

Simon

- Simon is brave to speak at the meeting because he hates speaking in public but he believes he must tell the other boys what he believes about the beast.
- Simon is unusually wise for such a young child. He shows this when he says of the beast, "maybe it's only us". He is trying to say that evil does not come from outside, it is in people, it is "mankind's essential illness".

Jack

- Jack insults Piggy and Ralph.
- When Jack challenges Ralph's authority, shouting, "Bollocks to the rules!", he shows that he does not care about the rules of a fair society.
- Jack knows how to manipulate the boys and takes advantage of their fears and emotions so that they are more impressed with his challenges than with Ralph's reasoning.
- Jack shows off and boasts about his ability as a hunter, which is more exciting and interesting to the boys than Ralph's attempt to establish order and be rescued.

Maurice

- Maurice cleverly stops the littluns crying by clowning around, falling clumsily to make them laugh. At this time he still understands the importance of restoring order.

3. Themes

Order and disorder

- As Ralph says, "Things are breaking up." By the end of the chapter rules and Ralph's authority and the conch are ignored, even though Ralph was elected democratically. The meeting ends in chaos under Jack's influence and the boys are beyond Ralph's control.

Loss of innocence

- Ralph's earlier hope and optimism are being destroyed by his experiences.

Power

- Jack wants power, but Ralph wishes there were adults to take over and put the situation right. Jack's ability to control the boys and his power to influence them is growing.

Leadership

- Ralph tries to use reason and logic to persuade the boys to do what he suggests. Jack, on the other hand, appeals to the boys' feelings and emotions. His emotional methods of persuasion are more effective.

- **Fear**
The boys are particularly afraid of the beast when it is dark, and especially when Percival says it comes out of the sea. One cannot see what monsters there might be in the sea. The **chapter title**, "Beast from Water", refers to this fear of the unknown. Even Jack feels uneasy in the forest at times, although he says there is no beast. Piggy, with good reason, thinks it is people who should be feared. Only Ralph and Simon are not afraid.

Wisdom

- Simon thinks the beast is the evil in the nature of the boys themselves.

4. Symbols

The conch

- The conch, which is a symbol of authority, order and democracy, is losing its effectiveness. Ralph will not blow it to call the boys back as they might ignore it: "Then we've had it. ... We'll be like animals."

The beast

- The "beast" that Percival says comes out of the water fills the boys, especially the littluns, with terror. Only Simon sees that it is not an actual creature, but the evil that lies inside the human heart.

5. Diction and figurative language

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

Personification

- A sinister (threatening harm or evil) mood, or feeling, is created by descriptions like: "Two grey trunks rubbed each other with an evil squeaking that no one had noticed by day." To suggest that the noise the tree trunks make is "evil" is personification, as being evil requires a mind and will, and is associated with people rather than plants. A similar example is given in the same paragraph, "a flurry of wind made the palms talk".

Metaphors

- There are very interesting metaphors in this chapter. One example is, "he was a silent effigy of sorrow". Here Percival, before he begins to howl, is compared to a statue representing sorrow.



NB

The beast from the water is a reference to the Bible – the Book of Revelations, Chapter 13, verse 1, which describes such a creature as a symbol of an evil power: "And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name."