

Killing the Sow

Directions: Reread the section of chapter 8 that describes the killing of the sow, and answer the questions that follow.

1. Describe the scene before the arrival of the hunters. What is the atmosphere?
2. Throughout the passage, what is emphasized about the sow?
3. What is emphasized about the boys?
4. From a hunter's point of view, what is wrong with the boys' actions?
5. What is disturbing about the language used to describe the hunt and the killing?
6. How do the boys react after the kill?
7. What does Jack do with the pig's head? Why?

Simon and the Lord of the Flies

Directions: Chapter 8 concludes with a highly symbolic scene involving Simon. Reread his hallucinatory conversation with the Lord of the Flies, and answer the following questions.

1. In an earlier scene, just after the sow has been killed and the boys have run off, Simon, still hiding under the leaves, is described as having eyes that reflect “the infinite cynicism of adult life.” What does this expression mean?
2. How do we know that the pig’s head is not really talking?
3. What does the Lord of the Flies say about Simon? about the other boys? about the beast?
4. When the pig’s head tells Simon, “I’m the beast,” and Simon replies, “Pig’s head on a stick,” what does the reader learn about Simon’s comprehension?
5. What happens at the very end of the chapter?
6. Do you see any foreshadowing in the scene?