

## **LOTF Chapter 3 Questions**

- 1. Discuss the change in Jack's personality that is described at the beginning of the chapter. What is Jack's highest priority, and what does this tell us about him?**

From being the arrogant, contemptuous leader, Jack is shown hunting, working hard to help the community, a true leader. Instead of his pompous ambience that was suggested by the previous chapters, such as when he yelled, "Oh, shut up!" (44) to Piggy for *speaking the truth* about the fire, he becomes a skilled hunter, making the following observations of *droppings* on the ground to help his hunting: "The droppings were warm. They lay piled among turned earth. They were olive green, smooth, and they steamed a little" (49). On the other hand, I myself wouldn't ever do this, maybe not even in his situation.

His highest priority is meat, a type of food; he is trying to get the boys an essential source of nutrients so that they can survive. It is a selfless and arduous job (made clear by his inability to kill anything despite his talents), but he is willing to do it for the sake of the survival of the society

- 2. How are all of the boys except Ralph and Simon (and Jack) behaving? What is Golding telling us about human nature? What important qualities do Ralph, Simon, and Piggy have that the other boys seem to lack?**

While Ralph and Simon are patiently (and unsuccessfully) building huts for shelter and Jack is busy hunting (also without success), the other boys are "off bathing, or eating, or playing" (50). They are the leaders, and are creating shelter and a source of food for the boys, two essential aspects to life. They have the wisdom to know what's important for the well-being of the overall group, for now and the future: although they have great ideas for their private island in the future, they know what has to be done to set the foundations for such a view.

On the other hand, the other boys, especially "the littluns" (50), have no concept of the future and planning, but only of survival and having a good time in the present; also, "the older ones aren't much better" (50). All they know is that no parent supervision means freedom, and that time is much better spent playing than helping out, especially when it comes to nasty or boring jobs such as killing (hunting with Jack) or heavy-lifting (building with Ralph and Simon). Golding is trying to show us human nature through them: they are the common people, the people being ruled: they see that the leaders are busy, and they try to get the easiest way out.

- 3. What is making it difficult for Ralph and Jack to communicate and get along? Where do you think their differences will lead?**

The most conflicting aspect holding Ralph and Jack apart in chapter three are their differences in priorities. Ralph is interested only in building shelter, so that they can

survive: he says, “We need shelters” (51). On the other hand, Jack repeats, “We need meat” (51), and their arguments go back and forth.

However, as much as this might seem a difference, it shows that they are similar in character and will get along in the future: it will not lead them astray, but instead will draw them closer together. They are both stubborn power-hungry boys looking to get their way; but they both want to benefit the group. After arguing about their differences, they quickly turn to like concerns, such as when “[the children] talk and scream. The littluns. Even some of the others. As if ... it wasn’t a good island” (52). And, at the end, Golding added at the end of their conversation that “they walked along, two continents of experience and feeling, unable to communicate ... They looked at each other, baffled, in love and hate” (55). They easily reconcile their differences because they are truly very much the same.

**4. Why do you think Jack and the littluns (and others, probably) have fears about a “beastie,” but Ralph, Simon, and Piggy don’t? What theme does this suggest?**

I believe this is primarily a matter of personality. The littluns are inherently curious and have an imagination open to monsters. Any mention of scary things and they are frightened, as little kids should be. As for Jack, he is more cautious than Ralph, and having hunted in the forest, it could be more dangerous to him.

Ralph and Piggy have to be strong to their public, and by closing off their minds to any possibility of not having “a good island” (52), they convey a positive confidence to the group of children they talk to. Simon is quiet, and does not really have a say on the beasties, instead relaying what others say in their sleep, when “they dream ... and you can hear them” (52).

This again brings up the theme of leadership and outward appearance: Jack is not the (top) leader, and worries about the “beastie,” but Ralph has little to do with the forest where the “beastie” resides, and he is in a position of power, so he has to keep face and instill confidence in the crowd by not acting scared (although he may actually be).

**5. What does this chapter reveal about Simon’s personality, and what importance do you think this will have later in the novel? (How do you think the other boys will react to Simon?)**

Simon is illustrated as a quiet, hardworking boy, working for long hours alone with Ralph to build the shelters (an image contrary to the original one of him being weak: hungry and fainting). As Ralph said, “All day I’ve been working with Simon. No one else” (50). There is no negative light shed on Simon.

At the end of the chapter, there was a description of him quietly leaving the shelter construction site, going to the fruit-tree area and helping the little kids, and finally retreating to a calm sleeping place, all without a single word. He is respected by Ralph

and Jack, who simply comment that “he’s buzzed off” (55) (without a harsh tone), and is looked up to by the littluns, for whom he “found ... the fruit they could not reach” (56).

He was also an observative boy, adding on to Ralph and Jack’s conversation: “[the boys talk and scream] As if it wasn’t a good island ... As if ... the beastie, the beastie or the snake-thing, was real. Remember?” (50). He was unafraid to bring up the topic of snakes that was no “shameful” (50) in their society after Ralph had so confidently denied their existence immediately upon hearing about them. This is an important trait: he thinks and says what the people think and are afraid to say, because he works so closely with the two leaders. This may create an important role for him when disagreements arise in the future amongst the boys.