# Questions for *Lord of the Flies*

English IV

Chapter 1 – The Sound of the Shell

1. Why is Piggy so obsessed about finding the others and calling a meeting? What does this say about his character and personality?
2. Golding makes references to what is happening in the rest of the world. What is happening?
3. Why do the conch and the election signify the beginnings of government? How successful is it likely to be and why?
4. What is Ralph’s act of rebellion against civilization?
5. Who are the three natural choices for leader? Who is chosen and why?
6. What happens when the boys first encounter a pig? (How do they react and why? What excuses do they make to explain their behaviour?)

Chapter 2 – Fire on the Mountain

1. The government is already showing signs of weakness. What are the signs?
2. Why does no one respect Piggy or his suggestions?
3. Who will be blamed for the small child’s accidental death? Why?
4. Describe what the relationship is like between Ralph and Jack in this chapter.
5. Why is fire so important? How do the boys respond to the idea of making a fire and what happens?

Chapter 3 – Huts on the Beach

1. What is the author trying to convey by mentioning *‘not a good island’*?
2. Why is Jack obsessed with killing a pig for meat?
3. What do you think Simon was trying to do towards the end of the chapter?
4. Describe the conflict between Ralph and Jack.

Chapter 4 – Painted Faces and Long Hair

1. What does *‘taboo of the old life’* mean?
2. Draw Jack’s face as Golding describes it.
3. What is Jack’s mask a metaphor for? What message is Golding trying to convey?
4. Do the boys really need Jack to get meat? Why or Why not?
5. Why don’t the boys realize the importance of the fire?
6. What is happening to the boys?
7. What do you think really separates Piggy from the rest of the boys?

Chapter 5 – Beast from Water

1. What were the reminders and ground rules laid down by Ralph?
2. If you were Chief – what would you have set up in the beginning?
3. Why are things – the system – breaking down? Why do you think the government broke down?
4. What have Ralph, Piggy and Simon grown to understand about adult authority?
5. Describe the conch shell now. How and why has its appearance changed? Propose an explanation about what you think these changes are meant to symbolize.

Chapter 6 – Beast from Air

1. What is the Beast from the Air? What is the significance of this adult sign?
2. Why do only a few boys concern themselves with the fire? Why don’t the others care?
3. How does Ralph feel about the responsibility of being the leader now? Why does he feel this way?
4. What is Jack’s reaction when he first reaches the top of the cliff?
5. What can you conclude about Jack based upon this reaction?

Chapter 7 – Shadows and Tall Trees

1. What do you think the *‘olive grey, jelly like fruit’* is?
2. Why does Jack hate Ralph?
3. Who volunteers to take “the message” to Piggy about the boys staying out after dark and what does this show us about his character?
4. How does this chapter end?

Chapter 8 – Gift for the Darkness

1. Why don’t the boys want Jack as chief? Why do they still want Ralph?
2. Golding doesn’t describe in detail what has happened to Jack and his choir – making reference only to them being savages. Describe what has happened to them.
3. Ralph has become openly frightened – about what?
4. Who or what is the *‘Lord of the Flies’*? Two meanings were given for the name – what are they and why are they significant?
5. What is the relationship between Simon and the Lord?
6. Why is this chapter the central chapter of the novel?
7. Metaphorically, are the beast and Jack one in the same? Explain.
8. What has happened and changed about the government?
9. What happens between Piggy and Ralph that strengthens their relationship?

Chapter 9 – A view to a Death

1. Simon is tragically and accidentally killed. Why was he mistaken for the beast?
2. What is the parachuter on the mountain a symbol or metaphor for?
3. We see Simon now as the truly great and intelligent boy – why?
4. Why do Ralph and Piggy seek solace in this new society Jack has created? How and why is it governable?

Chapter 10 – The Shell and the Glasses

1. Why do none of the children fully recognize what has happened, what they’ve done, and its significance?
2. *‘*[Roger] *sat still, assimilating the possibilities of irresponsible authority.’* What is Golding helping us to realize about Roger here?
3. Ralph was supposed to be one of the good ones. Why do you think Golding has Ralph involved with Simon’s death, too?
4. Of whom is Ralph really frightened? (Look for the quote!)
5. What is Jack planning for that evening?

Chapter 11 – Castle Rock

1. What is the significance of the face paint? What does it allow the boys to do? Could they be savages without it? Why or Why not?
2. What are the THREE questions Piggy and Ralph ask just before Piggy’s death? What is Jack’s answer?
3. How exactly does Piggy die?
4. What else “dies” with him?
5. Piggy’s death is the third death. Does the author want us to believe that is was like the others? Explain.

Chapter 12 – Cry of the Hunters

1. What do the boys realize when they see the naval officer?
2. What finally caused them to be rescued? What is the irony of this?
3. *‘Fun and games, having a war,’* what is the irony behind the comments of the officer?
4. Why does Ralph say that only two were killed? Who do you think he was referring to?
5. Do you think the boys will reveal what has happened? Why or Why not?
6. Why do the boys break down into uncontrollable sobs causing the officer to look away in embarrassment?
7. Why does Golding have Ralph find the pig’s head?
8. What does Jack plan to do to Ralph? (be specific)
9. Why does Ralph cry at the end of the story and for what is he crying?