

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lord of the Flies, Day 1



Key Paragraph - pg. 15

“Ralph looked through him. Here at last was the imagined but never fully realized place leaping into real life. Ralph’s lips parted in a delighted smile and Piggy, taking the smile to himself as a mark of recognition, laughed with pleasure.”

Write two narrative paragraphs about how Ralph feels being on the island, compared to how you would feel if you were in his position.

Consider the following:

- Why does Ralph seem to be happy about being on an island?
- Would he be this happy if there were adults on the island?
- Do you think you would react the same way? Why or why not?
- How would you react?
- Do you think that Ralph will always feel so happy to be on the island? What could go wrong?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 2



Key Paragraph - pg. 22

“The joy of voting was almost as pleasing as the conch. Jack started to protest but the clamor changed from the general wish for a chief to an election by acclaim of Ralph himself. None of the boys could have found good reason for this; what intelligence had been shown was traceable to Piggy, while the most obvious leader was Jack. But there was a stillness about Ralph as he sat that marked him out; there was his size, and attractive appearance; and most obscurely, yet most powerfully, there was the conch. The being that had blown that, had sat waiting for them on the platform with the delicate thing balanced on his knees, was set apart.”

Has there ever been a time where you have been excluded from a group the way that Piggy is being excluded? How did you feel? Why were you excluded? **Write two narrative paragraphs** comparing your experience with Piggy’s experience. Why was Piggy excluded from the group? What makes him different?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 3



Key Paragraph pg. 31

“The three boys rushed forward and Jack drew his knife again with a flourish. He raised his arm in the air. There came a pause, a hiatus, the pig continued to scream and the creepers to jerk, and the blade continued to flash at the end of a bony arm. The pause was only long enough for them to understand what an enormity the downward stroke would be. Then the piglet tore loose from the creepers and scurried into the undergrowth. They were left looking at each other and the place of terror.”

Write a narrative paragraph about why the boys elect Ralph as chief, and some of the things that could go wrong as a result of this election.

Consider the following:

- What gives Ralph his authority among the other boys?
- Why do they elect him as their leader, even though they don't really know him or his ability to lead?
- Why do you think Ralph will be a good leader?
- Describe what makes a good leader?
- Are there examples of good leaders in your life? If so, who are they?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Lord of the Flies, Day 4



Key Paragraph - pg. 39-40

“Together, joined in an effort by the burden, they staggered up the last steep of the mountain. Together, they chanted One! Two! Three! And crashed the log on to the great pile. Then they stepped back, laughing with triumphant pleasure, so that immediately Ralph had to stand on his head. Below them, boys were still laboring, though some of the small ones had lost interest and were searching this forest for fruit. Now the twins, with unsuspected intelligence, came up the mountain with armfuls of dried leaves and dumped them against the pile. One by one, as they sensed that the pile was complete, the boys stopped going back for more and stood, with the pink, shattered top of the mountain around them. Breath came evenly by now, and sweat dried.

Ralph and Jack looked at each other while society paused around them. The shameful knowledge grew in them and they did not know how to begin confession.”

Write two narrative paragraphs about the kind of society on the island and how it compares to our society in the United States today.

Consider the following:

- What makes a society?
- What kind of society are the boys creating on the island?
- What kind of society do we live in?
- What kind of society do you think would be most effective for survival?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 5



Key Paragraph pg. 53

“ ‘If you’re hunting sometimes you catch yourself feeling as if—’ He flushed suddenly. ‘There’s nothing in it of course. Just a feeling. But you can feel as if you’re not hunting, but—being hunted, as if something’s behind you all the time in the jungle.’ ”

Write a narrative paragraph describing why you think the boys should take their situation more seriously if they want to be rescued? Describe why they too dependent on the idea that they will be rescued. Explain the significant danger of being stranded on an island and the importance of being rescued.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
***Lord of the Flies*, Day 6**



Key Paragraph - pg. 58

“The first rhythm that they became used to was the slow swing from dawn to quick dusk. They accepted the pleasures of morning, the bright sun, the whelming sea and sweet air, as a time when play was good and life so full that hope was not necessary and therefore forgotten. Toward noon, as the floods of light fell more nearly to the perpendicular, the stark colors of the morning were smoothed in pearl and opalescence; and the heat—as though the impending sun’s height gave it momentum—became a blow that they ducked, running to the shade and lying there, perhaps even sleeping.”

Write a narrative paragraph about the boys on the island.

Consider the following:

- Do you think they should be more focused on their survival, or is it okay that they just want to hunt and have fun?
- Do you think their rescue is inevitable?
- Is Piggy useless or is he the only one who really seems to care about rescue and survival?
- Is Piggy too serious about their situation, or is he right to be worried about rescue and survival?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 7



Key Paragraph - pg. 70

“He noticed Ralph’s scarred nakedness, and the somber silence of all four of them. He sought, charitable in his happiness, to include them in the thing that had happened. His mind was crowded with memories; memories of the knowledge that had come to them when they closed in on the struggling pig, knowledge that they had outwitted a living thing, imposed their will upon it, taken away its life like a long satisfying drink.”

Write a narrative paragraph about Jack’s hunt of the pig.

Consider the following:

- Why is killing the pig so satisfying for Jack?
- Why does he enjoy taking the life of another creature?
- What clues show us that Jack might be changing?
- How is this hunt different from the first hunt when Jack hesitates?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 8



Key Paragraph pg. 76

“Ralph chose the firm strip as a path because he needed to think, and only here could he allow his feet to move without having to watch them. Suddenly, pacing by the water, he was overcome with astonishment. He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one’s waking life was spent watching one’s feet.”

Write a narrative paragraph explaining the boys’ fear of the beast.

Consider the following:

- Why is the idea of the beast so frightening to the boys if they don’t know if it really exists?
- Do you think they are afraid of the beast because they can’t see it?
- Do you think the idea of the beast is scarier than the beast itself?
- Why is the beast such an important issue for the boys on the island?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 9



Key Paragraph - pg. 92

“Ralph answered in the cautious voice of one who rehearses a theorem.

‘If I blow the conch and they don’t come back; then we’ve had it. We shan’t keep the fire going. We’ll be like animals. We’ll never be rescued.’

‘If you don’t blow, we’ll soon be animals anyway. I can’t see what they’re doing but I can hear.’”

Write three narrative paragraphs about Ralph as a leader and the characteristics of a responsible chief.

Consider the following:

- Do you think Ralph should have decided to give up being chief?
- Do you think that would be helpful to the boys?
- Who do you think would become the leader? Why?
- Would that person be a better leader than Ralph? Why?
- Would Piggy be a good replacement? Why or why not?
- Would Jack be a good replacement? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 10



Key Paragraph pg. 98

“Ralph was dreaming. He had fallen asleep after what seemed hours of tossing and turning noisily among the dry leaves. Even the sounds of nightmare from the other shelters no longer reached him, for he was back to where he came from, feeding the ponies with sugar over the garden wall. Then someone was shaking his arm, telling him that it was time for tea.”

Write a 2-3 narrative paragraphs about the struggles and battles that are presented in this book.

Consider the following:

- What role does war play in this novel?
- Do the boys seem to be concerned with the war that is going on in the world?
- Is there a war going on among the boys on the island? If so, what is that war about?
- Are there struggles between characters and the morals of those characters?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 11



Key Paragraph pg. 107

“The others, waiting in the grass, saw Jack and Ralph unharmed and broke cover into the sunlight. They forgot the beast in the excitement of exploration. They swarmed across the bridge and soon were climbing and shouting. Ralph stood now, one hand against an enormous red block, a block large as a mill wheel that had been split off and hung, tottering. Somberly he watched the mountain. He clenched his fist and beat hammer-wise on the red wall at his right. His lips were tightly compressed and his eyes yearned beneath the fringe of hair.”

Write a 2-3 narrative paragraph about how the boys incorporate or reject things from their old lives.

Consider the following:

- How do habit, custom, and tradition from their old lives affect the boys on the island?
- Are they trying to hold on to things from the past, or are they trying to reject things from the past? Why or why not?
- Do you think that keeping things like rules and order will benefit the boys, or will they be better off if they abandon such things? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 12



Key Paragraph pg. 122

“Now that his physical voice was silent, the inner voice of reason, and other voices too, made themselves heard. Piggy was calling him a kid. Another voice told him not to be a fool; and the darkness and desperate enterprise gave the night a kind of dentist’s chair unreality.”

Write a narrative paragraph about the conscious thoughts or as the author calls the inner voice of reason

Consider the following:

- What is the inner voice of reason that they talk about?
- Does everybody have an inner voice of reason that tells them the difference between right and wrong?
- Does the voice fade or change as the boys spend more time on the island? How?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 13



Key Paragraph - pg. 129

“The greatest ideas are the simplest. Now that there was something to be done they worked with passion. Piggy was so full of delight and expanding liberty in Jack’s departure, so full of pride in his contribution to the good of society, that he helped to fetch wood.”

The island seems to provide the boys with everything that they need, but also completely terrifies them. What causes this? Write a narrative paragraph about the role of the island in the novel.

Consider the following:

- How does the island change at night?
- What bring these changes - the darkness, the boys’ imagination, or both?
- Does the island make the boys more savage, or do they do that themselves?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 14



Key Paragraph - pg. 139

“‘I’m scared.’

He saw Piggy look up; and blundered on.

‘Not of the beast. I mean I’m scared of that too. But nobody else understands about the fire. If someone threw you a rope when you were drowning. If a doctor said take this because if you don’t take it you’ll die—you would, wouldn’t you? I mean?’”

Write a narrative paragraph about Jack’s transformation.

Consider the following:

- Why does Jack feel safe from shame behind the paint?
- Why does Jack feel as though he can hide behind the paint, even though everyone still knows that it’s he?
- How does wearing the paint change Jack?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
***Lord of the Flies*, Day 15**



Key Paragraph - pg. 149-150

“His tone conveyed a warning, given out of the pride of ownership, and the boys ate faster while there was still time. Seeing there was no immediate likelihood of a pause, Jack rose from the log that was his throne and sauntered to the edge of the grass. He looked down from behind his paint at Ralph and Piggy. They moved a little farther off over the sand and Ralph watched the fire as he ate. He noticed, without understanding, how the flames were visible now against the dull light. Evening was come, not with calm beauty but with the threat of violence.”

Write a narrative paragraph explaining whether or not evil lies in every human heart?

Consider the following:

- Do you think that all of the boys on the island are evil?
- Provide evidence from the text that proves that there is evil in every human heart?
- Explain whether or not there are any exceptions to this evil?
- Are you permanently an evil person, if you do an evil thing?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 16



Key Paragraph - pg. 163

“He held out his hand and twisted the fingers into a fist.

‘There’s only one thing we can do to get out of this mess. Anyone can play at hunting, anyone can get us meat—’

He looked from face to face. Then, at the moment of greatest passion and conviction, that curtain flapped in his head and he forgot what he had been driving at. He knelt there, his fist clenched, gazing solemnly from one to the other. Then the curtain whisked back.”

Write a paragraph explaining the consequences and problems with irresponsible authority.

Consider the following:

- What does Ralph mean when he talks about irresponsible authority?
- Who is Ralph talking about?
- What makes a leader irresponsible?
- Are there any examples from your own life of someone who uses authority in an irresponsible way?
- Is that an abuse of power? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 17



Key Paragraph - pg. 170

“Just an ordinary fire. You’d think we could do that, wouldn’t you? Just a smoke signal so we can be rescued. Are we savages or what? Only now there’s no signal going up. Ships may be passing. Do you remember how he went hunting and the fire went out and a ship passed by? And they all think he’s best as chief. Then there was, there was...that’s his fault too. If it hadn’t been for him it would never have happened. Now Piggy can’t see, and they came, stealing’—Ralph’s voice ran up---‘at night, in darkness, and stole our fire. They stole it. We’d have given them fire if they’d asked. But they stole it and the signal’s out and we can’t ever be rescued. Don’t you see what I mean? We’d have given them fire for themselves only they stole it. I—”

Write 2-3 narrative paragraphs about how the boys are making decisions on the island.

Consider the following:

- Do you think Jack has the same ideas of right and wrong as Piggy?
- How do Jack’s morals and ethics differ from the morals and ethics of Piggy and Ralph?
- Has Jack lost his sense of what is right and wrong? How do you know?
- Have you ever had an experience where you must choose between doing something right and doing something wrong?
- What choice did you make? Was it the right choice?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 18



Key Paragraph - pg. 180

“Now Jack was yelling too and Ralph could no longer make himself heard. Jack had backed right against the tribe and they were a solid mass of menace that bristled with spears. The intention of a charge was forming among them; they were working up to it and the neck would be swept clear. Ralph stood facing them, a little to one side, his spear ready. By him stood Piggy still holding out the talisman, the fragile, shining beauty of the shell. The storm of sound beat at them, an incantation of hatred. High overhead, Roger, with a sense of delirious abandonment leaned all of his weight on the lever.”

Write a narrative paragraph about morals and ethics in relation to the actions of the boys on the island.

Consider the following:

- Why is Jack so insulted when Ralph calls him a thief? Why does this hurt Jack?
- Jack doesn't seem to care about being involved in Simon's murder, but he is insulted by being called a thief. What could be the cause of this?
- Does Jack still feel some connection to the morals and ethics of his old life, even though he has become more savage?
- Why does Jack care what Ralph says at all? Is this threatening to Jack's power?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Lord of the Flies, Day 19



Key Paragraph - pg. 186

“Ralph moaned faintly. Tired though he was, he could not relax and fall into a well of sleep for fear of the tribe. Might it not be possible to walk boldly into the forest, say—‘I’ve got pax,’ laugh lightly, and sleep among the others? Pretend they were still boys, schoolboys who had said, ‘Sir, yes, sir’—and worn caps? Daylight might have answered yes; but darkness and the horrors of death said no. Lying there in the darkness, he knew he was an outcast.”

Write three narrative paragraphs about the dangers in following a leader without thinking for yourself.

Consider the following:

- Why don’t any of the other boys think it was wrong for Jack to steal and kill?
- Why do they follow Jack blindly? What is dangerous about this?
- Why is it dangerous that the boys don’t seem to think for themselves?
- Have you ever done something just because someone else told you to without even thinking about whether what you were doing was right or wrong?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
***Lord of the Flies*, Day 20**



Key Paragraph - pg. 202

“Ralph looked at him dumbly. For a moment he had a fleeting picture of the strange glamour that had once invested the beaches. But the island was scorched up like dead wood—Simon was dead—and Jack had... The tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. His voice rose under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that emotion, the other little boys began to shake and sob too. And in the middle of them, with filthy body, matted hair, and unwiped nose, Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.”

Write 2-3 narrative paragraphs about what will happen to the boys after they go home.

Consider the following:

- What do you think will happen to the boys when they return to their old lives?
- Will they just forget about what happened on the island?
- Do you think they will be permanently changed because of what happened?
- Do you think Jack will realize that what he did was wrong?
- Do you think any of the boys should be punished for what happened to Simon and Piggy? Why or why not?
- Is there anything that justifies the actions of Jack and his savage tribe?