***Lord of the Flies* Reading Questions**

**Chapter 1 Assignment**

1. Complete first two columns of “Understanding Characterization” chart for characters introduced in this chapter
2. Explain the symbolism of each of the following:
3. Island
4. Plane Crash
5. Scar
6. Piggy’s eyeglasses
7. Conch
8. Mountain
9. Rock
10. Boat (island) moving astern

**Chapter 2 Assignment**

1. Continue with the “Understanding Characterization” chart
2. What are the rules that the boys make up?
3. Why does Piggy continually remind Jack that he (Piggy) has the conch?
4. Explain the symbolism of each of the following:
* Snake
* Beastie
* Fire

**Chapter 3 Assignment**

1. Continue with the “Understanding Characterization” chart.
2. What evidence is there of the amount of time that has probably passed between chapters 2 and 3?
3. Compare what Ralph and Jack each believe to be the most important task to be addressed and analyze the reasons behind their beliefs.
4. Explain the symbolism of each of the following:
* Jack’s intense desire to hunt & kill
* Ralph’s collapsing huts
* Simon’s helping of the littluns & his self-imposed isolation

**Chapter 4 Assignment**

1. Continue with the “Understanding Characterization” chart.
2. What is a parody? Explain the line “Piggy and the parody were so funny that the hunters began to laugh” (p. 72/76)
3. Explain the significance of “So Ralph asserted his chieftainship and could not have chosen a better way if he had thought for days. Against this weapon, so indefinable and so effective, jack was powerless and raged without knowing why. By the time the pile was built, they were on different sides of a high barrier.” (p. 73/77)
4. Recall that Lord of the Flies is an allegorical tale that works on many different levels. Reader interpretation of the symbolism used is of great importance to your understanding of the work. Identify and explain at least three newly introduced symbols from Chapter 4. Provide quotes and page references.
5. What common themes are represented or developed by the author’s use of these symbols?
6. What significance do each of these themes have in the novel?

**Chapters 5 - 7 Assignment**

1. Continue with the “Understanding Characterization” chart. You will now start to add a bit more to the third column “Changes” as appropriate.
2. Identify and explain additional examples of symbolism & add to those already developed. Continue to keep in mind which symbols are the most important to the overall novel.

**Chapter 5**

1. What advantage does Piggy have that Ralph wishes he had?
2. List some of the agenda items that Ralph discusses at the meeting.
3. What are the littl’uns preoccupied with in this chapter? How do the older boys respond to their concerns? What is the thing in reality?
4. What happens to Percival when he gets up to speak? Where does Percival say the beast comes from?
5. How does Simon attempt to settle the matter of the littl’uns’ concerns? What deeper meaning is implied when Simon says that there may be a beast, but “it’s only us”?

**Chapter 6**

1. Describe what came down from the sky. What had happened?
2. Who sees the “Beast From the Air” first? Why do they think it is a beast? What is it in reality?
3. What is the assembly’s reaction to the news brought to them? What does Jack suggest?
4. What do the hunters discover while they are out looking for the beast? What does Jack think of this?

**Chapter 7**

1. What are the signs that Ralph is still tied to civilization?
2. What is on Ralph’s mind at the beginning of this chapter? Who attempts to reassure him?
3. What things are different about the two sides of the island, and how do they affect Ralph differently as a result?
4. What happens in the encounter with the boar? Describe what happens afterward with Robert.
5. How is the dance in Chapter 7 different from previous dances? Who joins in? How is this evidence that the hunters are becoming more brutal and dangerous?
6. Jack scales the mountain in order to get a better view. What does he think he sees? What is it in actuality?

**Chapter 8 Assignment**

1. What are the two results of the vote over whether Ralph should remain chief? (Jack’s choice is one).
2. What does Simon propose that they do after the vote, and how is it received?
3. What is Piggy’s proposal, and how is it received?
4. Most of the boys decided to leave with Jack. Who are the boys that have stayed with Ralph?
5. What do the hunters discover while out in the forest? Fully describe what they do with their discovery.
6. What does Simon encounter while out walking in the forest? What name does he give it and why?
7. Describe the “conversation” Simon has in the forest.

**Chapter 9**

1. What does Simon discover “the beast” seen by Jack, Ralph, and Roger actually is?
2. How does the thunderstorm play an important factor in the events of this chapter?
3. Why do the boys insist on following Jack?
4. Fully describe the ritual around the fire. How has this event been escalating throughout the novel? How is the dehumanization of the boys coming to a climax?
5. How was the “prophecy” of the Lord of the Flies fulfilled?

**Chapter 10**

1. Give specific examples of how savage Jack has become by Chapter 10.
2. What do Ralph and Piggy convince themselves about their role in what happened the night of the storm?
3. When the savages conclude that they could not have killed the beast, how do they feel?
4. What are the two functions of the fire?
5. What are Jack and the hunters looking for when they invade the shelter of Ralph, Piggy and Sam and Eric? How does this symbolize a disappearance of order and clear-sightedness?

**Chapter 11**

1. What does Jack do in response to Ralph’s attempting to call an assembly?
2. Summarize Piggy’s speech to the boys. How do the boys react to him?
3. What is Roger’s response to Piggy’s speech? What was broken in the process? How does the event symbolize the disappearance of some of the last remnants of democracy?

**Chapter 12**

1. Why is the pig’s skull compared to the conch? What does Ralph do to it?
2. What do Sam and Eric choose to do and why?
3. What is now the target of the boys’ hunting? Who acts as a betrayer? Why?
4. From where does Ralph get his “stick sharpened at both ends”? Why does he cry?
5. What do the hunters do out of desperation? What is the eventual outcome of this?
6. What does the naval officer look at in the very last sentence of the novel?
7. How does the world of the island mirror the “real” world once the boys are rescued by the Naval officer?