Civics 2014

Lord of Flies

Chapter 1: Study Questions

If you submit these questions electronically, they need to be sent to my school e-mail account [brian.huebner@westby-norse.org](mailto:brian.huebner@westby-norse.org).

The subject line of the e-mail must read **Lord of Flies Chapter 1 Study Questions**

Attach your work in the e-mail.

Header of attachment must be….

**Your Name**

**Class Hour**

**Assignment**

Lord of the Flies Study Questions

As you read the novel, keep in mind that the behavior of the characters is meant to be indicative of human nature in a general sense, not simply a reflection of the behavior of boys. What insights into (or opinions about) human nature do the characters’ actions reveal?

Note: The highlighted questions are the ones I think are the most important and/or interesting

questions to reflect on and discuss.

Chapter 2: “Fire on the Mountain”

1. What do you think is the significance of the “snake-thing” or “beastie”? Consider the little boy‟s description of the creature, the discussion of nightmares, Ralph‟s feeling that he is “facing something ungraspable” when confronted with this problem, and his need to repeat loudly that “there isn‟t a beast.”

2. What does Jack‟s behavior in this chapter suggest about him (e.g. his attitude toward killing pigs and hunting the beast, his excitement about the rules and the consequences of violating them, his treatment of Piggy etc.)? In what way(s) might the behavior of the boys during the meeting foreshadow later events?

3. What do you think Piggy‟s glasses might represent? Consider their normal function, the use they are put to in this chapter, Piggy‟s intelligence, and Piggy‟s helplessness without them.

4. What hypocritical irony is there in the boys‟ treatment of Piggy in contrast with their treatment of Ralph and Jack? What does this fact suggest about human nature?

5. What is ironic about consequences of the boys‟ decision to light a fire? In light of these

consequences, what do you think it and the “drum-roll” represent?

6. What do the events of these first two chapters reveal about the major themes of the novel?

Chapter 3: “Huts on the Beach”

1. Discuss the change in Jack‟s personality that is described at the beginning of the chapter. What is Jack‟s highest priority, and what does this tell us about him?

2. How are the all of the boys except Ralph and Simon (and Jack) behaving? What is Golding telling us about human nature? What important qualities do Ralph, Simon, and Piggy have that the other boys seem to lack?

3. What is making it difficult for Ralph and Jack to communicate and get along? Where do you think their differences will lead?

4. Why do you think Jack and the littluns (and others, probably) have fears about a “beastie,” but Ralph, Simon, and Piggy don‟t? What theme does this suggest?

5. What does this chapter reveal about Simon‟s personality, and what importance do you think this will have later in the novel? (How do you think the other boys will react to Simon?)

Chapter 4: “Painted Faces and Long Hair”

1. Describe the behavior of the boys at the beginning of the chapter. What thematic significance does this scene have?

2. Why does Maurice walk away when Percival starts crying, and why doesn‟t Roger throw the stones directly at Henry? What does their behavior suggest about human nature?

3. Why do the hunters decide to “paint” themselves with clay and charcoal? What effect does doing this have on their behavior, and why? Does this “makeup” have any symbolic meaning?

4. How do the hunters behave in response to the success of the hunt, and what is the significance of this behavior?

5. How does Ralph “assert his chieftainship” after the argument with the hunters? Why do you think this gesture is so effective?

6. What do you think will result from the open conflict between Jack and Ralph and from Jack‟s success at getting meat? What is the significance of the boys‟ reaction to being able to eat meat, and how does this compare to their reaction about having missed a chance to be rescued?

7. Discuss the thematic significance of the title of the chapter.