

Chapters One, Two, Three and Four

Chapter One: The Sound of the Shell

Summary

We are introduced to 'The boy with fair hair' in an exotic jungle **setting** as he heads towards a lagoon. Wearing school uniform, he is soon joined by another boy wearing 'a greasy wind-breaker' who is 'very fat'. The boys realise that they are on an island, they have survived a plane crash and most importantly there are no adults. The fair boy is Ralph. The fat boy – whose name we never know – confides that he was called 'Piggy' at school and asks Ralph not to tell anyone. Piggy tells Ralph about the 'atom bomb', knowing there would be few survivors in the outside world. Ralph is sure that his father will 'come and rescue' them. They find a conch. Piggy explains how to make a sound with it. Ralph tries, and finally, the resulting sound draws out other boys. The boys look to Ralph for direction as Piggy begins to take names.



A 'dark' shape moves along the beach towards the group – the choir and Jack Merridew arrive. Ralph betrays Piggy by telling the new arrivals Piggy's nickname, and suggests that the group should have a chief. Although Jack assumes that he should be chief, when the boys vote they decide that it should be Ralph. Jack is offered control of the choir, who will be 'hunters'. Ralph and Jack, accompanied by Simon, go to explore and find out if it is an island. Piggy, humiliated, is left with the smaller boys to 'take names'.

Ralph, Jack and Simon explore and push a rock 'as large as a small motor car' off a cliff. After climbing to the top of a mountain, they realise they are on an island and that they are alone. As they head back, they find a small pig that has been caught in the creepers. Jack goes to kill it but pauses. The reader is told, 'Next time there would be no mercy.'



DEFINE IT!

asthma – a condition that causes difficulty in breathing

atom bomb – a nuclear bomb

conch – a large seashell

mirages – an optical illusion caused by atmospheric conditions

mortification – embarrassment and shame

DO IT!

In the opening paragraph, Golding quickly establishes that we are in an exotic setting. Find three **quotations** that help the reader to imagine this setting.