

Lord of the Flies **Study Questions**

Lord of the Flies is a very easy text – probably on a 6th or 7th grade reading level. *Then why read it in a senior AP Literature class?* Simple. The first task we have is learning what to put into a college paper -- the basics of **scaffolding a literary argument**. We need an easy text so that we don't get hung up on the analysis part. *Lord of the Flies* practically analyzes itself. Still, there will be some folks who try to skate by without reading. So we have to have a reading quiz.

There's no trick to this; if you come to class having read the book, you'll do well. These are the questions that will be on your tests and quizzes, and most of them are low-level, basic-plot questions. **But they also serve to guide you to the parts of the novel that are important, even though they seem picky and obscure.** Be sure you know the answers to them. They will **not** be taken up and given a grade.

Chapter 1

1. How do the boys arrive on the island? What is happening in the world that they should even be in this situation?
2. How does Ralph call the first meeting?
3. What are the names of the twins?
4. What does Ralph's father do (for a living)?
5. What nationality are the boys?
6. The island is described as being _____ - shaped. *And this part is not on the quiz, but think about an answer anyway: What might be symbolic about describing the island that way?*
7. What is the "scar"?

Chapter 2

1. Who is the only one who may interrupt the speaker holding the conch?

2. Some of the boys believe they've seen a Beast. How is this "beast" first described? (*As being ___-like.*)
3. Who says, again and again that there isn't a beast?
4. Why do they need a fire?
5. What do the boys use to start the fire?

Chapter 3

1. What is Jack doing as Chapter 3 opens? (Be specific.)
2. Who helps Ralph with the task of building huts and helps the littluns reach fruit? *This part's not on the quiz, but answer: What does this imply about his character?*

Chapter 4

1. What do Roger and Maurice do that makes Golding say that Maurice "still felt the unease of wrongdoing?"
2. Who is described as being affected by the "taboo of the old life?"
3. What has this "taboo" prevented him from doing?
4. How is Jack "liberated from the shame of self-consciousness?"
5. What keeps the boys from being rescued by the passing ship?

Chapter 5

1. What does Ralph think they ought to do before they let the fire go out?
2. *(And this part is not on the test, but please notice that in the same speech Ralph scolds the boys about their bathroom habits. Be sure you get that, because – gross though it may be – it's important.)*
3. Which character says, "What I mean is . . . maybe it's only us." [*about the Beast*]
4. Which character says, "What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?" *This next part is not on the test, but **consider** how **important** the **order of words** might be.*

Chapter 6 & 7

1. At the beginning of Chapter 6, Golding describes a "sign that came down from the world of the grown-ups" The boys are convinced it's "The Beast." What is it really? Why does Golding call it a "sign from the world of grownups?"
2. What do the boys want to do instead of going to the other side of the island to check the fire?
3. The boys attempt to recreate the unsuccessful pig hunt using Robert as a stand-in for the pig. Describe **Ralph's** feelings as the play-hunt progresses.
4. Hurt, Robert stops the play-hunt saying, "You want a real pig. . ." Whom does Jack suggest they substitute next (which may or may not be a joke)?

Chapter 8

1. During the assembly, how many vote that Ralph shouldn't be chief?

2. In this chapter, Golding refers to the hunters by a new name. What is it?
3. The group of boys look at "IT" with affectionate respect. What is "IT"?
4. The scene where Jack and his hunters kill the sow might be **the most important scene in the novel**. First, be sure you know what a "sow" is. **The quiz question:** What is the sow doing when the hunters come upon her in the woods?
5. After the pig kill, when Jack and the hunters burst in on Ralph and Piggy, describe Jack's appearance.
6. Which character says, "I'm not going to play any longer. Not with you."
7. Which character says, "The head is for the beast, it's a gift."
8. Which character says, "I'd like to put on war-paint and be savage. But we must keep the fire burning."

Chapter 9

1. What is the "cannon" that "continued to play" throughout Chapter 9?
2. Who sits, like an idol, painted and garlanded, in the center of the lawn?
3. What happens to the parachutist?
4. Who is killed because the boys mistake him for the Beast?
5. What happens to the body on the beach?

Chapter 10

1. What are Samneric doing in the beginning of the chapter?
2. After the murder, Piggy tries to convince Ralph that it was an accident. What does Ralph say he's frightened of?
3. What does Jack take from the others?

Chapter 11

1. When Jack is taking the last bit of power from Ralph, Jack orders, "grab them!" Who "protested out of the heart of civilization?"
2. Who kills Piggy?
3. How does Piggy die?

Chapter 12

1. What does Ralph do to the "Lord of the Flies," the pig's head on the stick?
2. Which character(s) attempt to save Ralph in spite of the "memory of a new and shameful loyalty"?
3. Who sharpens a stick on both ends? **For what purpose?**
4. Which character says, "Nobody killed, I hope? Any dead bodies?"
5. *Not on the test, but VERY IMPORTANT:* **Why is this an ironic question?**