

Name _____

Crises and Division: Chapters 8-10 of 'Lord of the Flies'

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. In Chapters 8 through 10, Jack's character undergoes a significant transformation. He becomes increasingly obsessed with hunting and the desire for power. His leadership style becomes authoritarian, and he prioritizes his group's immediate needs over long-term goals like rescue. His actions lead to the destruction of the conch shell and Piggy's glasses, further cementing his control over the boys.
2. The conch shell and Piggy's glasses are symbolic representations of order, civilization, and reason on the island. Their destruction in Chapter 10 signifies the collapse of these principles and the triumph of chaos and savagery. The conch shell, which served as a symbol of authority and communication, is shattered, signaling the loss of democratic values. Piggy's glasses, crucial for starting the signal fire, are stolen, leaving Ralph's group helpless and incapable of maintaining order.
3. The loss of innocence is a central theme in Chapters 8 through 10, as the boys' behavior becomes increasingly brutal and irrational. They are no longer driven by a desire for rescue and civilization but by fear, superstition, and violence. The murder of Simon and the destruction of the conch shell and Piggy's glasses symbolize the loss of their moral compass and their descent into darkness.
4. Fear and superstition play a significant role in the boys' actions in Chapters 8 through 10. They mistreat Simon, believing him to be the "beast," due to their intense fear and paranoia. The decision to steal Piggy's glasses is motivated by their desire to maintain power and control, driven by fear of the unknown and a belief in the "beast." Fear and superstition lead to the breakdown of reason and morality among the boys.

