

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Rescue and Reckoning: Chapters 11-12 of 'Lord of the Flies'

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The theme of civilization vs. savagery becomes increasingly evident in Chapters 11 and 12. The confrontation between Ralph and Jack's groups in Chapter 11 illustrates the stark contrast between their approaches to survival. Ralph represents civilization, order, and the hope of rescue, while Jack embodies savagery, violence, and the pursuit of power. The boys' actions and choices reflect this theme as they devolve into brutality and chaos. In Chapter 12, the island's complete destruction and the arrival of the naval officer serve as a poignant reminder of the boys' lost innocence and their descent into darkness.
2. The conch shell, introduced early in the story, symbolizes order, authority, and the boys' commitment to maintaining rules. Its destruction in Chapter 11 represents the loss of these principles and underscores the boys' descent into savagery. Without the conch shell, there is no mechanism for order or communication, leading to the final breakdown of their society.
3. Piggy's death is a pivotal moment in the story's climax. It reflects the extent of the boys' descent into darkness and violence. Piggy, who symbolized reason and intellect, is killed in a brutal act of aggression. His death highlights the tragic consequences of the boys' actions and their loss of morality. It also leaves Ralph completely isolated and vulnerable.
4. The arrival of the naval officer in the final chapter serves as a symbol of rescue and the return of civilization. It highlights the stark contrast between the boys' savage behavior and the adult world's order and authority. The officer's presence emphasizes the tragic journey the boys have undergone and the loss of their innocence. It also prompts the realization that the island's descent into chaos has come to an end.

