

Simon

- We are beginning to see that Simon is a truly good person. For example:
 - Simon is the only boy who helps Ralph with the shelters, which shows that he is responsible and unselfish.
 - Simon is very kind – he picks the best fruit for the littluns, which they cannot reach.
- He is different from other boys and Ralph says, "He's queer. He's funny." (Ralph uses the word queer here to mean strange or peculiar, not as an insulting word for gay people.)

3. Themes

Civilisation and savagery

- Ralph wants to return to civilisation. This is shown by his focus on building shelters and on keeping the fire lit.
- Jack is drawing away from the civilised world. This is seen when he "had to think a moment before he could remember what rescue was". He is becoming more savage. He wants not only to hunt but also to kill.

Power

- Although Ralph is the leader he has little power, apart from the authority of the conch, to control the boys and make them work together for the good of their little society.

Fear

- Not only the littluns but also the older boys are afraid of the unknown beast. Even Jack is uneasy in the forest. Fear makes people act and feel in a way that is not based on rational or logical reasoning. For example, Jack admits that when he is hunting he feels as if "... you're not hunting, but – being hunted, as if something's behind you all the time in the jungle", although his common sense tells him that there is nothing behind him.

Good and evil

- The struggle between good and evil is shown in the contrast between Simon, who acts as a good citizen (by doing his share of work in building the huts and helping the littluns pick fruit), and Jack, who is obsessed with killing.



4. Symbols

The fire

The fire that the boys make represents their desire to be rescued and return to civilisation. However, in this chapter, the smoke from the fire is pale. This suggests that they do not yet feel very strongly about going home, in some way they are enjoying their adventure.



5. Diction and figurative language

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

Metaphors

- The description of Jack and Ralph as "two continents of experience and feeling, unable to communicate" compares the two boys to different continents. The continents of the world are separated from one another by oceans and the people who live on them have completely different cultures and languages. Similarly, the two boys think and feel quite differently and cannot understand each other. The metaphor emphasises their difference and inability to communicate.

Similes

- The simile at the start of the chapter, "He was down like a sprinter", shows us how Jack looks when he is tracking a pig. A runner on the starting block bends down, his hands touching the ground, his head low, which is how Jack moved through the forest.

