

Lord of the Flies

Chapter 8

Pathetic Fallacy

- What is it?
- A technique
- **A literary term relating to atmospheric description, where outward, physical conditions (such as weather or setting) reflect the mood or feelings of characters or tension in the plot.**

Chapter 8/9

This chapter is very important in highlighting the theme of the novel – man's inherent evil

The boys succumb to their primitive urges during the hunting of the pig

They are so immersed in their hunt and kill that they forget everything else

Pathetic Fallacy

- **Read the following atmospheric descriptions. Using the page references, write down what is happening at each point.**
- **Discuss the imagery used by Golding. Try to identify techniques and explain why they are effective within the context.**

- However it is also the moment when Jack says he no longer wants to be part of Ralph's group.
- *"I'm not going to be part of Ralph's lot!*
P. 140
- Piggy suggests building a fire on the rocks
- *"only Piggy could have the intellectual daring to suggest moving the fire from the mountain"* p.142

Physical conditions

- P146 "He knelt down and the arrow of the sun fell upon him. That other time the air had seemed to vibrate; but now it threatened."
- P151 "Up there, for once, were clouds, great bulging towers that sprouted away over the island, grey and cream and copper coloured. The clouds were sitting on the land; they squeezed, produced moment by moment, this close tormenting heat."
- P152 "High up among the bulging clouds, thunder went off like a gun."
- P155 "Up in the cloud canyons the thunder boomed again."
- What is happening / about to happen?
- Simon is sitting in his clearing
- There is a feeling that something is about to burst – rain but just after this the lord of the flies "speaks" to Simon
- Ralph/Piggy et al are sitting round the fire waiting
- Jack is telling the other boys they have meat and they can join him – he is waiting too.
- He is tempting the boys/persuading

- P168 "The dark sky was shattered by a blue-white scar. An instant later the noise was on them like a gigantic whip..."
- The Blue-white scar was constant, the noise unendurable."
- P169 "Then the clouds opened and let down the rain like a waterfall..
- Now a great wind blew the rain sideways.."
- P170 "The clear water mirrored the clear sky and the angular bright constellations. The line of phosphorescence bulged about the sand grains.

Golding also constructs a sense of pressure, heat and claustrophobia through imagery of 'bulging towers' in the clouds ready to explode with violence and destruction.

- » Clouds touching the land
- » Heat rising from the mountain
- » Violence and rage reflected in the boys' actions
- » Climactic event of the killing of the sow/Simon
- » Weather breaks as the boys complete killing

This is important!

- **The use of pathetic fallacy (symbolic weather conditions) is essential in the creation of tension.**
- **Chapter 8 is a pivotal point in the novel.**

- » Here Jack splits from the group
- » the boys slaughter the sow ruthlessly
- » Ralph unburdens himself to Piggy, showing his shift in allegiance away from Jack
- » Simon encounters the Lord of the Flies.

The death of Simon

- P.169
- Simon is murdered just as the storm breaks.
- The airman's body is seen drifting from the island at the same moment.

Task:

Write at least one paragraph discussing the significance of the timing of the death of Simon and the floating away of the airman.

Think about:

- Symbolism
- The Beast's identity
- Simon's understanding

Imagery

- Golding's imagery creates a sense of **violence** and **turbulence** through striking vocabulary such as '**gun**, **boom**, **explode** and **explosion**'.
- They are all words that are used in war situations highlighting the violence and danger in the weather which is reflected in the emotions and actions of the boys.

Chapter 10

- Read very carefully the conversation between Ralph and Piggy then Samneric. (p.171-175)

Tasks:

1. In pairs write down the process they go through as they discuss the events of Simon's death. (bullet points)
2. Together relate their thoughts and reactions to the theme of the novel. (again notes/bullet points)
3. What is significant about the last sentence of their conversation? *Memory of the dance that none of them had attended shook all four boys convulsively. 'We left early'.*
4. Write a short critical response to the following question.

Golding's message is expertly highlighted by the events of chapter 8 and 9. By referring specifically to the death of the sow, the murder of Simon and the reaction of the boys how is the main theme of the novel effectively conveyed to the reader?