



## 4. Symbols

### Fire

- The fire, which could bring rescue, goes out, indicating that the boys are moving further away from civilisation.

### Piggy's glasses

- The glasses show Piggy's intelligence and belief in reason. When they are broken this suggests how unthinking the boys are becoming; they are beginning to act without thinking about the results of what they do.

### The pig hunt:

- The pig hunt is a symbol of the desire to kill; of the violence and savagery that is taking over.

## 5. Diction and figurative language

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

### Metaphor

- After the fire has been lit, Piggy takes his glasses back and "Before these fantastically attractive flowers of violet and red and yellow, unkindness melted away." Here are two examples of metaphor in one sentence: the fire is compared to flowers, and unkindness is compared to a block of ice that melts in the warmth of the fire. The two metaphors don't quite match, as flowers are not hot and cannot make something melt. This is called a **mixed metaphor**, and can be confusing. But in this case it works because it also makes one think of a bad mood melting away when one sees something beautiful. Which is what happened to Piggy and the other boys: "They became a circle of boys round a camp fire and even Piggy and Ralph were half-drawn in."

### Simile

- "When the sun sank, darkness dropped on the island like an extinguisher ...". This suggests a fire extinguisher putting out the light from the sun. This simile makes us understand how suddenly the darkness came, and that is a bit frightening, because people sometimes talk about life being "extinguished".