

2. Who Is Involved?

Roger

- Roger is mean and deliberately destroys the littluns' castles. He also throws stones at Henry.
- The memory of the behaviour he was taught at home stops Roger from aiming to hit Henry, but he enjoys confusing him.

Ralph

- Ralph can be insensitive: he is impatient with Piggy and isn't very kind to him.
- Ralph usually controls his feelings, but rescue means everything to him and in his disappointment he becomes enraged with Jack and the hunters.
- Ralph does not know what to feel: his anger and pride make him want to refuse the meat, but his hunger makes him eat it.
- Ralph gets his authority back by keeping silent and not moving. As a result the others are forced to build the fire somewhere else and they realise that Ralph cannot be bullied and is still the leader.
- Ralph realises that somehow what has happened has made it impossible for him and Jack to be friends again: "Not even Ralph knew how a link between him and Jack had been snapped and fastened elsewhere."

Jack

- When Jack paints his face, he changes his identity and is freed from the rules of his upbringing: "the mask was a thing on its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness". (Here "mask" means the paint.)
- Jack only apologises to Ralph to make the hunters admire him, not because he is really sorry. He is being manipulative.
- Although killing and blood excite him Jack is not yet completely hardened – when he boasts about cutting the pig's throat, his body jerks: "twitched". This shows that the memory of killing a living creature makes him feel uncomfortable, although he does not admit it or even realise it.
- It seems that Jack enjoys being cruel, as he mocks Piggy and refuses to give him any meat.



Piggy

- Piggy is a little lazy, using his asthma and fatness as an excuse for not helping with tasks that need physical work.
- Piggy is so disappointed at losing the chance of being rescued that he criticises Jack, which is not like him, he is usually too cautious and afraid to do that.

Simon

- Simon feels deeply: when he sees there is no smoke from the fire he cries out "as though he had hurt himself". When the ship disappears, he cries, "smearing the water from his cheeks".
- Simon is kind and generous, giving his meat to Piggy when Jack refuses to give Piggy any. He also picks up Piggy's glasses after Jack hits him.

3. Themes

Innocence and corruption

- In this chapter we see the boys move further away from civilised and decent behaviour. It seems as if they are losing their innocence and becoming corrupt.

Good and evil

- Simon's kindness and generosity contrast with the cruelty and violence shown by the hunters. The hunters enjoyed killing the pig and seeing the blood.

- Even the little boys enjoy hurting others (Johnny) or controlling living beings (Henry) when no adults are there to teach or discipline them.

Civilisation and savagery

- The painted faces help Jack and the boys to forget the rules and morals they were taught at home. The words they chant while bringing the pig back from the hunt: "Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood." And later: "Bash her in.", show how far they are moving away from decent behaviour and closer towards savagery.

Leadership

- The different leadership styles of Ralph and Jack are shown again. Ralph controls his anger and uses silence to assert his authority. Jack loses control of his temper when he is criticised and turns to violence when he hits Piggy.