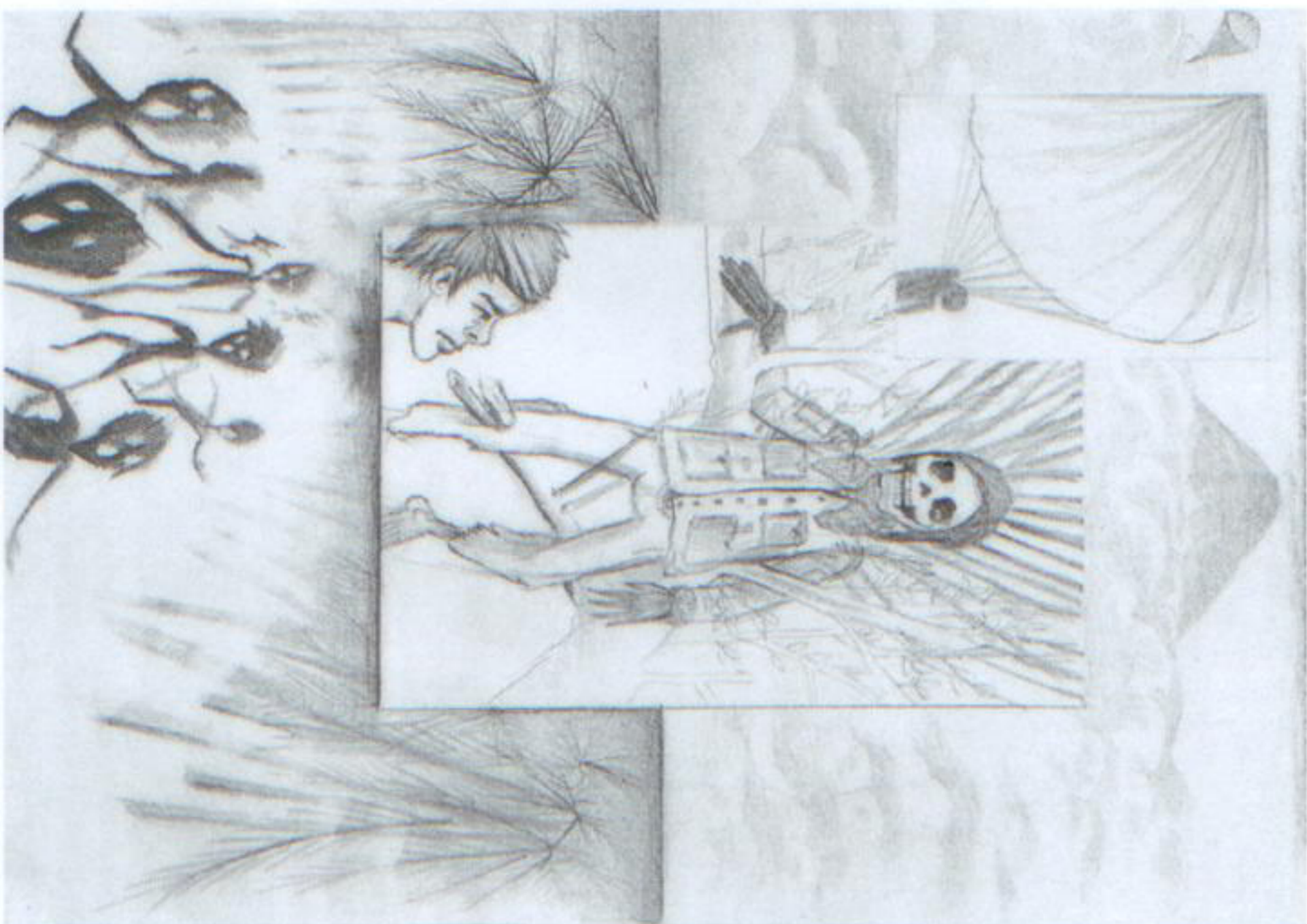


Beast from Air



1. What happens in this chapter?

The events in this chapter take place later that night and the next morning. We are reminded that a war is going on in the outside, adult world when a plane is shot down and the dead pilot lands on the mountain. As the wind blows, his parachute lifts him up and down. Samneric are on duty to watch the fire that night. They fall asleep and the fire nearly goes out. At dawn the next day they find the ashes and manage to blow them so the flame flares again and they can build the fire. The twins see a shape (of the dead pilot) moving on the mountain. They are terrified and run to tell Ralph they have seen the beast. They exaggerate what they have seen and terror spreads among all the boys. Immediately, without thinking it through, Jack wants to hunt the beast and tries to take charge. Ralph gets the boys on his side when he reminds them that they want to be rescued, and he takes control again.

They set out to investigate the unexplored part of the island, with Jack leading the way at first. Piggy stays behind to look after the littluns. At castle rock Ralph goes ahead into the unknown area. Jack follows him and the others join them. The boys have fun rolling down the big rocks and do not want to leave, but Ralph insists they go on. He is determined to keep the signal fire going and the boys obey unwillingly.

2. Who is involved?

Samneric

- The twins are unable to do anything separately and are treated as one in any activity: "By custom now one conch did for both twins, for their substantial unity was recognized."

Ralph

- In the power struggle with Jack, when Jack refuses to obey the rule about the conch Ralph takes control of the situation with his common-sense reasons and his appeal to the boys' desire to be rescued.
- Ralph shows his courage, strength of character and sense of duty when, in spite of his "personal hell" of fear, he goes ahead first to the unknown part of the island – castle rock: "Something deep in Ralph spoke for him. 'I'm chief. I'll go.'"
- Ralph shows his determination to continue the task of finding the beast and relighting the signal fire when he insists that they go on, because the hope of rescue is "all we've got".

Jack

- Jack is selfish and acts on his desire to lead the hunt without thinking about what is sensible or practical.
- When Jack joins Ralph at castle rock it is because he wants to share the "glory" and not because he is worried about Ralph's safety.