

William Golding
Lord of the Flies: Chapter 12
Some contextual questions!

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Other boys were appearing now; tiny tots some of them, brown, with the distended bellies of small savages. One of them came close to the officer and looked up.

"I'm, I'm -- "

But there was no more to come. Percival Wemys Madison sought in his head for an incantation that had faded clean away.

The officer turned back to Ralph.

"We'll take you off. How many of you are there?"

Ralph shook his head. The officer looked past him to the group of painted boys.

"Who's boss here?"

"I am," said Ralph loudly.

A little boy who wore the remains of an extraordinary black cap on his red hair and who carried the remains of a pair of spectacles at his waist, started forward, then changed his mind and stood still.

"We saw your smoke. And you don't know how many of you there are?"

"No, sir."

"I should have thought," said the officer as he visualized the search before him, "I should have thought that a pack of British boys -- you're all British aren't you? -- would have been able to put up a better show than that -- I mean -- "

"It was like that at first," said Ralph, "before things -- "

He stopped.

"We were together then -- "

The officer nodded helpfully.

"I know. Jolly good show. Like the Coral Island."

1. Other boys were appearing now; tiny tots some of them, brown, with the distended bellies of small savages.
 - Why does the author use the word, "tiny tots"? (2)
 - Why do these tiny tots have "distended bellies"? (2)

2. Percival Wemys Madison sought in his head for an incantation that had faded clean away.
 - What is an "incantation"? (2)
 - What is the significance of Percival Wemys Madison having completely forgotten his "incantation"? (4)

3. "Who's boss here?"

"I am," said Ralph loudly.

 - Ralph's words claiming to be boss reveal the full extent of his leadership. Can you explain why? (4)

4. A little boy who wore the remains of an extraordinary black cap on his red hair and who carried the remains of a pair of spectacles at his waist, started forward, then changed his mind and stood still.
 - This short paragraph sums up the awful truth about Jack's leadership. Can you explain what this is? (4)

5. "I should have thought," said the officer as he visualized the search before him, "I should have thought that a pack of British boys -- you're all British aren't you? -- would have been able to put up a better show than that -- I mean -- "
 - Why would the officer have "visualized the search before him"? (4)
 - Why would the officer have expected that the boys "would have been able to put up a better show than that"? (4)

5. The officer nodded helpfully.

"I know. Jolly good show. Like the Coral Island."

 - What is the TONE of the officer's words? (2)
 - What does the officer mean when he says, "Jolly good show"? (2)
 - What is the significance of the officer's reference to "the Coral Island"? (10)
 - Was the officer correct to compare the setting on this island with that of "the Coral Island"? (6)

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