***Lord of the Flies***

***Chapter 7***

(119-120)Ralph feels depressed, not so much because they are all dirty, but how their appearances had become acceptable.

* (121) Simon says to Ralph, “You’ll get back to where you came from.” He can’t really explain how or why, but he nonetheless has faith and belief. *This reinforces his characterization as the spiritual figure.*
* (124) Ralph takes pride in hunting and the respect he gets from others.
* (125) The pig game turns serious, as “Robert squealed in mock terror, then real pain.” *The boys, including Ralph, are giving way to violence.*
* (126) Discussion on playing the “Kill The Pig Game.” Robert claims a real pig is needed, because something must be killed. Jack’s joke “use a littlun” says a lot about the deterioration of the boys.
* (129) “Why do you hate me?” Ralph asks Jack. *Both are clashing verbally in this chapter.*
* (132) Ralph sees the futility in three boys with sticks climbing a mountain in the dark to confront a “beast.” The fact that Jack goes on alone further divides he and Ralph. *Jack’s bravado is designed to antagonize Ralph.*
* (133-135)All three see the beast, and run away. It is, of course, the dead parachuter wedged between two rocks. When the wind pulls the parachute, the body moves.

***Chapter 8***

* (137)The beast is crouched next to where the signal fire should be. “We can’t have a signal fire... we’re beaten, “ says Ralph. *This is very symbolic. The beast represents fear; the fire-hope. Fear is stronger here.*
* (137-138) Jack calls an assembly. He challenges Ralph’s leadership by pointing out that Ralph is more like Piggy than the hunters (ie: more adult-like, less childish and violent). *Piggy is an object of scorn among the boys for both his weaknesses and adult-like qualities. In comparing Ralph to Piggy, Jack hopes to dislodge him as leader.* Jack loses a vote and runs off.
* (140-141) Piggy claims Jack isn’t needed, and was only a distraction to serious business. Simon suggests, with difficulty, climbing back up to face the fear. *Note how Simon has difficulty expressing what he feels.*
* (142) Piggy feels “liberated” by Jack’s departure. *Intellect no longer need fear violence.*
* (144) Ralph and Piggy notice that most of the “biguns” have left.
* (146-147) Jack is now chief of his own tribe. He suggests that when they kill a pig, they leave a little for the beast, reasoning it won’t bother them if they do this. *This sacrifice is an embrace of superstition, an appeasement of fear and violence.*
* (147-150)Jack’s group hunts. *The violent and bloody imagery reinforces an atmosphere of savagery and depravity. That they take such joy in it is a reflection of how far they have fallen. It is also symbolic that they kill a mother pig. Motherly love/family ties are an important part of a civilized society.*
* (153) Ralph cannot understand why the others don’t recognize the fire’s importance.
* (154) Piggy blames Jack for the boys deterioration, and he is right. Piggy and Ralph value order; Jack constantly challenges it. *He represents the violent, ugly backwards side of mankind that is in and around all of us, and threatens civilization.*
* (156) After Jack and his company raid their camp, Ralph discusses the importance of fire, and what it symbolizes. *Fire = Rescue. Rescue = Escape from the savagery of the island. Fire also symbolizes a distinction between people and animals. If they can keep the fire going, the descent into total savagery can be avoided*.
* (157) Many boys consider Jack’s invitation to the feast.
* (157-159) The “Lord of the Flies” - and the true nature of evil- is revealed. *As we have seen, Simon is the one character thus far who is close to understanding the fear and evil surrounding them. He knows that people must play a role in the creation of evil. Upon seeing the flies swarm around the pig’s head-representative of the savage hunt, which represents evil- he understands. The boys have become “flies”: one swarming, mindless pack, flocking towards gore and death. Their “Lord” is evil. They treat evil like a god, at the expense of peace, order and civility. But this “evil” cannot be hunted or killed, because it exists in every human being, and under the right conditions, it will come out. This is a major theme of this novel.*

***Chapter 9***

* (160-161) Simon awakes and finds the dead parachuter.
* (163) Piggy thinks he and Ralph ought to go to Jack’s feast, “...to make sure nothing happens.” Both are curious and fearful, but also hungry.
* (164-165) Jack is treated like an “idol.” Others serve him.
* (166-167) Power struggle between Ralph and Jack. Ralph is losing his hold on power. He and Piggy feel isolated*.* Note how they were “...eager to take a place in this demented but partly secure society.” Jack orders his tribe to “dance”; Roger plays the pig while the others act out a hunt. *Note the chant of “kill the beast.”*
* (168-169) Simon stumbles into the scene, and is mistaken for the beast as he tries to explain what he saw on the mountain. He is killed by the dancing boys. At the moment of his death, the parachutist is blown out to sea. *This signifies* *that the parachutist, this ‘beast’ from somewhere else, is no longer representative of the fear all the boys feel. The evil (the beast) is now clearly within the group. The fact that Ralph and Piggy are with them when Simon is killed shows that the potential for evil exists within everyone. Simon represents the truth, as well as spiritual enlightenment. That he is ignored and ultimately destroyed is significant: His knowledge threatens the power of evil, so evil destroys him. Many of the boys think he is odd, and a little “batty”. Intellect and spirituality represent a hope for mankind to overcome evil by understanding it, but, like the boy who represents it, it is too often overcome by evil.*