

- Piggy shows common sense by saying they could make the fire on the beach. But he loves food and is tempted by the thought of eating meat at Jack's feast.

Simon

- Simon shows great courage by standing up to speak at the meeting.
- Simon makes the only intelligent suggestion: to go up the mountain to see what the beast really is. Mocked and ignored, he slips away to his secret place and imagines that the pig's head (the "Lord of the Flies") is talking to him.
- The pig's head tells Simon, "I am the Beast".
- The head spells out to Simon the choices he has: he can go back to the boys and accept things the way they are, or be killed by Jack and his group as they (the beast and the boys together – in other words the evil inside them) are going to have "fun". "Fun" here means being violent and savage.

Roger

- Until now Roger has been rather a mysterious character, but his disgusting cruelty to the sow shows him to be a sadist – someone who takes pleasure in causing pain and suffering.
- Roger even spears a helpless piglet.

3. Themes

Good and evil

- This chapter shows the boys splitting into two groups (good and evil): Ralph, Simon, Piggy, Samneric and the littluns on the one hand, and Jack and the rest of the biguns on the other.
- The evil inside Jack and his group, particularly Roger, is controlling their behaviour and they care only about the "fun" of violence, savagery and killing – and about having meat to eat and satisfying their desires and needs.
- The **chapter title**, "Gift for the Darkness", refers to the pig's head on a stick, which Jack said was a gift for the beast. "Darkness" refers to evil.

Civilisation and savagery

- Ralph and Piggy still believe in civilised values and want to return home.
- For Jack and his group all civilised behaviour has gone. They even get rid of their clothes. Clothes are a sign of civilisation and taking the clothes off is a sign of the loss of civilisation.

Wisdom

- Simon shows great wisdom. In his meeting with the pig's head he shows the depth of his insight, his basic goodness and his courage.

Power

- Jack obtains the power he wants so much when he becomes leader of nearly all the big boys.

4. Symbols

The pig's head

The description of the pig's head makes its symbolism clear. It is surrounded by flies and is therefore the "Lord of the Flies" – the title of the novel. One of the names of Satan is Beelzebub, which means "lord of the flies". It symbolises the evil that is found in people that makes them behave with cruelty and savagery; this is revealed to us in Simon's encounter with the pig's head.

The conch

The conch, the symbol of order and democracy, is not taken by Jack when he steals the fire, showing that he does not care about civilised behaviour and that democracy will have no place when he is dictator.

The pig hunt

The pig hunt is vividly described, letting us see the bloodlust (the uncontrollable wish to kill or hurt others), cruelty and savagery of the boys.

5. Diction and figurative language

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

Simile

A simile is used in this description of Jack when he is hunting: "He was happy and wore the damp darkness of the forest like his old clothes." Old clothes are comfortable and familiar and we feel at home and at ease in them. This simile tells us that this is how Jack feels in the forest, emphasising his love of hunting.

Metaphor

"... their voices had been the song of angels" – is a metaphor and it is also ironic. It suggests that one might expect angelic behaviour from choir-boys, but these boys, far from being angelic, have turned into bloody and savage hunters.

