

5. Diction and figurative language

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

Irony

- It is ironic that Ralph, who starts off longing for home, should take part in the savage behaviour during the dance, which is the opposite of his orderly and gentle life at home.

Metaphor

- Jack is described by the metaphor of a "stain in the darkness". A stain is a mark that stands out on something, so Jack's body is a dark shape showing up against the slightly less dark night. However, a stain is usually considered to be a bad thing that spoils whatever it marks. This suggests the evil within Jack that spoils the paradise of the island.

