

SYMBOLIC CHARACTERS

Lord of the Flies is a highly symbolic novel. Each main character represents a whole group of citizens in civilized society. After each description below, write the name of the character you believe fits the description. Then give at least one example from the novel to justify your choice.

1. This character represents the law-abiding hard-working citizen who works for the good of the group and has faith that everything will turn out all right in the end if the proper rules are obeyed by everyone. Character: Ralph

Example:

He keeps the fire lit as hope for rescue. He thinks that as long as it stays lit and everyone works together they will all get off the island together.

2. This character represents the destructive forces in society: ruthless and evil, he plays on the fears of the group to gain power over them. Rather than help society, he wants to dominate it. Character: Jack

Example:

Instead of keeping the fire lit he leaves to hunt meat because he doesn't care about being rescued. He wants to be in charge because he thinks he's better than Ralph.

3. This character stands for the intellectual who tries to solve problems with logic and reason. Because he is considered "different" by the others, they pay little attention to him and he is ineffective for all his intelligence. Character: Piggy

Example:

The other boys thought he was fat and often ignored him. He always deeply thought everything through and came up with smart answers.

4. This character represents the mystic, spiritual leader or philosopher who functions on a higher plane than the rest of society. He simply "knows" things—but is unable to communicate his knowledge to the others. Character: Simon

Example:

Simon was always kind of an outsider. He loved being alone and often went on walks in the jungle to think. He knew that the beast was inside of the boys but was unable to communicate it.

Name _____

MORE SYMBOLISM

Next to each object or event below, write what you believe it represents. Write a brief explanation for each of your answers.

1. The Conch:

The conch represents power and authority. The person who held the conch was in charge and only they could talk. Ralph even brought the conch to Jack's group to try and remind them of his power.

2. The Signal Fire:

The signal fire represents hope. Ralph felt that as long as the fire was lit that they boys would be able to get off of the island. It was there only chance to get home.

3. The Uncontrolled Brush Fires:

The brush fires represent chaos. They could not control the fires and they were very dangerous. The first fire even killed one of the little ones.

4. The Hunts for Pigs:

The hunt for the pigs represents the savagery in the boys. They were very cruel in how they killed the pigs and the dance showed the savage in all of them. It is even the way that simon was killed.

5. The "Beastie:"

The beastie represents fear. The boys were scared to be on the island and they channeled all of their fear into an imaginary beast.

6. The "Lord of the Flies:"

The lord of the flies represents the devil. It wanted to have fun with simon on the island but not a good kind of fun. It told simon to go back to the beach where he was killed.

7. Piggy's Spectacles:

Piggy's spectacles represent intellect. Piggy was very smart and when they break piggy starts to lose his mind and one they are stolen piggy dies.

8. The Boys as a Group:

The boys as a group represent society. They worked together and had people of different talents and skills. Ralph was a leader, piggy was intelligent, Jack was evil etc...