

William Golding
Lord of the Flies: Chapter 10
More contextual questions!

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"He's going to beat Wilfred."

"What for?"

Robert shook his head doubtfully.

"I don't know. He didn't say. He got angry and made us tie Wilfred up. He's been" -- he giggled excitedly -- "he's been tied for hours, waiting --"

"But didn't the Chief say why?"

"I never heard him."

Sitting on the tremendous rocks in the torrid sun, Roger received this news as an illumination. He ceased to work at his tooth and sat still, assimilating the possibilities of irresponsible authority. Then, without another word, he climbed down the back of the rocks towards the cave and the rest of the tribe.

The chief was sitting there, naked to the waist, his face blocked out in white and red. The tribe lay in a semicircle before him. The newly beaten and untied Wilfred was sniffing noisily in the background. Roger squatted with the rest.

"To-morrow," went on the Chief, "we shall hunt again."

He pointed at this savage and that with his spear.

"Some of you will stay here to improve the cave and defend the gate. I shall take a few hunters with me and bring back meat. The defenders of the gate will see that the others don't sneak in --"

A savage raised his hand and the chief turned a bleak, painted face towards him.

"Why should they try to sneak in, Chief?"

The Chief was vague but earnest.

"They will. They'll try to spoil things we do. So the watchers at the gate must be careful. And then --"

The Chief paused. They saw a triangle of startling pink dart out, pass along his lips and vanish again.

"-- and then; the beast might try to come in. You remember how he crawled --"

The semicircle shuddered and muttered in agreement.

"He came -- disguised. He may come again even though we gave him the head of our kill to eat. So watch; and be careful."

Stanley lifted his forearm off the rock and held up an interrogative finger.

"Well?"

"But didn't we, didn't we --?"

He squirmed and looked down.

"No!"

In the silence that followed each savage flinched away from his individual memory.

"No! How could we -- kill -- it?"

1. Roger received this news as an illumination. He ceased to work at his tooth and sat still, assimilating the possibilities of irresponsible authority."

- Why did Jack beat Wilfred? (4)
- What is meant by: "Roger received this news as an illumination"? (4)
- Roger contemplates "irresponsible authority". How do you think Roger will react to Jack's leadership both in the short term and in the long term? (4)

2. A savage raised his hand and the chief turned a bleak, painted face towards him.

"Why should they try to sneak in, Chief?"

- There appears to be evidence of questioning Jack's leadership. Why is this happening? (4)
- Is Jack's response in any way believable: "They'll try to spoil things we do."? (2)

3. " -- and then; the beast might try to come in. You remember how he crawled -- "

- The boys all appear to agree with Jack about the beast. Why is this so? (4)

4. Jack asks: "How could we -- kill -- it?"

- It would seem necessary for Jack that the beast still be alive. Why is that so? (4)
- The boys appear also to be relieved that the beast was indeed still alive. Why? (4)

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