LORD OF THE FLIES

Study Question Answers
CHAPTER 1

1. DESCRIBE THE MAJOR CHARACTERS: RALPH, PIGGY, AND JACK.

Ralph
Athletic
Charismatic
Elected Leader
Primary representative of order and civilization
12 years old
built like a boxer
fair hair

Piggy
Fat
Wears Glasses
Has asthma
Represents the
only Female Voice
Whiny

Jack
Leader of the hunters
fair hair (red hair in novel)
Barbaric
Cruel
Mean
Represents savagery, violence, and the desire for power
Tall Thin Bony Ugly without silliness
2. WHAT INSTANCES OF FORESHADOWING OCCUR IN THIS CHAPTER? WHAT PREDICTIONS CAN YOU MAKE ABOUT WHAT SortS OF THINGS MIGHT HAPPEN LATER IN THE NOVEL?

The author foreshadows a sense of darkness and ill happenings for the boys in chapter one.

- While describing the aftermath of the plane crash, Golding refers to a bird's song as a "witch like cry".

- Throughout the entire first chapter, Piggy (the reader never learns his real name) is victim of bullying, name calling, and disrespect.

- Piggy is the first to mention the fact that "We may stay here till we die."

- The initial description of the choir group is very dark and ominous

- The author uses dark and violent language to describe things that should be fun (swimming, blowing the conch...)
3. WHAT DO THE BOYS' ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS REVEAL ABOUT HUMAN NATURE?

The events that happen in chapter one reveal 3 specific things about human nature;

1. Using the example of the boys' reaction to there being no grownups on the island, we are shown that it is human nature to oppose authoritative figures. Even Ralph, the most rational boy on the island, is very happy to hear that there are no adults present.

2. Golding also presents the fact that though the last point is true, human nature is also to follow social conventions. What is socially expected, such as having and voting for a leader, becomes more important than anything else.

3. The final revelation about human nature that is seen in this chapter is that as individuals we are always searching to be accepted. No one wants to be an outsider. We search to be a part of a group with such fervor that we will stop at nothing, including insulting and hurting others, to be included.
4. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BOYS' ENCOUNTER WITH THE WILD PIGLET?

The initial interaction with the piglet is important for the reader because it reminds us of the age and innocence of the boys. We are shown that while they present themselves as mature and ready to thrive as a society on their own, they are in reality, just kids. Jack's hesitation to kill the piglet, and his reaction afterwards, foreshadow the development of his character. By vowing to kill the next pig he sees, and challenging all that question his readiness, Jack is presented for the first time as a violent, threatening character.
5. What do you think the "sound of the shell" and the conch itself might symbolize?

The sound of the shell and the conch symbolize authority and power. The sound calls to the boys and makes them organize into a group, whereas the conch itself gives the power to whoever holds it to speak.