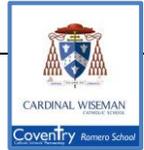


Yr 8 Summer Term 3a-b: Lord of the Flies Knowledge Booklet



Plot summary

- 1 **The Sound of the Shell** – During WW2, plane carrying evacuees crashes on an island. Piggy (P) meets Ralph(R) and they find a conch shell. R made leader; Jack (J) made leader of hunters.
- 2 **Fire on the Mountain** – Beastie first mentioned. Signal fire rages out of control and kills boy with birthmark.
- 3 **Huts on the Beach** – P focuses on building shelter; J and choir prefer hunting. Simon (Si) disappears and finds peaceful, aromatic part of island.
- 4 **Painted Faces and Long Hair** – J and others paint their faces – say it's for camouflage but it actually reveals their savage identity.
- 5 **Beast from Water** – beastie discussed. J starts to rebel against the rules/democracy.

- 6 **Beast from Air** – Sam + Eric (S+E) mistake the parachutist for the beast
7. **Shadows and Tall Trees** – The boys fight and separate. Storm begins.
- 8 **Gift for the Darkness** – J sacrifices pig's head to beast
- 9 **A View to a Death** – Si thinks the head talks to him; it realises his paranoia. S killed by the boys.
- 10 **The Shell and the Glasses** – P, S+E avoid talking about Si's death. J and hunters steal P's glasses.
- 11 **Castle Rock** – P+R go to get P's glasses. P killed by Roger.
- 12 **Cry of the Hunters** – R runs for his life. Fire engulfs the island and a naval officer comes to investigate. The boys are rescued.

Key characters	Key themes	Historical context	Symbols + allegory
<p>Ralph – Anglo Saxon word for council: leader, tall, rational, blonde hair</p> <p>Piggy – nickname only (never learn his real name): glasses-wearing, asthma- suffering, low class, bullied</p> <p>Jack – ‘one who takes over’ – tall, intimidating, red hair</p> <p>Simon – ‘one who listens’ – small, shy, ‘queer’, spiritual, black hair</p> <p>Roger – ‘one with a spear’ – secretive, sadistic, Jack’s sidekick</p> <p>SamnEric – twins, always together</p> <p>The Littluns – collective name of the younger boys</p>	<p>* Democracy vs dictatorship</p> <p>* Civilisation vs savagery</p> <p>* The loss of innocence</p> <p>* Consequences of war</p> <p>* Individual vs community</p> <p>* Good vs evil</p> <p>* Human nature (the natural desires we have in us: to be selfish, savage and immoral)</p> <p>* Communication (or lack of it)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The people of Britain had just been through the Second World War. In the novel, the boys seem to create their own war, suggesting the reality of human nature ➤ Food was still being rationed in Britain. Desire for food is a major part and motivation of LOTF. ➤ It was feared that there might be a nuclear war between Western countries and the Soviet Union. References to bombs + fighting are made throughout the novel. ➤ Golding worked as a teacher in a boys’ school and said he understood young boys with ‘awful precision.’ ➤ Golding served in the Navy during WW2. He came to the conclusion that all human beings had the capacity for incredible evil, even children. ➤ Britain was having to come to terms with the loss of the British Empire. ➤ Public schools (where most of the boys on the island went to) still produced most of Britain’s leaders and top professionals. ➤ The class system was very much existent in Britain. Piggy stands out for being lower class; the others are upper class. ➤ Nazi Germany had adopted a system of rewarding the strong and attacking the weak. The same system appears to happen in the novel. ➤ The adults the boys wish could help them are the same ones who are fighting the war that has led to the boys being stranded. 	<p>Conch – civilization and democracy</p> <p>Piggy’s glasses – science and technology</p> <p>Fire – hope of salvation</p> <p>The Beast – human nature (the desire to be a savage)</p> <p>The Lord of the Flies (pig’s head) – physical manifestation of the beast</p> <p>Adults – civilization and social order</p> <p>The ocean – the unconscious mind; the desires and thoughts we have within ourselves</p> <p>Allegory = story that relates to another context</p> <p>Religious allegory</p> <p>The island = Garden of Eden</p> <p>The scar = how man destroys paradise (the Fall of Man)</p> <p>Simon = Jesus Christ</p> <p>War allegory</p> <p>Piggy = the Jews; victimized, vulnerable</p> <p>Jack = Nazi leader; manipulates and bullies</p>

Key Quotations

There: ‘Maybe there is a beast...maybe it’s only us’ (Simon)

Hiding: “The mask was a thing on its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness.”

Experience: “They walked along, two continents of **experience** and feeling unable to communicate.” (Jack and Ralph)

‘Life... is scientific’ (Piggy)

Or: ‘Which is better, law and rescue, **OR** hunting and breaking things up?’ (Piggy)

‘Right to speak!’ (I have the conch, I have a)

‘Desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering’ (remember this relates to Ralph)

Order: ‘Roger’s arm was conditioned by a civilisation that knew nothing of him and was in ruins.’

‘Fancy thinking the beast was something you could hunt and kill!’ (The Pig’s head to Simon)

‘The tearing of teeth and claws’ (when the boys kill Simon)

‘His fat, his ass-mar, his matter of fact ideas: Piggy was a bore’

‘Exploded into a thousand pieces’ (the Conch after Piggy’s death)

‘Fall...of a true wise friend called Piggy (and the darkness of a man’s heart) – what Ralph wept for

‘Laughter became a bloodthirsty snarling’ (Jack)

Incantation/chant: ‘Kill the pig, Cut his throat, Bash him in!’

Exclamation: ‘You’re a beast and a swine and a bloody, bloody thief!’ (Ralph to Jack)

‘Stick sharpened at both ends’ (Roger)