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Lord of the Flies, Lord of the Flies, Educational Edition (Paperback), has 304 pages. "The fire's the most important thing on the island." - Ralph, Chapter 2 "The thing is - fear can't hurt you any more than a dream." - Ralph, Chapter 5 "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?" - Piggy, Chapter 11 "We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages." - Jack, Chapter 2 "There isn't anyone to help you. Only me. And I'm the Beast." - The Lord of the Flies, Chapter 8 The tension between savagery and civilization is a central theme in Lord of the Flies, represented by quotes that highlight the gradual erosion of order as the boys descend into primal behavior. The chant "Kill the pig! Cut her throat! Spill her blood!" captures the violent triumph of savagery over their initial attempts at maintaining societal structure. "We'll have rules! Lots of rules! Then when anyone breaks 'em..." - Jack, Chapter 2 "Bollocks to the rules!" - Jack, Chapter 5 "The rules! You're breaking the rules!" - Ralph, Chapter 5 "What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?" - Piggy, Chapter 5 "The world, that understandable and lawful world, was slipping away." - Narrator, Chapter 5 "Kill the pig! Cut her throat! Spill her blood!" - The hunters (during Simon's death), Chapter 9 "We won't be painted because we aren't savages." - Ralph, Chapter 11 Fire symbolizes both hope for rescue and destruction in Lord of the Flies. Ralph's assertion, "The fire is the most important thing on the island", reflects the boys' initial unity and shared goal of being rescued. However, their neglect of the fire, as seen in Ralph's frustration, symbolizes their loss of focus and descent into chaos. Ironically, the fire intended for destruction ultimately leads to their rescue in the end. "We've got to make smoke up there - or die." - Ralph, Chapter 2 "We've got to keep the fire going!" - Ralph, Chapter 2 "You let the fire go out." - Ralph, Chapter 4 "Don't you want to be rescued? All you can talk about is pig, pig, pig!" - Ralph, Chapter 4 "I was talking about smoke! Don't you want to be rescued?" - Ralph, Chapter 5 "The fire is the most important thing. Without the fire, we can't be rescued." - Ralph, Chapter 6 Ralph, the embodiment of order and leadership, frequently speaks about the need for structure and cooperation. Ralph's despair at the boys' transformation is summed up in "I'm frightened. Of us", showcasing his recognition of humanity's inherent flaws. "This is our island. It's a good island. Until the grownups come to fetch us we'll have fun." - Ralph, Chapter 2 "If only they could send us something grown-up, a sign or something." - Ralph, Chapter 5 "What makes things break up like they do?" - Ralph, Chapter 5 "I'm calling an assembly." - Ralph, Chapter 5 "I'm chief. I'll go. Don't argue." - Ralph, Chapter 6 "He hates me. I dunno why. If he could do what he wanted..." - Ralph, Chapter 7 "There's no food here, and no shelter. Not much fresh water." - Ralph, Chapter 9 "This is a rotten place." - Ralph, Chapter 9 "That was murder." - Ralph, Chapter 10 "I'm frightened. Of us." - Ralph, Chapter 10 "You're a beast and a swine and a bloody, bloody thief!" - Ralph, Chapter 11 Piggy represents intellect and rationality, offering insights that often go unheeded. His dedication to reason is evident in "Life is scientific, that's what it is" and "What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?". Piggy's poignant plea, "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?", underscores the tragedy of his death and the complete breakdown of civilized values on the island. "We can use this to call the others. Have a meeting. They'll come when they hear us." - Piggy, Chapter 1 "You didn't ought to have let that fire out. You said you'd keep the smoke going..." - Piggy, Chapter 4 "That was a dirty trick." - Piggy, Chapter 4 "Life is scientific, that's what it is." - Piggy, Chapter 5 "It's them that haven't no common sense that make trouble on the island." - Piggy, Chapter 5 "You don't really mean that we got to be frightened all the time, on account of nothing?" - Piggy, Chapter 5 "We did everything adults would do. What went wrong?" - Piggy, Chapter 8 Jack embodies the descent into savagery, with his quotes showcasing his growing hunger for power and violence. Early on, he declares, "We'll have rules! Lots of rules! Then when anyone breaks 'em", revealing his authoritarian tendencies. As the story progresses, his statements, like "Bollocks to the rules!" and "I'm not going to play any longer. Not with you", demonstrate his rejection of order and embrace of primal instincts. "I'm chief then." - Jack, Chapter 1 "We're strong - we hunt!" - Jack, Chapter 2 "I thought I might kill." - Jack, Chapter 3 "We want meat!" - Jack, Chapter 4 "I painted my face like a beast and stole up. Now you eat - all of you." - Jack, Chapter 4 "I'm not going to play any longer. Not with you." - Jack, Chapter 8 "He's not fatty. His real name's Piggy!" - Ralph, Chapter 1 "Jack planned his new face." - Narrator, Chapter 4 "We mustn't let anything happen to Piggy, must we?" - Jack, Chapter 4 "He was the only boy on the island whose hair never seemed to grow." - Narrator (about Piggy), Chapter 4 "The mask was a thing on its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness." - Narrator, Chapter 4 "Authority sat on his shoulder and chattered in his ear like an ape." - Narrator (about Ralph), Chapter 5 "Ralph, if you're frightened of course..." - Jack, Chapter 7 "The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering." - Narrator (about Ralph), Chapter 7 "The beast was harmless and horrible; and the news must reach the others as soon as possible." - Narrator (describing Simon), Chapter 9 "Simon's dead body moved out towards the open sea." - Narrator, Chapter 9 "The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee." - Narrator, Chapter 11 "He's a proper chief, isn't he?" - Roger (about Jack), Chapter 11 "They hate you, Ralph. They're going to do you." - Samneric, Chapter 12 "The tears began to flow and sobs shook him." - Narrator (about Ralph), Chapter 12 "What was the sensible thing to do? There was no Piggy to talk sense." - Narrator, Chapter 12 "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." - Narrator, Chapter 12 The Beast symbolizes the boys' fear and the darkness within human nature. Simon's insight, "Maybe there is a beast... maybe it's only us", captures the novel's central message about inner evil. Jack manipulates fear to gain power, claiming, "If there's a beast, we'll hunt it down!". The boys' terror culminates in the tragic frenzy of "Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!", leading to Simon's death. "What if we are the beasts?" - Simon, Chapter 5 "I don't believe in the beast." - Piggy, Chapter 5 "I tell you there isn't a beast!" - Ralph, Chapter 5 "Maybe the beast is a ghost." - Littlun (Percival), Chapter 5 "Maybe there is a beast... maybe it's only us." - Simon, Chapter 5 "We've got to talk about this fear and decide there's nothing in it." - Ralph, Chapter 5 "He says the beast come out of t'l's head." - Narrator (describing the Littluns' fear), Chapter 5 "If there's a beast, we'll hunt it down!" - Jack, Chapter 6 "There were eyes - beneath the claws." - Samneric, Chapter 6 "We've seen the beast with our own eyes. No - we weren't asleep." - Samneric, Chapter 6 "Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill! You knew, didn't you? 'I'm part of you' - Simon, Chapter 8 The conch shell represents order and authority, with its power seen in statements like "I got the conch!" and "We'll have to have 'hands up' like at school!". However, its influence wanes as savagery takes hold, reflected in Jack's dismissal, "The conch doesn't count at this end of the island." Its shattering in Chapter 11 symbolizes the complete collapse of civilization on the island. "I got the conch!" - Piggy, Chapter 2 "We don't need the conch anymore." - Jack, Chapter 6 "The conch doesn't count at this end of the island." - Jack, Chapter 6 "The conch is gone..." - Piggy, Chapter 11 "The conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist." - Narrator, Chapter 11 "The storm broke." - Narrator, Chapter 9 "The mask compelled them." - Narrator, Chapter 4 "The greatest ideas are the simplest." - Narrator, Chapter 2 "You'll get back to where you came from." - Simon, Chapter 7 "You don't know Roger. He's a terror." - Samneric, Chapter 11 "They're going to hunt you tomorrow." - Samneric, Chapter 12 Lord of the Flies by William Golding is a harrowing tale that examines the inherent conflict between civilization and savagery. Set during an unspecified wartime, the novel follows a group of British schoolboys stranded on a deserted tropical island after their plane crashes. Initially, they attempt to establish order through democratic processes, electing Ralph as their leader and devising plans for rescue. However, as time passes and their isolation deepens, the boys' fragile societal structure begins to crumble. The novel explores the boys' descent into chaos, driven by fear, power struggles, and the primal instincts that emerge when societal norms vanish. The symbol of the conch shell represents order and authority, while the titular "Lord of the Flies" - a pig's head mounted on a stick - becomes a chilling emblem of the darkness within human psyche. Key characters such as Ralph, Piggy, Jack, and Roger embody different aspects of human nature and morality, leading to devastating consequences. Golding illustrates how quickly the veneer of civilization can dissolve, leaving the boys to descend into savagery. The novel's profound and unsettling exploration of human nature, raising timeless questions about power, morality, and the thin line between order and chaos, has made it a classic. Lord of the Flies Quotes Chapters 10-12Directions:1. Locate the quotes in the book and highlight or underline them in the book.2. Write down the page number on this sheet.3. Be prepared to discuss why these quotes are important to the plot, foreshadowing, symbolism, or character development.Chapter 10 ____ Page "Nowadays he sometimes found that he saw more clearly if he removed his glasses and shifted one lens to the other eye; but even through the good eye, after what had happened, Ralph remained unmistakably Ralph." Page " 'Simon'. Piggy said nothing but nodded, solemnly. They continued to sit, gazing with impaired sight at the chief's seat. . . . " ____ Page "That was Simon' . . . That was murder 'Stop it!' said Piggy, shrilly. 'What good're you doing talking like that'. . . 'It was dark. There was that-the bloody dance. There was lightning and thunder and rain. We was scared!' I wasn't scared," said Ralph "I was-I don't know what I was" ____ Page " 'Don't you understand, Piggy? The things we did-' . . . 'You were outside. Outside the circle. You never really came in. Didn't you see what we-what they did?' . . . 'It was an accident,' said Piggy suddenly, 'that's what it was. An accident.' His voice shrilled again. 'Coming in the dark-he had no business crawling like that out of the dark. He was batty. He asked for it'" ____ Page " 'But we were! All of us! Piggy shook his head. 'Not us till last. They never noticed in the dark. Anyway you said I was only on the outside'" ____ Page " 'We left early,' said Piggy quickly, 'because we were tired. 'So did we' . . . Sam touched a scratch on his forehead and then hurriedly took his hand away. Eric fingered his split lip. . . . The air was heavy with unspoken knowledge. . . . Memory of the dance that none of them had attended shook all four boys convulsively" ____ Page " 'He's going to beat Wilfred. 'What for?' Robert shook his head doubtfully. 'I don't know. He did angry and made us tie Wilfred up. He's been'-he giggled excitedly-'he's been tired for hours, waiting' 'But didn't the chief say why?' ____ Page " 'He ceased to work at his tooth and sat still, assimilating the possibilities of irresponsible authority'" ____ Page " 'What'll we use for lighting the fire?' The chief's blush was hidden by the white and red clay." ____ Page " 'We don't want another night without fire'" ____ Page " 'What's the conch!' three boys standing by. This was the first time he had admitted the double function of the fire. Certainly one was to send up a beckoning column of smoke. But the other was to be a hearth now and a comfort until they slept" ____ Page " 'He said something about a dead man.' He flushed painfully at this admission that he had been present at the dance" ____ Page "Ralph tried indignantly to remember. There was something good about a fire. Something overwhelmingly good. 'Ralph's told you often enough,' said Piggy moodily. 'How else are we going to be rescued?'" ____ Page " 'I don't know where she is now. And I haven't got an envelope and a stamp. An' there isn't a mailbox. Or a postman.' The success of his tiny joke overcame Ralph. His sniggers became uncontrollable, his body jumped and twitched" ____ Page " 'There's something moving outside' . . . Quite clearly and emphatically, and also a yard or so away from the back of the shelter, a stick cracked. . . . A voice whispered horribly outside. 'Piggy-Piggy'" ____ Page "He began to pound the mouth below him, using his clenched fist as a hammer; he hit with more and more passionate hysteria as the face became slippery. A knee jerked up between his legs and he fell sideways, busying himself with his pain. . . ." ____ Page " 'When I woke up one was kicking me in the face. I got an awful bloody face, I think Ralph. But I did him I the end' . . . 'I got my knee up,' said Eric with simple pride, 'and I hit him in the pills'" ____ Page " 'I thought they wanted the conch' . . . 'They didn't take the conch' I know. They didn't come for the conch. They came for something else'" ____ Page "From his left hand dangled Piggy's broken glasses" Chapter 11 ____ Page " 'Blow the conch,' said Piggy. 'Blow as loud as you can'. . . Both ways the beach was deserted. Some littluns came from the shelters" ____ Page "We'd have given them fire if they'd asked. But they stole it and the signal's out and we can't ever be rescued. Don't you see what I mean? We'd have given them fire for themselves only they stole it.'" ____ Page " 'What's the grownups goin' to think? You know Simon was murdered. And there was that other kid what had a mark on his face'" ____ Page " 'You let me carry the conch, Ralph. I'll show him the one thing he hasn't got'" ____ Page " 'But I don't ask for my glasses back, not as a favor. I don't ask you to be a sport, I'll say, not because you're strong, but because what's right's right. Give me my glasses, I'm going to say'" ____ Page "The others nodded. They understood only too well the liberation into savagery that the concealing paint brought." ____ Page "They passed the place where the tribe had danced. The charred sticks still lay on the rocks where the rain had quenched them but the sand by the water was smooth again. They passed this in silence" ____ Page "Piggy peered anxiously into the luminous veil that hung between him and the world" ____ Page " 'Is it safe? Ain't there a cliff? I can hear the sea'" ____ Page " 'Am I safe?' quavered Piggy. 'I feel awful'" ____ Page " 'Freely by the paint, they had tied their hair back and were more comfortable than he was. Ralph made a resolution to tie his own back afterwards" ____ Page "Roger took up a small stone and flung it between the twins, aiming to miss. . . . Some source of power began to pulse in Roger's body" ____ Page " 'I've come to see about the fire,' said Ralph, 'and about Piggy's specs'" ____ Page " 'Behind them on the grass the headless and paunched body of a sow lay where they had dropped it'" ____ Page " 'You could have had fire whenever you wanted. But you didn't. You came sneaking up like a thief and stole Piggy's glasses'" ____ Page " 'Jack mad a rush and stabbed at Ralph's chest with its spear. . . . Then he brought the end round and caught Jack a stinger across the ear. . . . By common consent they were using the spears as sabers now, no longer during the lethal points" ____ Page "He pushed his hair up and gazed at the green and black mask before him, trying to remember what Jack looked like" ____ Page " 'Call that a signal fire? That's a cooking fire. Now you'll eat and there'll be no smoke. Don't you understand? There may be ships out there'" ____ Page "Ralph glanced back at Ralph and then at the twins. 'Grab them up!' . . . 'The them up!'. . . Jack was inspired. He knew Ralph would attempt a rescue. 'See? The do what I say'. . . 'You're a beast and him a swine and a bloody, bloody thief!'" ____ Page " 'I tell you. I got the conch!' Surprisingly, there was silence now; the tribe were curious to hear what amusing thing he might have to say" ____ Page "Someone was throwing stones. Roger was dropping them, his one hand still on the lever. Below him, Ralph was a shock of hair and Piggy a bag of fat" ____ Page " 'Which is better, law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up'" ____ Page " 'By him stood Piggy still holding out the talisman, the fragile, shining beauty of the shell. The storm of sound beat at them, an incantation of hatred. High overhead, Roger, with a sense of delicious abandonment, leaned all his weight on the lever. . . . The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist" ____ Page "Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea. His head opened and stuff came out and turned red. Piggy's arms and legs twitched a bit, like a pig's after it has been killed. . . . the water boiled white and pink over the rock; and when it went sucking back again, the body of Piggy was gone" ____ Page " 'See? See? That's what you'll get! I mean! that! There isn't a tribe for you anymore! The conch is gone. . . . I'm chief'" ____ Page "The twins lay hidden behind the tribe and the anonymous devils' faces swarmed across the neck. . . . he saw the headless body of the sow and jumped in time" ____ Page " 'You got to join the tribe!' . . . The chief snatched one of the few spears that were left and poked Sam in the ribs. 'What d'you mean by it, eh?' said the chief fiercely. 'What d'you mean by coming with spears? What d'you mean by not joining my tribe?'" ____ Page "Roger edged past the chief, only just avoiding pushing him with his shoulder. The yelling ceased, and Samneric lay looking up in quiet terror. Roger advanced upon them as one wielding a nameless authority" Chapter 12 ____ Page "But really, thought Ralph, this was not Bill This was a savage whose image refused to blend with that ancient picture of the boy in shorts and shirt" ____ Page "The tribe must be sitting round the gutted pig, watching the fat ooze and burn among the ashes. They would be intent. . . . Ralph saw that for the time being he was safe" ____ Page " 'He argued unconvincingly that they would let him alone, perhaps even make an outlaw of him. But then the fatal unreasoning knowledge came to him again. The breaking of the conch and the deaths of Piggy and Simon lay over the island like a vapor. These painted savages would go further and further'" ____ Page "The best thing to do was to ignore this leaden feeling about the heart and rely on their common sense, their daylight sanity. Now that the tribe had eaten, the thing to do was to try again" ____ Page "At length he came to a clearing in the forest where rock prevented vegetation from growing" ____ Page " . . . he saw that the white face was bone and that the pig's skull grinned at him from the top of a stick. . . . the skull gleamed as white as ever the conch had done and seemed to jeer at him cynically. . . . the thing was lifeless" ____ Page "They were savages it was true, but they were human, and the ambushing fears of the deep night were coming on" ____ Page " 'Pretend they were still boys, schoolboys who had said, 'Sir,yes, sir' and worn caps? Daylight might have answered yes; but darkness and the horrors of death said no" ____ Page "Samneric were savages like the rest; Piggy was dead, and the conch smashed to powder" ____ Page " 'You two aren't painted. How can you? If it were light? If it were light shame would burn them at admitting these things. But the night was dark" ____ Page "They made us. They hurt us" ____ Page " 'They're going to hunt you tomorrow'" ____ Page " 'When they find me, what are they going to do? The twins were silent. Beneath him, the death rock flowered again" ____ Page " 'You don't know Roger. He's a terror' 'And the chief-they're both 'Terrors'" ____ Page " 'I'll lie up close; in that thicket down there', he whispered, 'so keep them away from it. They'll never think to look so close'" ____ Page " 'Here!' said Sam suddenly. 'Take this' Ralph felt a chunk of meat pushed against him and grabbed it" ____ Page " 'Roger sharpened a stick at both ends.' Roger sharpened a stick at both ends. Ralph tried to attach a meaning to this but could not" ____ Page "While he was eating, he heard fresh noises-cries of pain from Samneric, cries of pain, anger like his" ____ Page "Within seconds he was worming his way into the thicket; but not before he had glimpsed the legs of a savage coming toward him" ____ Page "One of the twins was there, outside the thicket, with Jack and Roger. 'You're sure he meant in there?' The twin moaned faintly and then squealed again. 'He meant he'd hide in there?' 'Yes-yes-oh! Silver laughter scattered among the trees. So they knew" ____ Page "There was only one other rock up there that they might conceivably move; but that was half as big as a cottage, big as a car, a tank. He visualized its probable progress with agonizing clearness-that one would start slowly, drop from ledge to ledge, trundle across the neck like an outside steamroller" ____ Page " 'See? I told you- he's dangerous! The wounded savage moaned again" ____ Page "A stick snapped and he stifled a cough. Smoke was seeping through the branches in white and yellow wisps, the patch of blue sky overhead turned to the color of a storm cloud, and then the smoke billowed round him" ____ Page "He came to a pig-run, followed it for perhaps a hundred yards, and then swerved off" ____ Page "Ralph thought of the boar that had broken through them with such ease. If necessary, when the chase came too close, he could charge the cordon while it was still thin, burst through, and run back" ____ Page "Samneric were somewhere in that line, and hating it. Or were they? And supposing, instead of them, he met the chief, or Roger who carried death in his hands?" ____ Page "There was no Piggy to talk sense. There was no solemn assembly for debate nor dignity of the conch" ____ Page "Most, he was beginning to dread the curtain that might waver in his brain, blacking out the sense of danger, making a simplosion of him" ____ Page "Hide was better than a tree because you had a chance of breaking the line if you were discovered. . . . He wondered if a pig would agree, and grimaced at nothing" ____ Page "Here, bushes and a wild tangle of creepers made a mat that kept out all the light of the sun. Beneath it was a space, perhaps a foot high, though it was pierced everywhere by parallel and rising stems" ____ Page "If anyone peered under the bushes and chanced to glimpse human flesh it might be Samneric who would pretend not to see and say nothing" ____ Page "The savage peered into the obscurity beneath the thicket. You could tell that he saw light on this side and on that, but not in the middle-there. In the middle was the blob of dark and the savage wrinkled up his face, trying to decipher the darkness. . . . Now he's seen you. He's making sure. A stick sharpened. Ralph screamed, a scream of fright and anger and desperation" ____ Page "A naval officer stood on the sand, looking down at Ralph in wary astonishment" ____ Page " 'Are there any adults-any grown ups with you?'" ____ Page "A sad circle of little boys, their bodies streaked with colored clay, sharp sticks in their hands, were standing on the beach making no noise at all. Fun and games, said the officer. ____ Page " 'We saw your smoke. What have you been doing? Having a war or something' Ralph nodded. ____ Page " 'Nobody killed, I hope? Any dead bodies?' 'Only two. And they've gone'. The officer leaned down and looked closely at Ralph. 'Two? Killed?' ____ Page " 'I'm, I'm-' But there was no more to come. Percival Wemys Madison sought in his head for an incantation that had faded clean away" ____ Page " 'I should have thought that a pack of British boys-you're all British aren't you?' - would have been able to put up a better show than that-I mean-" 'It was like that at first', said Ralph, 'before things-' ____ Page "But the island was scorched black like dead wood-Simon was dead-and Jack had-. . . the tears began to flow and sobs shook him. . . . infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too." ____ Page "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" ____ Page "He turned away to give them time to pull themselves together; and waited, allowing his eyes to rest on the trim cruiser in the distance" Lord of the Flies is a book by the English author William Golding, published in 1954. Below you can find some of the best quotes from Lord of the Flies, organised by chapter, along with analyses of selected quotations, jump to quotes from: Quote: "The creature was a party of boys, marching approximately in step in two parallel lines and dressed in strangely eccentric clothing." Analysis: The group of boys, who were marching in an orderly way, looked like a creature when viewed from a distance. Quote: "Sucks to you ass-nart". Ralph Quote: "We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages. We're English, and the English are best at everything. So we've got to do the right things." - Jack Analysis: Early on in Lord of the Flies, Jack still felt conditioned by his previous English society to want morals, law and order, and to reject savagery. Quote: "They looked at each other, baffled, in love and hate." Quote: "Roger gathered a handful of stones and began to throw them. Yet there was a space round Henry, perhaps six yards in diameter, into which he dare not throw. Here, invisible yet strong, was the taboo-circle of the old life. Round the squatting child was the protection of parents and school and policemen and the law. Roger's arm was conditioned by a civilization that knew nothing of him and was in ruins." Analysis: Even though he was now beyond the control of his old society, Roger was still used to the old rules he had been brought up with of not hurting others or else there would be consequences. This would change as Roger realized there was no real authority and no punishments on the island and thus became more and more emboldened. Quote: "The thing is - fear can't hurt you any more than a dream." - Jack Analysis: Fear is only an emotion and so can't do anything on its own. However it's the things that fear can cause a person to do that makes it dangerous. Quote: "If faces were different when lit from above or below - what was a face? What was anything?" Quote: "The world, that understandable and lawful world, was slipping away" Analysis: The boys were beginning to forget the ways of their old society and were becoming undisciplined and self-indulgent. Quote: "What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?" - Piggy Quote: "He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one's waking life was spent watching one's feet." Quote: "Even the sounds of nightmare from the other shelters no longer reached him, for he was back to where he came from, feeding the ponies with sugar over the garden wall." Quote: "Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!" - The boys Quote: "The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering." Quote: "The greatest ideas are the simplest" Quote: "Now there was something to be done they worked with passion." Analysis: Having a purpose is a great motivator for people. Quote: "Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!" "You knew, didn't you? 'I'm part of you?' Why things are what they are?" - The Lord of the Flies Analysis: Evil (the Beast) is not something physical or external that can be destroyed. Evil existed within the boys and was the reason why they were slowly descending into savagery. Quote: "Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!" - The boys Quote: "I'm frightened. Of us." - Ralph Analysis: Ralph was beginning to see the evil that came from within themselves and was frightened of it and what it could lead to. Quote: "Roger advanced upon them as one wielding a nameless authority" Analysis: Roger's feeling of authority came from the fact that his barbaric group of hunters were now the dominant group on the island, and so he had sanction to do whatever he wanted without fear of punishment. Quote: "The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist." Analysis: Roger pushed a rock onto Piggy which ended up killing him and destroying the conch (both symbols of order and lawfulness), signifying the descent of the boys from civilized to savage. Quote: "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?" - Piggy Analysis: Piggy made an argument for the rule of law and democracy, but in the end the boys' society rejected this, instead choosing bloodlust and savagery. Quote: "I should have thought that a pack of British boys - you're all British, aren't you? - would have been able to put up a better show than that" - The officer Analysis: The officer, being patriotic, believed that boys from a society as civilized as Britain should have been able to recreate a civilized community on the island. Quote: "Jolly good show. Like the Coral Island." - The officer Analysis: Here the officer is sarcastically comparing the nightmarish society that the boys ended up with to the book "The Coral Island" in which, conversely, a group of boys worked together and got on well. Quote: "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" Analysis: After seeing the evil that people were capable of and the dark side of human nature, Ralph's innocence was lost. He wept for these things and of course for the loss of Piggy. The booing rose and died again as Piggy lifted the white, magic shell. "Which is better -to be a pack of painted Indians like you are, or to be sensible like Ralph is?" A great clash arose among the savages. Piggy shouted again. "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?" Again the clamor and again - "Zup!" Ralph shouted against the noise. "Which is better, law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?" Now Jack was yelling too and Ralph could no longer make himself heard. Jack had backed right against the tribe and they were a solid mass of menace that bristled with spears. (11.200-207) The description of the shell as "white, magic" seems to be the way Piggy sees it. The passage that follows proves that the shell is in fact no such thing; it can't even get the boys to quiet down and listen. In the brutal landscape of William Golding's Lord of the Flies, Piggy is the beleaguered voice of intellect, reason, and fragile civilization amidst the escalating chaos.Cruelly nicknamed and physically vulnerable, Piggy represents the societal reliance on logic and scientific thought, qualities tragically undervalued and destroyed by the boys' descent into primal savagery.His glasses, initially a tool for clarity and fire, symbolize his vulnerability and the group's deteriorating state.This analysis examines 21 crucial quotes, 18 direct Piggy quotes, and 3 about him. Organized thematically, they reveal his unwavering belief in rules, his insightful perception of the island's dangers (including the boys themselves), his loyalty to Ralph, and the tragic significance of his fate.A fate sealed, perhaps, by is never afforded the basic dignity of his real name. Piggy consistently appeals to logic, rules, and the remembered structures of the adult world, acting as Ralph's intellectual counterpoint and the group's conscience.The Voice of Reason and CivilizationDespite constant ridicule, Piggy remains the staunchest advocate for maintaining societal norms, rules, rescue, and understanding the necessity of structure for survival."Acting like a crowd of kids!"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 2, Page 38Piggy's immediate exasperation at the boys' chaotic rush to build a fire highlights his inherent understanding of the need for planning and order, contrasting sharply with the others' impulsive excitement."How can you expect to be rescued if you don't put first things first and act proper?"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 2, Page 45Piggy consistently links adherence to rules ("act proper") and logical priorities ("first things first") directly to the goal of rescue, demonstrating his clear grasp of cause and effect, which the others increasingly ignore."What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 5, Page 91Piggy's desperate question during the chaotic assembly voices the novel's central theme, recognizing the horrifying potential for devolution when societal constraints are removed."Which is better - to be a pack of painted Indians like you are, or to be sensible like Ralph is?" Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill? Which is better, law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 11, Page 180In his final, courageous stand, Piggy uses stark rhetorical questions to frame the fundamental choice between civilization (rules, agreement, rescue, sensibility) and savagery (hunting, killing, breaking things up). His appeal to logic is tragically met with brute force."Grownups know things," said Piggy. "They ain't afraid of the dark." They'd get meet and have tea and discuss. Then things 'ud be all right..."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 5, Page 94Piggy idealizes the adult world, associating it with rational discussion ("meet and have tea and discuss") and the ability to overcome fear through knowledge and order, a stark contrast to the boys' reality."I dunno, Ralph. We just got to go on, that's all. That's what grown-ups would do."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 8, Page 139Piggy's intellect, symbolized by his glasses, is his greatest asset and a source of his vulnerability. It represents clarity and the potential for scientific solutions in a world succumbing to irrationality.Intellect, Insight, and the Symbolism of SpecsPiggy embodies the power and fragility of intellect in a savage environment. His glasses, essential for clear vision and the life-giving fire, become a focal point of the conflict."My auntie told me not to run... on account of my asthma... And I've been wearing specs since I was three."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 1, Page 9Piggy introduces his physical limitations and reliance on glasses early on, establishing his difference from the other boys and foreshadowing his vulnerability."Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!" "You knew, didn't you? 'I'm part of you?' Why things are what they are?"-The Lord of the Flies Analysis: Evil (the Beast) is not something physical or external that can be destroyed. Evil existed within the boys and was the reason why they were slowly descending into savagery. Quote: "Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!" - The boys Quote: "I'm frightened. Of us." - Ralph Analysis: Ralph was beginning to see the evil that came from within themselves and was frightened of it and what it could lead to. Quote: "Roger advanced upon them as one wielding a nameless authority" Analysis: Roger's feeling of authority came from the fact that his barbaric group of hunters were now the dominant group on the island, and so he had sanction to do whatever he wanted without fear of punishment. Quote: "The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist." Analysis: Roger pushed a rock onto Piggy which ended up killing him and destroying the conch (both symbols of order and lawfulness), signifying the descent of the boys from civilized to savage. Quote: "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?" - Piggy Analysis: Piggy made an argument for the rule of law and democracy, but in the end the boys' society rejected this, instead choosing bloodlust and savagery. Quote: "I should have thought that a pack of British boys - you're all British, aren't you? - would have been able to put up a better show than that" - The officer Analysis: The officer, being patriotic, believed that boys from a society as civilized as Britain should have been able to recreate a civilized community on the island. Quote: "Jolly good show. Like the Coral Island." - The officer Analysis: Here the officer is sarcastically comparing the nightmarish society that the boys ended up with to the book "The Coral Island" in which, conversely, a group of boys worked together and got on well. Quote: "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" Analysis: After seeing the evil that people were capable of and the dark side of human nature, Ralph's innocence was lost. He wept for these things and of course for the loss of Piggy. The booing rose and died again as Piggy lifted the white, magic shell. "Which is better -to be a pack of painted Indians like you are, or to be sensible like Ralph is?" A great clash arose among the savages. Piggy shouted again. "Which is better - to have rules and agree, or to hunt and kill?" Again the clamor and again - "Zup!" Ralph shouted against the noise. "Which is better, law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?" Now Jack was yelling too and Ralph could no longer make himself heard. Jack had backed right against the tribe and they were a solid mass of menace that bristled with spears. (11.200-207) The description of the shell as "white, magic" seems to be the way Piggy sees it. The passage that follows proves that the shell is in fact no such thing; it can't even get the boys to quiet down and listen. 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Humans? Or animals? Or savages?"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 5, Page 91Piggy's desperate cry underscores his physical dependence on his glasses for sight, a literal representation of his reliance on intellect and clarity."Life... is scientific, that's what it is. In a year or two when the war's over they'll be traveling to Mars and back. I know there isn't no beast-not with claws and all that, I mean-but I know there isn't no fear, either. Unless we get frightened of people."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 5, Page 84Piggy articulates his rational worldview, contrasting the logic of science and progress with the irrational fear gripping the island. His crucial addendum-"Unless we get frightened of people"-reveals his dawning understanding that the true threat is human, not supernatural."I got the conch. I'm going to talk that Jack Merridew an' tell him, I am... I'm going to say, you're stronger than I am and you haven't got asthma... But I don't ask for my glasses back, not as a favor... because what's right's right. Give me my glasses, I'm going to say-you got to!"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 11Piggy plans his final confrontation based on an appeal to justice and inherent rightness, tragically underestimating how savagery has supplanted morality in Jack's tribe. His demand for his glasses is a demand for the return of reason itself.Despite his intelligence, Piggy is physically weak and socially marginalized, making him an easy target for the other boys' cruelty and a scapegoat for their frustrations.Vulnerability, Fear, and Being the OutsiderPiggy's physical shortcomings and intellectual differences make him an immediate outsider, subject to ridicule and violence, highlighting the group's intolerance and his astute awareness of his precarious position."I don't care what they call me," he said confidently, "so long as they don't call me what they used to call me at school... They used to call me 'Piggy.'"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 1, Page 11This early vulnerability, shared in confidence with Ralph, is immediately betrayed. Piggy is instantly stripped of his identity and foisted with a name representing his physical difference, a name he never escapes. The significance is that he lacks the power to demand otherwise."People don't help much."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 3, Page 54Piggy senses the dangerous, escalating frenzy of Jack's feast and urges Ralph to leave, demonstrating his consistent awareness of impending disaster."That's right. We was on the outside. We never done nothing, we never seen nothing."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 10, Page 151Piggy senses the dangerous, escalating frenzy of Jack's feast and urges Ralph to leave, demonstrating his consistent awareness of impending disaster."That's right. We was on the outside. We never done nothing, we never seen nothing."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 10, Page 151Piggy's succinct observation reflects his growing disillusionment with the boys' lack of cooperation and foresight."He wanted to explain how people were never quite what you thought they were."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: The narrator about Piggy's thoughts on Ralph), Chapter 3, Page 54This narrative insight shows Piggy's capacity for nuanced understanding of others, even Ralph, who initially treated him poorly."There had grown up tacitly among the biguns the opinion that Piggy was an outsider... by fat, and assmat, and specs, and a certain disinclination for manual labor."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: The narrator about Piggy), Chapter 4, Page 65The narrator explicitly details the reasons for Piggy's marginalization, highlighting the group's superficial judgments based on appearance and physical ability over intellect."I'm scared of him," said Piggy, "and that's why I know him... If you're scared of someone you hate him but you can't stop thinking about him... it's like asthma an' you can't breathe..."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy about Jack), Chapter 5, Page 93Piggy offers a profound psychological insight into the obsessive nature of fear and hatred born from intimidation, linking his emotional state directly to his physical affliction (asthma). (Jack) hates you too, Ralph... He can't hurt you: but if you stand out of the way he'd hurt the next thing. And that's me."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 5, Page 93Piggy understands his position as the most vulnerable target should Ralph's protective leadership fail, accurately predicting Jack's malicious intent."Now you done it. You been rude about his hunters."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy to Ralph), Chapter 8, Page 125Piggy recognizes the tactical error in directly confronting Jack's hunters, understanding the importance of social maneuvering even amidst the breakdown of law."They always been making trouble, haven't they?... We can do without 'em. We'll be happier now, won't we?"-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy about Jack's tribe), Chapter 8, Page 131Piggy expresses relief at the departure of Jack's disruptive influence, clinging to the hope that a smaller, more rational group can succeed."Come away. There's going to be trouble. And we've had our meat."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy to Ralph), Chapter 9, Page 151Piggy senses the dangerous, escalating frenzy of Jack's feast and urges Ralph to leave, demonstrating his consistent awareness of impending disaster."That's right. We was on the outside. We never done nothing, we never seen nothing."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: Piggy), Chapter 10, Page 151Piggy's desperate rationalization after Simon's murder showcases his attempt to distance himself and Ralph from the collective guilt, clinging to a fragile sense of moral separation."The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded... Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea. His head opened and stuff came out and turned red... the body of Piggy was gone."-William Golding, Lord of the Flies, (Character: The narrator about Piggy's death), Chapter 11, Page 181The graphic, dehumanizing description of Piggy's death underscores the complete triumph of savagery over intellect and reason. His simultaneous demise with the conch's destruction symbolizes civilization's collapse.Conclusion: The Extinguished Light of ReasonPiggy, never granted the dignity of his name, represents the tragic fate of intellect and rationality in the face of primal fear and unchecked savagery in Lord of the Flies. His quotes consistently champion rules, logic, and the hope of rescue, acting as a vital counterpoint to Jack's rising tyranny.Symbolized by his vulnerable glasses, Piggy's insights are ignored, his pleas dismissed, and his life extinguished along with the conch, the emblem of the civilized order he desperately tried to maintain.Compare Piggy's logical approach with the leadership styles of others:Explore All Lord of the Flies Character AnalysesA Note on Page Numbers & Edition: These quotes illuminate Piggy's perspective, but page numbers will vary across editions. Where available, citations (e.g., Chapter 1, Page 9) reference the Penguin Books, December 16, 2003, Mass Market Paperback edition (ISBN-13: 978-0399501487). Always verify page numbers against your specific copy, especially for academic work, lest your references lose the clarity Piggy himself valued.