



# Lord of the Flies Understanding Symbolism

**symbol** (*n.*) an action or an object that stands for an idea or means something other than literal meaning.

A symbol helps to reveal meaning in a story. There may be several layers of meaning to any given symbol.

To help you think about the symbols in *Lord of the Flies*, do the following for each symbol listed below:

- a. Describe the symbol's meaning in a few words.
- b. Provide one passage from the text, including the page number(s), that helps show the symbol's meaning.
- c. Write a few sentences explaining what the passage reveals about the symbol.

## 1. The conch

Meaning:

*the order created by civilization's rules*

Supporting passage with page number(s):

*"And another thing. We can't have everybody talking at once. We'll have 'Hands up' like at school."*

*He held the conch before his face and glanced round the mouth.*

*"Then I'll give him the conch."*

*"Conch?"*

*"That's what this shell's called. I'll give the conch to the next person to speak. He can hold it when he's speaking." (p. 33)*

Key details:

*Simon moved his swollen tongue. . .*

*Simon's body was arched and stiff. . .*

*He fell down and lost consciousness. (pp. 143–144)*

*"Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill!" said the head. (p. 143)*

*"You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you? Close, close, close! I'm the reason it's no go? Why things are the way they are?" (p. 143)*

Explanation:

*The conch is being used to keep the assemblies orderly. The boys are mimicking what they learned back in civilization—at school—about keeping order.*

## **2. Piggy's glasses**

Meaning:

Supporting passage with page number(s):

Explanation:

## **3. Fire**

Meaning:

Supporting passage with page number(s):

Explanation:

## **4. The pig's head**

Meaning:

Supporting passage with page number(s):

Explanation:

## 5. The masks the hunters wear

Meaning:

Supporting passage with page number(s):

Explanation:

## 6. The white naval cruiser

Meaning:

Supporting passage with page number(s):

Explanation:

RL.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

L.9-10.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

L.9-10.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

L.9-10.6 Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.