***Lord of the Flies***

***Chapter 1***

* Piggy and Ralph introduced. Piggy is physically awkward (overweight, asthmatic, wears glasses). *The glasses are an important symbol. They help one see clearly. They reinforce his role on the island, as one who is rational, logical and mature in his thinking, attempting to help the others look at things sensibly.*
* (7-8) Ralph plunges into the pool. Piggy is more cautious; *a reinforcement of his character.*
* (8-9) Piggy displays rational thinking while discussing possibilities of rescue with Ralph.
* (9) Ralph puts his grey shirt back on; it is said to be “pleasing.” *This shirt symbolizes the familiarity and comfort of civilization.*
* (15-16) Jack and company appear. Jack looks angry, and commands respect from the choir. He thinks using first names is *childish*, and is called “Merridew” (his last name) when we first meet him. *Using first names is more intimate, and acknowledges individuality. Using only last names allows for a sense of detachment.*
* (18-19) Ralph elected leader, even though Jack wants it. Ralph is seen as confident, strong. Plus he has the Conch, which is a source of wonder early on. *The boys are familiar with the concept of democracy, and the vote reflects this.*
* (19) Ralph says that Jack should remain in charge of the choir. Jack immediately claims that they (his choir) will be the “army”. Eventually he settles for “hunters”. *Jack seems fascinated with the idea of violence, and is quite intimidating. This foreshadows what is to come from his character later.*
* (21) Piggy tries to affirm a position of importance.
* (23) The boys notice an animal trail. *This foreshadows the presence of the pigs, which will be the focus of so much attention.*

*(25)* The tipping of the big rock. *Foreshadowing: Note its destructive force.*

* (28) Jack hesitates in killing the trapped pig, and it gets away. *The idea of actually killing a living thing is intimidating for Jack. It is not something with which he is familiar. His anger at the pig’s escape, and his vow of no mercy in the future* foreshadows *his obsession with killing*

***Lord of the Flies – Chapter 2***

* (30-31) Second meeting. Some rules outlined by Ralph, such as “...Hands up, like at school”. The idea of holding the conch while talking introduced. *They are trying* *to maintain elements of their society that emphasize order and structure, as well as fairness. The conch will allow everyone a time to be heard.*

*Pay attention to Jack’s words in this section. Everything he has to say revolves around some sort of violence: the need to kill, how rule-breakers will be punished, his verbal attacks on Piggy, and so on. These words serve to develop character, as well as foreshadow.*

* (32) Piggy speaks (holding the conch, minding the rules) and adds his rational insight, saying that no one knows where they are.
* (34) First mention of a “beast” of some sort. There is some nervous laughter at this. *Note how respectful Piggy is of the Conch. It is he who demands that the “littlun” be heard. Also, note Jack’s violent response to the idea of a beast: “If there was...we’d kill it!”* Ralph stands firm in his belief that there is no beast.
* (37) Ralph is certain that it is only a matter of time before rescue. When he begins to suggest a fire on the mountain, Jack leads the others in a frenzied, careless rush to do so. Piggy declares they are all acting “like kids.”
* (40) Piggy’s glasses are taken to light the fire. *Note how helpless he is without his glasses.*
* (41-42) Jack does not want to listen to Piggy’s opinion, bullies him and tries to ignore the fact that Piggy has the conch. *Jack - who is impulsive, emotional, cruel and strong - rejects Piggy - cautious, intellectual, eager and weak.*
* *(42) Irony* in Jack’s agreeing with Ralph that rules are necessary.
* (43-47) Piggy is angry here. He feels Ralph and the others are ignoring him, and acting foolishly. The fire, he claims, was inadequate for their purpose. They needed to create smoke, not a big flame. He points out that they have wasted a lot of the fire wood. He feels shelter and creating a list of all those present on the island were priorities. He shows concern for the “littluns.” When the others ignore or bully him during all of this, he refers to the conch, saying that it gives him the right to speak. *Piggy displays common sense and rational thought. He shows a concern for others, believing that it is the responsibility of the older boys to look after the younger ones, as well as a respect for democracy, shown by his reverence of the conch and what it represents.*
* ***Chapter 3***
* (48-49) Jack on the hunt; acting very wild, almost bestial (running on all fours, eyes darting, nose to the ground, and so on).
* (51) Ralph is upset; only a few boys are helping with the shelters. The meetings, he thinks are a waste of time. Jack, we see, is obsessed with the notion of killing a pig. *This is not just hunger, but something deeper, more sinister. He has a “compulsion to track down and kill”. A very telling characteristic.*
* (52) Jack angry that Ralph doesn’t agree with him regarding the hunting. Ralph says a home of some sort is more important, especially since so many are scared of the unknown “beastie”.
* (53) Jack admits that he too feels a presence of some sort, that he gets the feeling of being hunted while out in the forest. He has trouble putting it into words, but others feel it too. *Even though there is a sense of adventure and excitement, there is also a sense of fear.*
* (55-56) The priorities of Ralph and Jack contrast with each other. One wants to hunt, the other wants shelter and hopes to be rescued. They are metaphorically described as”...two continents of experience and feeling, unable to communicate”.
* (56-59) Simon, who the boys acknowledge as being a little weird, goes off by himself and finds a quiet spot. Lots of description used here on these pages

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