***Lord of the Flies Study Guide***

**Chapter 1**

1. What is the significance of the title “The Sound of the Shell”?
2. What do Piggy, Simon, and the littlun with the birthmark have in common?
3. How does Ralph treat Piggy? Could this be a personal reaction, or a class consciousness reaction?
4. Why is Ralph elected chief? Does he have the qualifications of a good leader? Explain.
5. What is the significance of Piggy’s plea to join the expedition?
6. What is the setting that you are given in the first chapter? How would the word "Idyllic" be brought to bear?
7. What is the foreshadowing you receive that all may not be well in paradise? Give specific details.
8. What role do adults fill in the boys' lives? How is Piggy revealed as most closely tied to the world of adults?
9. What could indicate that some people in the tattered little band want power? Give some detail in your answer.
10. What is the “scar” that is repeatedly mentioned? What seems to be missing?
11. If Piggy doesn't want to be Piggy anymore, why does he confess that this has been his hated name all along? What does this revelation get him?
12. What is the diet of fruit doing to the boys?
13. Why is Jack unable to kill the pig?
14. Jack Merridew is the leader of what? What are his qualifications for island leader in his eyes? What might be his qualifications in the eyes of the person/people who appointed him?
15. Why are the boys on the island? What has happened?

**Chapters 2**

1. What is the significance of the title “Fire on the Mountain”?
2. At the beginning of chapter 2, Ralph glances to Piggy before saying anything at a meeting. What might he want or need from Piggy?
3. What does the conch become a symbol of?
4. What is the purpose of rules for Jack?
5. What question does the littlun with the birthmark raise? How do Jack and Ralph answer the question?
6. "At last Ralph induced the littlun to hold the shell but by then the blow of laughter had taken away the child's voice." What has gone on here?
7. How do Piggy's eye-glasses become communal property?
8. What kind of fire is needed, and what is actually made?
9. If the choir takes responsibility for the fire as well as hunting, how does the power shift in the group?
10. "You got your small fire all right." Explain and comment upon this statement.

**Chapter 3**

1. Why does Ralph reproach Jack?
2. Jack and Ralph have a lot of tension between them. What is going on?
3. When speaking about hunting we are told that "... a mad, opaque look came into Jack's eyes." What does this say about Jack?
4. The kids seem to be going off in all directions whenever they feel like it... little really gets done. What do most of the kids really need? (Think about their background) What are they lacking in their present condition?
5. What two groups with differing goals are emerging?
6. Why does Simon go to his bower? Is he going nuts or is what he is doing (withdrawing into himself) normal?

**Chapter 4**

1. What are the rhythms that emerge in life on the island?
2. Why does Roger, throwing stones at the littluns, aim just to miss?
3. How does Ralph react when he learns the fire is out and the ship doesn’t see them?
4. What definite stand does Ralph make?
5. In this chapter, we see the first overt signs of violence perpetrated against another boy. What happened?
6. Give evidence that Jack is taking away Ralph’s power.
7. Why does Jack Refuse to give Piggy meat? Why does Simon give Piggy his own food? What happens?

**Chapter 5**

1. Ralph calls a meeting quite late in the day. What is the purpose of this meeting?
2. Does the meeting go as he planned?
3. What rules are decided upon during the meeting? What is left undecided or unclear?
4. Piggy says that there is no beast, but there also “isn’t no fear either.” (84) What is Piggy saying they should be afraid of?
5. Why does Piggy dissuade Ralph from giving up his position of chief?
6. Why doesn’t Ralph blow the conch shell after the hunters left?

**Chapter 6**

1. What is ironic about the dead pilot who lands on the island?
2. After the twins told Ralph about the Beast, he still hesitates to blow the shell. Why?
3. Why is Simon the only one who doubts the existence of the Beast?
4. How does Ralph save Jack? What is ironic about this?
5. Discuss evidence of Ralph’s rising tension in these chapters. How is this affecting him? Who is he coming to rely upon?
6. Why do Ralph and Jack both insist on going after the beast?
7. What discovery do they make?
8. Why does Jack say they don’t need the conch any longer?
9. Explain how power is beginning to shift away from Ralph to Jack. Describe how each leader acts. Whose leadership is more effective?

**Chapter 7**

1. Ralph "...might undertake the adventure of washing (his shirt). Tell me about Ralph's life before the crash.
2. What is happening to the clothes on the island? How is the changes in the clothes (and general hygiene) of the boys mirror the social changes that are stealthily emerging in the novel?
3. Why does Simon tell Ralph that “you” will get back all right?
4. Describe the danger that Robert gets into with the hunters.
5. What happens when Ralph wounds the boar?
6. Answer Ralph’s question to Jack, “Why do you hate me?”
7. Why do the boys run from the dead parachutist?

**Chapter 8**

1. Why do the boys refuse to vote for Jack as chief but slip off to join him later?
2. What is Ralph’s emerging attitude towards more discussion? How is this different than before?
3. What changes inside Piggy after Jack leaves the group? Why?
4. How has Ralph evolved as a leader? Has he become more democratic? Explain.
5. What is the “Lord of the Flies?”
6. Describe Simon’s reaction to the Lord of the Flies.
7. “I’m warning you. I’m going to get angry. D’you see? You’re not wanted. Understand? We are going to have fun on this island. Understand? We are going to have fun on this island! So don’t try it on, my poor misguided boy, or else –” What is the Lord of the Flies warning Simon not to do?

**Chapter 9**

1. What reason does Ralph give for the boys’ defection to Jack??
2. How does Simon’s treatment of the dead airman show his compassion?
3. Give details that show how Jack has assumed control over most (and maybe even all) of the boys on the island.
4. How does Jack propose to rule without the conch?
5. Who do Ralph and Piggy join the dance?
6. Why is Simon’s dead body carried out to sea in terms of glorification?

**Chapter 10**

1. Why do Ralph, Piggy, and Samneric lie about their part in Simon’s death, or use the darkness as an excuse?
2. How is Wilfred punished?
3. How does Jack account for the death of Simon?
4. What was the purpose of the night time invasion?

**Chapter 11**

1. Why do Ralph and Piggy decide to visit Jack’s camp?
2. What is the reaction of Jack’s tribe to Ralph’s talk of rescue?
3. What happens when Piggy holds up the conch and tries to talk?
4. Describe Jack's reaction to Piggy being killed by the falling rock.
5. How does Golding describe Piggy's death making it pig like compared to other possible deaths?
6. What value does the conch have, even after it has been broken? (Remember to think about the value of a ritual, in religious terms and symbolism).
7. Why does Roger shove his way past Jack, only just managing not to edge him aside?
8. What does Piggy's death symbolise in terms of civility?

**Chapter 12**

1. How has Jack made Ralph into the new (or next) beast? How does Ralph know about this?
2. What does Ralph say to the twins when they refuse to help him?
3. Does Ralph understand why he must be killed?
4. What is the irony of Samneric’s behavior?

1. What is the irony of the fire?
2. When things can, really, hardly get any worse for Ralph, or for anyone on the island, Golding provides a way out of this mess. What is it?
3. Why is Piggy’s fall emphasized?
4. Why does Ralph say that he is in charge of the island?
5. The officer can't really see the seriousness in the situation which he views. The officer's point of view changes when he believes Ralph's statement that two have been killed. What convinces him to trust what he hears?
6. What comparison is implied at the end of the novel?