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info_outline working on a study question? get help from verified tutors now! Ralph and the boys have another assembly where the littluns describe that there's a beast in the first which was actually Simon coming from his peaceful stop in the dark but the older children tries to tell them all that no beast exist as simon stated that the beast may be "only us". Also, in this meeting Jack bring up the fact that Ralph isn't a good chief because he can't hunt and sing, in this chapter and further Jack becomes more and more over powering and savage, a man from the war was shot down from a plane with a parachute from the sky, however the man is already dead but Sam and Eric sees his body and parachute float up to the island. Terrified, they go tell about the "beast from the air". Another meeting is called and Jack suggested that they go hunt it, so Jack, Ralph, and a group of other hunters set out to their adventure to a part of the island they never explored yet (Castle Rock) to find a large boulder. The boulder basically foreshadow a significant part in the the future of the novel. Jack finds traces boar a boar which they began to hunt. Ralph manages to hit it with his spear but the animal escapes. Another tribal dance is formed and Robert presents to be a pinwheel the boys pretend to slaughter him, however, Ralph get too out of hand and actually hurt Robert. Jack asked if Ralph should actually be chief any more and even through no one responded, everyone followed Jack except Simon, Piggy and Sam and Eric. Jack and his group hunts and find a mother pig and her piglets, jack and his group kills them all and needed fire to eat them, so the evaded Ralph camp and stole a flaming log to cook the meat. Simon began to talk to the pig head on a stick and caused the head to be called "Lords of the Flies" from the flies around it. We're getting everything ready for you. The page is loading, and you'll be on your way in just a few moments. Thanks for your patience! As Ralph reflects on the recent developments, he finds himself reminiscing about the promise of a new, unmonitored childhood on the island. He seems to realize that one cannot escape constraints even if one lives in a world with adult supervision, rules, and laws. As he struggles to decide what to discuss during the meeting, he recognizes that thinking is not his forte, but Piggy's. The growing tension between Jack and Ralph had already lent the meeting an ominous air. With the assembly scheduled for a very late hour, the group is cloaked in an air of seriousness. At the meeting, Ralph states that the group should prioritize life safely and effectively over having fun. He claims that the boys must show more regard for rules to accomplish this. As an example, he cites the tendency of some boys to relieve themselves wherever they please instead of using the rocks designated for this purpose. He then adds that a fire signal is central to their prospects for rescue and that it must be kept burning at all times. He orders the boys to build a fire signal on the mountain and nowhere else. He also orders the boys to cook food using only the fire signal and suggests that the signal is more important than hunting. Toward the end of his speech, Ralph states that he senses something like an "abstract fear" on the island. When it is Jack's turn to speak, he states that there is nothing to fear on the island. Piggy then takes the conch, but the group does not listen to his speech. A littlun named Phil takes the conch after Piggy and states that he felt a big, nasty presence in the woods. Ralph tells Phil that it must have only been a dream. At this juncture, Simon reveals that he has forged his own retreat in the woods and admits that he goes there from time to time. Nonetheless, the boys seem engulfed by fear. Percival then takes the conch, but as he begins his speech he is overcome with tears. Watching this, the other littluns also begin to cry. Maurice lightens the mood by purposefully falling over, which elicits laughs from the littluns. Jack returns to the matter of the unknown beast. He does not hold the conch, but nobody in the group objects. He then grabs hold of Percival and asks him where the beast lives. Percival says the beast usually lives in the sea. With the meeting on the verge of chaos, Ralph attempts to bring back a semblance of order, but it only results in a tussle for the conch. Meanwhile, the group wonders if the beast might be a ghost. Ralph is displeased to hear this and decides to take a vote about whether or not ghosts exist. Jack, however, continues to interrupt and contradict Ralph, who states that Jack's disregard for the rules can set a dangerous precedent. Jack remains unperturbed and remarks, "Bollocks to the rules! We're strong—we hunt!" In doing so, Jack manages to win over most of the group, except Piggy and Simon. It is evident that the group views Jack as the better leader. Ralph's leadership is further weakened by his uncertainty regarding the beast's existence. Though Piggy tries to assure him that the beast does not exist, Ralph remains hesitant and hopes for a guiding sign from the adult world. The chapter ends with a loud screeching noise of aerial warfare. The boys, however, mistake the noise for the noise of the unknown beast. Ralph sounds the conch shell and the boys gather for a meeting. A serious meeting. We get a description of the meeting place; we know it's on a sort of platform, and now we're told it's shaped like a triangle. Ralph, as the chief, sits on a huge log, which lies parallel to the beach below. To his right is another not-so-chiefly log, and on the left four smaller logs, all of which make for seats for the boys. Ralph gets rather philosophical here before the big meeting, pondering such relevant matters as, "If faces [are] different when lit from above or below—what [is] a face? What [is] anything?" It seems the wilderness has made Ralph question the very foundations of his knowledge. If this seems weird to you, we suggest you live on an uninhabited island for a month or two. After all this pondering, Ralph gets around to blowing the conch. He reminds the boys of some rules: (1) (as you might have guessed) KEEP THE SIGNAL FIRE GOING, (2) don't build any other fires, and (3) do their toilet business by the rocks near the bathing pool instead of all over the island, as they have been doing (the boys snigger and laugh at this last item). When he sets down the conch, Jack grabs it up and tells all the little children to stop acting like children. He says there is no beast (he's been all over the island), and if they're afraid they should suck it up. There's this great moment where someone asks what a beast would eat, someone else says "pig," and yet another someone said "We eat pig." Piggy, in a moment of astounding and unprecedented perception, states that there is no beast, and no fear, either—unless they get frightened of people. So there's nothing to fear but ... themselves. We're thinking particularly Jack. One of the littluns (Phil) tries to declare that the beast comes out at night. When they tell him it was a dream, he says quite adamantly no, he was dreaming that the creepers were snakes, and then after he woke up he saw something big moving in the dark. Ralph insists it was a dream, until Simon admits he was the one mucking about in the dark. Simon grabs the conch and explains that sometimes he likes to go hang out in this "place" in the jungle. They keep talking about "getting taken short," which is refined British for "needing to poo." Supposedly, this is why Simon was out, but we all know that's not true. Another littlun comes forward, and again Piggy has to hold the conch for him and coax some words out of him. This little guy is none other than Percival. Percival gets a little nutty; he yammers off his street address, he cries, then he yawns, then he staggers, and finally he just lies down in the grass and goes to sleep, but not before telling Jack that the beast "comes out of the sea." Simon makes a comment on "mankind's essential illness" and states that the beast is "only us." Is it just us, or is Simon basically the smartest 12-year-old ever? Simon tries to further his point by asking, "what's the dirtiest thing there is?" Jack's answer, "one crude expressive syllable" (yes, you know what it is) causes the other boys to scream with delight (remember, essentially, these are proper, well-educated British boys—swearing was a big thrill for them). As the boys laugh, Simon gives up on his effort to make them think about themselves and sits down in defeat. Maybe the beast is a ghost? Someone yells at Piggy to "shut up, you fat slug!" and the whole meeting begins to disintegrate. Ralph shouts that the rules are the only thing they've got holding them together, but Jack is louder and leads a pack of boys off to search for the beast and hunt him down. Piggy, Ralph and Simon are left in despair. Piggy wants to blow the conch, but Ralph makes the third amazing comment of the chapter, stating that, if he blows it now and no one comes back, the conch will have lost its power completely. And then, they will all "be like animals." He wants to give up being chief, but Piggy asks desperately what would happen then. Simon tries to convince Ralph to go on with his duties. There's some talk of how, if only the grown-ups were there, they'd know what to do. They would have rules and they would meet and discuss. Apparently, the boys have never seen the British parliament in action. Anyway, they really wish they had a "sign" from the adults. As the boys stand there in the darkness, a thin wail arises. It's one of the littluns, Percival, crying out from his spot on the grass. Ralph goes to the beach because he needs a place to think and feels overcome with frustration and impotence. He is saddened by his own physical appearance, which has grown shabby with neglect. In particular, his hair has grown uncomfortably long. He understands the weariness of life, where everything requires improvisation. Ralph decides to call a meeting near the bathing pool, realizing that he must think and must make a decision but that he lacks Piggy's natural intellectual ability. That afternoon, Ralph blows the conch shell and the assembly gathers. He begins the assembly seriously, telling them that they are there not for making jokes or for cleverness. He reminds them that everyone built the first shelter, which is the most sturdy, while the third one, built only by Simon and Ralph, is unstable. He admonishes them for not using the appropriate areas for the lavatory. He also reminds them that the fire is the most important thing on the island, for it is their means of escape. He claims that they ought to die before they let the fire out. He directs this at the hunters in particular. He repeats the rule that the only place where they will have a fire is on the mountain. Addressing the spreading fear among the littluns, Ralph then attempts to demystify the question of the "beastie" or monster. He admits that he is frightened himself, but their fear is unfounded. Ralph again assures the group that there are no monsters on the island. With his customary abruptness, Jack stands up, takes the conch from Ralph, and begins to yell at the littluns for screaming like babies and not hunting or building or helping. Jack tells them that there is no beast on the island. Piggy does agree with Jack on that point, telling the kids that there are no beasts and there is no real reason for fear—unless it is of other people. A littlun, Phil, tells that he had a nightmare and, when he awoke, saw something big and horrid moving among the trees. Ralph dismisses it as nothing. Simon admits that he was walking in the jungle at night. Percival speaks next, and as he gives his name he recites his address and telephone number. This reminder of home, however, causes him to break out into tears. All of the littluns join him in crying. Percival claims that the beast comes out of the sea, and he tells them about frightening squids. Simon says that maybe there is a beast, and the boys speak about ghosts. Piggy claims he does not believe in ghosts, but Jack attempts to start a fight again by taunting Piggy and calling him "Fatty." Ralph stops the fight and asks the boys how many of them believe in ghosts. Piggy begins yelling, asking whether the boys are humans, animals, or savages. Jack threatens Piggy again, and Ralph intercedes once more, complaining that they are breaking the rules. When Jack asks, "who cares?" Ralph says that the rules are the only thing that they have. Jack says that he and his hunters will kill the beast. The assembly breaks up as Jack leads them on a hunt. Only Ralph, Piggy, and Simon remain. Ralph says that if he blows the conch to summon them back and they refuse, then they will become like animals and will never be rescued. He asks Piggy whether there are ghosts or beasts on the island, but Piggy reassures him. Piggy warns Ralph that if he steps down as chief Jack will do nothing but hunt, and they will never be rescued. The three imagine the majesty of adult life. They also hear Percival still sobbing his address. Analysis The weight of leadership becomes oppressive for Ralph as the story continues; he is dutiful and dedicated, but his attempts to instill order and calm among the boys are decreasingly successful. Golding develops Ralph's particular concerns and insecurities in this chapter. By showing him brooding over his perceived failures, Golding highlights Ralph's essentially responsible, adult nature. Ralph's concern about his appearance, and particularly his grown-out hair, indicate his natural inclination towards the conventions of civilization. Although Ralph demonstrates a more than sufficient intellect, he also worries that he lacks Piggy's genius. His one consolation is that he realizes that his abilities as a thinker allow him to recognize the same in Piggy, again a rational observation that draws the reader's attention to his potential as a leader. The implication is that deviations from Ralph's plans will be illogical, ill-informed, and dangerous. Ralph still has a strong sense of self-doubt. He is not immune to fear, which he admits to the boys, and he even feels it necessary to ask Piggy whether there might actually be a ghost on the island. Thus, Golding presents Ralph as a reluctant leader. His elected position of chief has been thrust upon him, and he assumes it only because he is the most natural and qualified leader. He has no real ambition or drive, such as the rapacious energy that motivates Jack, but he knows that the boys will be best provided for under his care. It is Ralph who is most concerned with the rules of order on the island. He accurately tells the boys that without the rules, the boys have nothing. Ralph's rules keep the boys tethered to some semblance of society, but without these rules there will be disastrous consequences. Piggy remains the only fully rational character during the assembly and afterward. Piggy is the only boy who categorically dismisses the idea of a beast on the island, and he even reassures the generally unwavering Ralph on this point. It is Piggy who realizes that the boys' fear is the only danger that they truly face so long as they have enough food to survive, and even this fear proves no actual threat to them. Still, the outcast Piggy once again is ignored in favor of lurid tales of beasts and ghosts; although he is consistently correct in his judgments, Piggy is continually ignored. He raises the important question of whether the boys wish to act like humans, savages, or animals. Once again, Ralph and Piggy exemplify civilized human order, while Jack represents a brutal anarchy that may devolve into animal behavior. The conflict between Jack and Ralph, with Piggy as his ally, reaches a breaking point in this chapter. Although Jack initially dismisses the idea of a beast on the island, he comes to accept the idea when they conceive of the beast as an enemy that his hunters may kill. Jack continues to be an aggressive and destructive force. He again physically threatens Piggy, foreshadowing the eventual violent conflict between the two boys, and he even manipulates the young boys' fear of monsters and ghosts. During the assembly Jack fully abandons the rules and codes of society. He promotes anarchy among the boys, leading them on a disorganized hunt for an imaginary beast. While Ralph is appointed leader for his calm demeanor and rationality, Jack gains his authority from irrationality and instinctual fear, manipulating the boys into thinking that there may be a dangerous creature that they should hunt. This behavior is dangerous; Ralph concludes that a focus on hunting will prevent them from ever leaving the island and seal their fate as no more than animals. The assembly highlights how fear ferments and spreads in a group. The littluns begin with a concrete example of a frightening incident that is easily explained and is understandable, but the idea of something more sinister on the island provokes mass hysteria. The terrors that the boys imagine become progressively more abstract and threatening. Percival uses concrete facts about squids to arrive at an illogical conclusion that a squid may emerge from the sea to harm them. This then provokes the unfounded rumors that there may be supernatural beings, ghosts, on the island. Monsters, violent squid, and ghosts; all three creatures represent different instantiations of the "beast" or "beastie" that has been the subject of the boys' mounting fear. As the title suggests, the beast is of crucial importance to this chapter and will figure largely in the tragic events to come. On a symbolic level, the beast has several meanings. First, it invokes the devil, the Satan of Judeo-Christian mythology, which foreshadows the "lord of the flies" object that will become the mascot of Jack's tribe later. The fear of the beast among the boys may symbolize their fear of evil from an external, supernatural source. Second, it symbolizes the unknown, amoral, dark forces of nature, which remain beyond the boys' control. Finally, the beast may allude to the Freudian concept of the Id, the instinctual, primordial drive that is present in the human psyche and which, unfettered by social mores, tends towards savagery and destruction. In this framework, the boys' fear of the beast is a displacement of a fear of themselves, of their capacity for violence and evil which is unleashed in the absence of adult authority and ordered social life. With the anarchy incited by Jack and the panic among the littluns, only the illusion of civilization is left on the island. Percival's tearful repetition of his home address is a stark reminder that the boys no longer reside in civilized culture and that the Home Counties remain little more than a pleasant memory. As Ralph, Piggy, and Simon muse on adulthood, we recall that adult society should be sufficiently rational and organized to solve the problems that the children face on the island, though we wonder how well a similar group of adults would do.