

Character Profiles

Piggy - Ralph's "lieutenant." A whiny, intellectual boy, Piggy's inventiveness frequently leads to innovation, such as the makeshift sundial that the boys use to tell time. Piggy represents the scientific, rational side of civilization. He thinks like the grown-ups might.

Pigs are intelligent creatures that are hunted and killed on the island

This parallels the events surrounding Piggy.

- rational and intelligent, overweight and physically unfit
- wears thick glasses
- gets out of breath easily because he has asthma
- poor grammar suggests that he comes from a different social background than Ralph
- thinks logically and has a scientific way of looking at the world
- an outsider
- apprehensive of anything involving physical activity
- severe physical limitations

Ralph - The novel's protagonist, the twelve-year-old English boy who is elected leader of the group of boys marooned on the island. Ralph attempts to coordinate the boys' efforts to build a miniature civilization on the island until they can be rescued. Ralph represents human beings' civilizing instinct, as opposed to the savage instinct that Jack embodies.

Ralph's name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon language meaning 'counsel'

- well built, athletic
- displays leadership skills immediately
- eager to be rescued and believes desperately that adults will come to their rescue
- needs to be alone to think things out
- responsible and can organise
- tolerant and open-minded
- possesses moral courage
- although he admits to fear, he does not lack courage
- popular and admired
- believes in rules and fair play

Jack - The novel's antagonist, one of the older boys stranded on the island. Jack becomes the leader of the hunters but longs for total power and becomes increasingly wild, barbaric, and cruel as the novel progresses. Jack, adept at manipulating the other boys, represents the instinct of savagery within human beings, as opposed to the civilizing instinct Ralph represents

Jack's name is Hebrew in origin and means 'one who supplants'

- leader of the choir and later the hunters
- charismatic, attractive and manipulative
- irritable and quick to anger
- has no time for weakness
- destructive nature
- wants to make up his own rules and is power hungry
- has primitive urges and feelings
- is happy and at home in the forest
- no qualities such as thought and reasoning
- rules his tribe by fear and violence
- used to power
- superficial maturity
- aggressive with violent reactions
- self-confident and arrogant
- irresponsible

Roger - Jack's "lieutenant." A sadistic, cruel older boy who brutalizes the 'littluns' and eventually murders Piggy by rolling a boulder onto him.

His name, which is Germanic in origin, means 'spear'

- furtive, intense, secretive
- desire to hurt others
- sadistic and irresponsible
- ruthless and coldly violent
- enjoys the freedom of being out of control

Simon - A shy, sensitive boy in the group. Simon, in some ways is the only naturally "good" character on the island, behaves kindly toward the younger boys and is willing to work for the good of their community. Moreover, because his motivation is rooted in his deep feeling of connectedness to nature, Simon is the only character whose sense of morality does not seem to have been imposed by society. Simon represents a kind of natural goodness, as opposed to the unbridled evil of Jack and the imposed morality of civilization represented by Ralph and Piggy.

Simon's name comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'listener'

- has fits and is ridiculed
- solitary and stammers
- has insight and is thoughtful about the situation
- has the faith that everything will be all right
- represents the spiritual, poetic point of view
- compassionate
- his oddness is the mark of an individual

Maurice

- enthusiastic and easily swayed
- joins in with Jack's gang and doesn't consider the consequences
- the joker

Sam and Eric - A pair of twins closely allied with Ralph. Sam and Eric are always together, and the other boys often treat them as a single entity, calling them "Samneric." The easily excitable Sam and Eric are part of the group known as the "bigguns." At the end of the novel, they fall victim to Jack's manipulation and oppression.

Sam

- Eric's twin brother, younger than the others
- has dominant control over Eric and is the more dominant of the pair

Eric

- Sam's twin brother, appears much younger than the rest
- follows his brother and accepts his choices

The Lord of the Flies - The name given to the sow's head that Jack's gang impales on a stake and erects in the forest as an offering to the "beast." The Lord of the Flies comes to symbolize the primordial instincts of power and cruelty that take control of Jack's tribe