a turn to speak.

The fire

- The fire symbolises two opposite things: returning to civilisation by attracting a ship and destruction, when the forest burns and the child dies.

The snake-thing

- The "snake-thing" the child is afraid of reminds us of the snake in the Garden of Eden. Together with the "beastie" it introduces both fear and the idea of evil to the island.



5. Diction and figurative language

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

Metaphor

- The child who talks of the "beastie" is described as "a shrimp of a boy", which makes us think of him as extremely small and helpless.
- At the very end of the chapter, the horror of the thought that this small boy has been trapped in the fire is increased by the metaphor, "the drum-roll continued". Comparing the noise of the fire to the sound of a drum reminds us of the drum-rolls played at some funerals, and of soldiers' drums. It is as though the island has declared war.

Simile

- "A tree exploded in the fire like a bomb". Like the metaphor of the drum-roll, this simile makes us think of war and danger.