

Lord of the Flies – Revision

Plot	Themes/symbolism	Quotes/analysis	Context
<p>The Sound of the Shell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys crash in a plane – links to war Ralph and Piggy meet on the island They discover the conch and call the boys together Jack and the choir introduced Boys vote for Ralph as leader Jack given the hunters Ralph, Jack and Simon explore the island Jack tries to kill a pig but can't. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Island as paradise (Garden of Eden) – new start / beginnings Excitement and optimism Democracy – Conch as symbol of order, fairness and democracy Games: voting, exploration, hunting (more sinister) Light Main characters introduced: <p>Ralph: reason, strong athleticism, common sense, fairness, democracy, father in Navy, Ralph embraces the island</p> <p>Jack (and choir): strength, bullying, violence, authority, military language</p> <p>Piggy: intelligence, physical weakness, voice of "littl'uns", reliance of civilized society</p> <p>Simon: peace, calm, spiritual, Christian symbolism</p>	<p>A kind of glamour was spread over them and the scene and they were conscious of the glamour and made happy by it' (33)</p> <p>CONCH 'It's ever so valuable' (21) 'the shell was deep cream...delicate, embossed pattern' (22) 'The toy of voting was almost as pleasing as the conch' (30)</p> <p>Exploration game 'triumphant, they savoured the right of dominion'</p> <p>Hunting – 'He snatched the knife out of the sheath and slammed it into a tree trunk'</p> <p>RALPH 'fair hair', 'eyes that proclaimed no devil' 'stood there naked, looking at the dazzling beach' (p.15) 'attractive appearance; and most obscurely, yet most powerfully, there was the conch'</p> <p>'Merridew' 'Something dark...the creature ...marching...' 'each boy wore a square black cap with a silver badge' (26) 'He shouted an order' (27), 'ugly without silliness...eyes ready to turn to anger' (27)</p> <p>'knees are scratched by thorns'(12), 'Ass-mar' recognises a plane scar 'and this what the tube done', 'the choir boy who had fainted' (29) 'like candles' (40)</p>	<p>Microcosm of wider society</p> <p>WAR 'We was attacked' (p.13) 'Didn't you hear what the pilot said atom bomb? They're all dead' 'They're all dead' (20)</p> <p>Military language in relation to Jack and choir</p>
<p>Fire on the Mountain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralph holds second meeting, use the conch to speak One of "littl'uns" mentions the "snake thing/beastie" The signal fire is created – most boys work together Piggy's glasses used to light fire Hunters responsible for keeping the signal fire Set island alight and "littl'un" is killed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of Jack's hunting obsession and rules Conch as symbol of democracy Piggy's sense of priorities (rescue) Religious imagery (serpent in Garden of Eden/beast) Ralph struggles to control meeting Fire as symbol of hope but also destruction 	<p>'we'll have rules...then when anyone breaks 'em –' punishment and authority 'Nobody knows where we are'</p> <p>'snake thing' 'beastie' (46)</p> <p>Ralph and Jack work together to build the fire 'that strange invisible light of friendship, adventure and content' and then becomes destructive 'drum-roll' 'Piggy glanced nervously into hell', jaguar' (58 – 59)</p>	<p>Reference to Coral Island' (45) – subverts this and shows true nature of human beings influenced by the war.</p> <p>Biblical Imagery – the fall of man</p> <p>Destructive power of fire influence of the war.</p>
<p>Huts on the Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack hunting – fails to kill pig 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack in jungle, savagery, primitive and threatening. 	<p>Animal imagery 'dog-like...on all fours' (61)</p>	<p>Democracy v's dictatorship develops.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralph, Simon and Piggy building shelters on the beach Simon alone at peace in jungle 	<p>Feels being hunted - superstition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimless, dull shelter building contrasted with excitement of hunting (practicality vs savage excitement; rescue vs hunting) Simon and Christian symbolism 	<p>Shelter...seemed very near to falling down' (63)</p> <p>They walked along, two continents of experience and feeling, unable to communicate (70)</p> <p>'Simon found for them the fruit they could not reach (71)</p>	
<p>Painted Faces and Long Hair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger begins to bully some of "littl'uns" Jack paints his face Ralph and boys on beach see a ship on the horizon Fire is out Jack and hunters have killed a pig Ralph and Jack's first confrontation. Jack lashes out at Piggy Ralph maintains being chief, but all enjoy the meat Boys play the pig hunting game Ralph calls assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hierarchy of power <p>Increase of casual violence and bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face painting – savagery; allows Jack to hide from social restraints Clash of priorities – hunting, excitement and gratification; dull common sense and distant hope Ralph breaks with Jack and fastens allegiance to Piggy Savage rituals established 	<p>Henry 'exercising control over living things'</p> <p>Roger led the way straight through the castles, kicking them over' (76)</p> <p>Roger throws the stone to miss 'Rogers arm was conditioned by a civilisation that was in ruins' (78) Roger described 'like a wolf' (92)</p> <p>'For hunting. Like in the war. You know – dazzle paint' 79</p> <p>'The fire was dead'</p> <p>Jack's hunters let the fire out as killing pig 'there was the brilliant world of hunting, tactics, fierce exhalation, skill; and the world of longing and baffled common sense' (89)</p> <p>Tribal dance – non verbal and game of hunting.</p>	<p>Civilisation begins to break down and clash of democracy and dictatorship reflects rise of Nazi Germany</p>
<p>Beast From Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralph blows conch for meeting Ralph makes serious points in logical order (shelters, hygiene, rescue) Discussion of fear – suggestion it comes from sea Order of meeting breaks up talk of ghosts Jack ignores rules and boys follow him like savages Only Ralph, Piggy and Simon left at meeting place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conch as beautiful but delicate Ralph hates responsibility of leadership Responses to Fear / Beast: Jack responds with aggression (boys feel secure), Piggy with rationalism (boys laugh at him), Simon close to truth (evil inside us, but not understood and ridiculed) Rationalism/social order vs superstition/anarchy – superstition/anarchy wins! 	<p>'exposure to the air had bleached the yellow and pink to near white and transparency' (98)</p> <p>'The trouble was if you were a chief you had to wise' 97</p> <p>Jack 'And as for the fear – you'll have to put up with that like the rest of us' (103)</p> <p>Piggy 'life...is scientific' (105), Simon gets close to the truth 'maybe it's only us' (111)</p> <p>'Bollocks to the rules! We're strong – we hunt!' 114</p>	<p>Victimisation of weaker people – Piggy and Simon – like persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany</p>
<p>Beast From Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plane shot down and dead pilot parachutes on to island Sam and Eric think it's beast Boys hold a meeting Jack, Ralph and older boys go to castle rock to hunt beast Ralph goes on alone but Jack joins him Jack gets excited about "fort" Ralph just asserts control – smoke/rescue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack defies the conch and denies some boys right to speak – becoming like dictator Conflict between Ralph and Jack's values Climb mountain again -Uneasy bond when go to castle rock – unfriendly sound Military language associated with Jack 	<p>'We don't need the conch any more...it's time some people knew they have got to keep quiet' (126)</p> <p>'This is a rotten place' Ralph 132</p> <p>'What a place for a fort' (131)</p>	<p>Sign from outside world dead pilot - WW2</p> <p>Increasing military dictatorship</p>
<p>Shadows and Tall Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simon reassures Ralph he'll get home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simon's Christian support Pig hunt game – blood lust 	<p>'I just think you'll get back' (138)</p> <p>'the desire to squeeze and hurt was overmastering' 142</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of pig hunt (Ralph joins in) Jack, Ralph and Roger climb the mountain to see the beast See dead pilot – fire out 			
Gift for the Darkness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting to decide what to do – Ralph insults the hunters Jack challenges Ralph as chief in vote, loses and goes off on his own Piggy likes it without Jack – suggests moving the fire; fruit feast with “littl’uns” Boys start to leave Jack has hunters, offers protection as sacrifice to Beast Brutal description of pig slaughter, leave head as present for Beast Steal fire from Ralph and Piggy Simon confronts Lord of the Flies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack leads meeting Challenge to democracy Aimless democracy contrasted with excitement and purpose of dictatorship Savagery and superstition Blood lust Exploitation of others’ work – steal fire Evil is within people LOTF = Biblical name for the devil 	<p>‘We hunt and feast and have fun’ (174)</p> <p>‘I’m going to be chief’ (165)</p> <p>‘anonymous savages’</p> <p>‘Demonic figures’</p> <p>“I’m part of you’</p>	<p>Dictatorship – no voting</p> <p>Nazi Germany</p>
A View to a Death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simon sees the pilot and learns the truth Jack’s party – savages, Jack like chief, feasting, ritual, dancing, chanting Simon is killed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evil is within people not a Beast Descent to savagery is complete – democracy seems powerless Simon as Christian martyr 	<p>‘The conch doesn’t count at this end of the island’ 186</p> <p>Jack rose from the log that was his throne’</p> <p>Jack as a leader offers instant gratification ‘meat’.</p> <p>The beast was harmless and horrible; and the news must reach the others as soon as possible’</p> <p>“tearing of teeth and claws’</p> <p>‘sculptured marble’ with a halo,</p> <p>‘their fiery eyes and trailing vapours, busied themselves round his head (190)</p>	<p>Simon sees spiritual truth but like Christ scarified on cross.</p> <p>Dictatorship unifies people against a common enemy compare Nazi Germany and Jews – even good people get involved</p>
The Shell and the Glasses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralph and Piggy’s guilt at Simon’s death Jack uses fear and brutality to ensure obedience Steal Piggy’s glasses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brutality of dictatorship 	<p>‘The air was heavy with unspoken knowledge’</p> <p>‘he is going to beat Wilfred...didn’t the chief say why...I never heard him’ (197)</p>	<p>National guilt after WW2</p> <p>Lack of fairness / survival of the fittest</p> <p>Roger – henchman / Gestapo – torture</p>
Castle Rock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralph and Piggy go to castle rock with the conch Ralph and Jack fight Roger sends rock down, kills Piggy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last appeal for civilization, democracy, decency – conch “fragile” Piggy destroyed simultaneously with conch 	<p>‘The conch exploded...his head opened and stuff came out...Piggy’s arms and legs twitched like a pig’s’ (223)</p>	<p>Intellectuals persecuted and executed</p> <p>Biblical fall from grace</p>
Cry of the Hunters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ralph is hunted Rescued by passing war ship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ending implies war on larger scale Island burns up like hell Piggy “fall through the air” like fall from paradise Ralph weeps for Piggy and what he symbolised 	<p>‘burning wreckage of the island (248)</p> <p>‘allowing his eyes to rest on the trim cruiser in the distance’ 248</p> <p>‘Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart, and the fall through the air of the true wise friend called Piggy’ (248)</p>	<p>Shifting perspective from Ralph to sailor signals the reader’s shifting perspective to see island as representing wider society. Not happy ending!</p>

