

# Lord of the flies chapter 5 and 6



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Throughout chapters five and six Golding shows how the society and civilisation of the boys deteriorates. Golding illustrates the inhospitable parts of the island and the violent sea effectively by describing the “ darkness of the island” and the “ tide coming in”.

The setting of the discussion is eerie because it is late at night and gloomy, with shadows of faces created by the “ declining sun”. This adds to the growing tension of the group and there is disorder amongst the boys as they mock and argue with him Ralph. He wants to emphasize the importance of law and rules in the group in order for them to eventually be rescued, and he is frustrated because the community is disintegrating. He believes the reason for this is the beast and the fear so he brings up the subject and allows various boys to voice their opinions and attitudes which reflect their different characters. The conch is taken from him by Jack who makes a strong and passionate speech, in complete contrast to Ralph’s serious talk. He shouts at the littluns to put up with the fear if they are scared, just like the rest of the boys, exclaiming that they are “ cry babies and sissies”.

He asks the boys if he is a hunter and they reply in the affirmative, so he goes on to say that he has searched the whole island and therefore he knows that no beast or animal exists. Even though Jack challenges Ralph’s leadership, but he tries to maintain authority with the conch throughout the discussion. Jack increasingly shows his frustration about the need for rules in the society, abolishing Ralph’s faith in democratic behaviour. “ Bollocks to the rules! ” Jack’s attitude to the beast is reflected well by his character as he only cares about hunting and killing pigs – he has become a bloodthirsty savage with no care for rescue, the fire, or comforting the children, just the

hunting. A young child called Percival declared that the “ beast comes out of the sea” and after some debating amongst the boys Simon hesitantly says ““ Maybe there is a beast””.

Ralph is amazed by his opinion and while Simon is thinking how to put across his point the boys ridicule him and shout out, once again showing the disorder amongst them, until Ralph tells them to hear him because ““ He’s got the conch! ’. Simon goes on to say ““...Maybe it’s only us. ”” So far in the novel Simon is described as “ batty” and he is an odd but clever child with maturity beyond his years. He is portrayed almost as Christ-like figure with his peacefulness, compassion, and kind attitude towards the others. The mention of a ghost brings further discussion and worry amongst the littluns though Piggy says indignantly that he believes there is no ghost, only to be shouted down by Jack who undermines the authority of the conch by wrestling Piggy for it, while Ralph attempts to keep some order between them. He democratically asks the group to vote and is then confronted by Jack who once again dismisses the rules and defies against Ralph’s leadership.

He says that if there a beast he and his hunters will kill it, and he leads them away. In the following chapter Golding introduces the “ sign from the world of grown ups” in the form of a dead airman parachuting onto the island. This ironically echoes Ralph’s words at the end of the previous chapter. The parachutist is discovered by the twins Sam and Eric while collecting wood. In the early morning light they rush to wake Ralph and describe a beast with “ wings” and “ teeth” and “ claws.

The older boys Ralph, Jack and Simon set off the search the only part of the island they have not explored yet, with Jack leading the way. This harsh side of the island is known as Castle Rock and during the trip, Simon has a “flicker of incredulity” that there can be a beast that has claws, sits on a mountain top, and leaves no tracks but was not fast enough to catch the twins. The boys reach the Castle Rock which is very bleak and cold, with its “stony ground” and “great lumps that seemed to totter”. Ralph takes charge again and climbs the path round the rock and he is joined by Jack.

When he see’s the place with “tumbled boulders” and “shattered rocks” he excitedly exclaims “‘What a place for a fort!’” and is even happier when he finds a trickle of fresh water; in his joy he almost forgets the hunt for the beast. In conclusion, in this part of the novel there are several theories as to the beast, ranging from a sea creature, a ghost, it being nonexistent, or that it is within us – a side of human nature. However, the dead parachutist gives the reader something real and with a physical form – a dead human being as a victim to the cruelty of war and man’s ability to kill.