**Chapter One-Sound of the Shell**

1. When Piggy reveals the name the kids at school called him, he is placing his trust in Ralph not to tell anyone else. When did you realize that this trust in Ralph was a mistake? Were you surprised that Ralph mishandled Piggy’s trust?
2. Describe the way Jack and his band of choirboys looked as they came toward the assembled group.
3. When Jack and the choir arrive in their uniform cloaks with insignias, we are told, “Piggy, asked no names. He was intimidated by this uniformed superiority and the off-hand authority in Meridew’s voice.” What can you infer about Piggy’s character? Can this quote be a foreshadowing of things to come? If so what?
4. Shortly after revealing Piggy’s secret, we are told, “Ralph, looking with more understanding, saw that he [Piggy] was hurt and crushed. He hovered between the two courses of apology or further insult.” What can you infer about Ralph’s character? Why is this quote significant?
5. What conflict soon arises? How is it solved? What does Ralph do to make Jack feel better? What is compromised?
6. Why is Jack unable to kill the pig?

7. As Piggy, write a letter to your Auntie describing what has happened to you and telling her how you feel about it.

**Chapter Two-Fire on the Mountain**

1. Because everyone is talking at once, Ralph says that they’ll have to have rules. “We’ll have to have ‘hands up’ like at school.” Shortly after, Jack says, “We’ll have rules…Lots of Rules! Then when anyone breaks em—.” The implication is that punishment for breaking rules will be severe. Explain what you think this scene reveals about Jack.

2. As Ralph is trying to convince the others that there is no beast on the island, we are told, “Ralph was annoyed and, for the moment, defeated. He felt himself facing something ungraspable.” Why is this moment important? Explore Ralph’s thoughts.

3. How does the talk of the "beasties" affect the boys?

4. At this time, Ralph says the boys appear to have 2 goals. What are they?

5. How does the group react to Ralph's suggestion that they build a fire? How does Piggy describe their actions? What does this tell us about Piggy?

6. On the mountaintop, Jack and Ralph share the burden, glamour, and adventure of life on the island. In your opinion, in what ways are Jack and Ralph similar and in what ways are they different?

7. What goes wrong at the end of the chapter? Do you see any symbolism here? What is going on in the adult world at the time?

**Chapter Three-Huts on the Beach**

1. We are told that Jack and Ralph both come to hate each other. Write an explanation as to why they start to hate each other.

2. Jack appears to be obsessed by the idea of killing a pig, so much so that he puts it before more urgent needs. Have you ever felt that way or have you known anyone who has been obsessed by an idea? Write about that obsession and the power it had to dictate behavior.

3. Ralph is frustrated and disappointed because, except for Simon, none of the others are much help. Do you think there is anything Ralph could do to get better results? Why or Why not?

4. Where does Simon go? What does he do there? What might Simon represent?

**Chapter Four-Painted Faces and Long Hair**

1. Complete these lines of dialogue: DO NOT WRITE THE DIALOGUE IN YOUR RESPONSE

 **First Student:** All these chapter titles seem to symbolize something.

 **Second Student:** Well, I see that the titles of chapters one and two are symbols, but I do not see anything being represented in the chapter titles for three and four.

 **Third Student:** In chapter three, the “Huts on the Beach” may represent civilization.

 **You:** In that case, chapter four, “Painted Faces and Long Hair,” must represent…

2. Give one example of the boys rebelling against their old society’s rules.

3. Give one example of someone still following the rules of their own society.

4. What does it mean when Roger felt the "taboo of the old life?" Also, what does it mean when Jack approached Roger "a darker shadow crept beneath the swarthiness of his [Roger’s] skin." What effect is Jack having on Roger?

5. Describe the transformation that takes place after Jack paints his face. The mask serves a few purposes. List them.

6.  How does Jack's attack on Piggy and the breaking of one of the lenses in his spectacles symbolize the degeneration of the group?

7. Who finds the glasses for Piggy? Why is this significant?

8. Some readers think that in this chapter we see Jack and some of the boys turning into savages. Why do you suppose they say that?

**Chapter Five-Beast from the Water**

1. What is Ralph realizing is necessary in order to be a leader?
2. What rules from their current society have been ignored? List at least 3.
3. How does Jack explain the beast?
4. How does Piggy explain the beast?
5. Where do we see the breakdown of their society in this chapter?
6. Pg. 89 What does Simon mean when he says, "What I mean is maybe it's only us…We could be sort of…;" Be sure to read the next line in the book. What do you think "Mankind's essential illness" is? Why does he ask "What is the dirtiest thing there is?"

8. Ralph considers giving up being chief. Piggy says to Ralph, “If you give up, what’d happen to me?” Piggy needs his alliance with Ralph to protect himself from Jack. Consider how you would feel if you were Ralph, and an unpopular classmate needed your help to keep from being hurt by the other students. How would you handle the situation? Was the situation handled well?

**Chapter Six-Beast from the Air**

1. Complete this dialogue:

**First Student**:Piggy is a wimp. All he does is clean his glasses and cling to Ralph.

**Second Student:** Yeah, but he does seem to know more than the other boys.

**Third Student**: This book is full of symbolism. Maybe Piggy’s glasses symbolize something.

**You**: I think you’re right. Piggy’s glasses could be a symbol for …

2. What do Sam and Eric claim they have seen on the mountain top? How do they describe it?

3. When Simon thought of the beast, what picture came to his mind?

4. On the trek to find the beast, Simon reflects on his inability “to speak at an assembly…without that dreadful feeling of the pressure of personality.” What does he mean by this? What is Simon scared of?

5. Pg. 107 While Ralph is watching the boys play with the rocks, and realizes there is no fire, he says, “A strange thing happened in his head. Something flittered there in front of his mind like a bat’s wing, obscuring his idea.” What could this mean? What does it reveal about Ralph?

# Chapter Seven-Shadows and Tall Trees

1. Complete this dialogue:

**First Friend**: Boy, Jack is all talk. He is really a coward.

**Second Friend**: I don’t think Jack is a coward. He did go looking for the beast alone in the dark. Ralph is the one who is afraid.

**You**: There is a difference between feeling afraid and being a coward.

Both Jack and Ralph …

1. What has Ralph come to accept as normal?
2. Why are Ralph's fingernails bitten? What is Ralph insinuating when he says "be sucking my thumb next?"
3. Ralph and Jack struggle for power. Ralph wants to wait until morning to continue looking for the beast, but Jack wants to keep looking. Ralph asks Jack, “ ‘Why do you hate me?’ The boys stirred uneasily, as though something indecent had been said. The silence lengthened.” Describe how you felt witnessing this painful exchange between Ralph and Jack. Comment on who you think is the stronger leader at this point in the story.Notice the complete reversal of mood on page 102.
4. What happens to Ralph as he participates in his first hunt?
5. Robert pretends to be a pig, and the group pokes him with sticks and chants, “Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!” Ralph, a character who has in the past behaved in a civilized manner, participates in this violent ritual. What is your opinion concerning the believability of Ralph’s involvement in the “pig” hunt?

## Chapter Eight-Gift for the Darkness

1. At first, none of the boys follow Jack when he claims that he will not participate anymore.” Explain why Jack’s hunters fail to support him when he calls for a vote to remove Ralph as chief. How would you rate Jack’s maturity level at this point in the story?
2. How does Piggy change in this chapter? Why?
3. Jack comes to invite the others to join his hunting party. He is naked, except for the paint on his face. “He was safe from shame or self-consciousness behind the mask of his paint…” In our world, some people hide behind sunglasses or behave differently when talking on the phone. Some drivers, who are usually nice people in their everyday lives, become very aggressive on the road. Why do you think humans might behave differently when their identities are hidden?
4. Simon believes the Lord of the Flies is talking to him. “Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!” said the head. “You knew, didn’t you? I’m part of you? Close, close, close! I’m the reason why it’s no go? Why things are what they are?” The Lord of the Flies seems to be telling Simon that the evil, the beast, is part of the boys. Describe the evil that is part of Jack, Piggy, and Ralph, and people in general.

# Chapter Nine- A View to a Death

1. Jack encourages his followers to dance and chant, “Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!” In your opinion, what is the purpose of the dancing and chanting? To overcome fear? Secure Jack’s position as chief? Something else?
2. Simon awakens in the clearing after his seizure. He says “What else is there to do?” Then Simon makes his way to the body of the dead pilot. Some critics believe the author is saying that the only way to defeat evil is to face it. Do you believe this to be true? What does this say about Simon?
3. List in order what happens to Simon. Try to picture it in your mind. Do you think the boys truly meant to kill him?

# Chapter Ten-The Shell and the Glass

1. Ralph tries to talk to Piggy about Simon’s murder to make himself feel better about it, but Piggy refuses to admit that they contributed to Simon’s death. Describe the circumstances of the crime and why you think the criminal refused to admit any guilt.
2. Jack is a chief now and holds meeting, but these meetings are very different from the assemblies Ralph called with the conch. Which of these two leaders do you think is the strongest? If you were chief, how would you conduct the meetings?
3. Look at page 157. Ralph sums up who the fearful beast is. "I'm frightened. Of us. I want to go home. Oh God, I want to go home." Why is Ralph afraid?
4. Why does Jack deny that the beast is dead?

**Chapter Eleven-Castle Rock**

1. Why does Ralph think that "dressing like they were" would assist them in dealing with Jack?
2. How does the contrast of the paint and smoke on page 173 symbolize the two forces that are motivating the boys?
3. While Ralph and Jack are fighting, Piggy says to Ralph, “remember what we came for. The fire. My specs.” Piggy reminds Ralph to protect him because Piggy is extremely vulnerable without his glasses. Why does Ralph seem to keep forgetting Piggy and the fire? How is he changing?
4. What happens to Piggy and the conch? List the events.
5. Were you surprised by Roger and Jack’s actions in this chapter? Why or why not?
6. Throughout this novel, the boys enjoy teasing and ridiculing Piggy, which eventually leads directly to his murder. Relate an incident you may have witnessed where teasing goes too far and causes someone real physical or emotional harm. Why do you suppose teasing frequently escalates to violence?

**Chapter Twelve-Cry of the Hunters**

1. What does it mean (and who was the character) "whose image refused to blend with that ancient picture of a boy in shorts and shirt?” Explain why Golding writes this.
2. “Ralph put his head down on his forearms and accepted this new fact like a wound. Samneric were part of the tribe now.” Ralph feels betrayed by Samneric. Write a letter from Samneric to Ralph explaining why they are now part of Jack’s tribe.
3. Explain Ralph's actions when he faces the Lord of the Flies?
4. How does Ralph avoid being killed? What are his strategies? What are his opposition's strategies for getting him out of the thicket?
5. At the end of the story, after Ralph knows he is rescued, he begins to sob with “great, shuddering spasms of grief.” Why do you suppose Ralph cries after the danger is over? How do you think you might react in a similar circumstance?
6. The officer on the beach says, “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––” This speech implies that the officer is disappointed in the behavior of the boys on this island. Yet, ironically he is an officer on a ship fighting in a terrible adult war. Discuss the parallels between adults during war and the children on the island.