

## Lord of the Flies Book Summary

### Introduction

Lord of the Flies by William Golding is a novel about a group of boys stranded on an island with no adult supervision. At first, the situation feels like an adventure, but it slowly turns into something much darker. The story explores how people behave when rules and authority disappear.

### Book Summary

The novel begins with a plane crash that leaves a group of British schoolboys alone on a remote island. With no adults around, the boys decide to organize themselves. Ralph is chosen as their leader, mainly because he appears confident and calm. Piggy, who is physically weak but intelligent, supports him with practical ideas.

Ralph tries to build a structured society. He introduces rules, calls meetings using a conch shell, and insists on keeping a signal fire burning so they can be rescued. For a while, the boys cooperate, but their attention quickly shifts.

Jack, who leads a group of choir boys, becomes more interested in hunting than survival planning. His focus on killing pigs gives him a sense of power. Over time, his desire for control grows stronger, and he begins to challenge Ralph's authority.

Fear becomes a major turning point in the story. Some of the younger boys start talking about a "beast" on the island. Although there is no real creature, the idea spreads quickly and affects everyone. Jack uses this fear to gain influence, offering protection and strength instead of rules and order.

As the boys spend more time on the island, their behavior changes. They stop following rules, paint their faces, and act more aggressively. The group splits into two, with Jack forming his own tribe that values hunting and dominance over rescue.

Simon, one of the more thoughtful boys, realizes that the "beast" is not real. He discovers that it is actually a dead parachutist. However, when he tries to tell the others, they are caught up in a moment of fear and violence and kill him without realizing what they are doing.

Piggy's death comes soon after. During a confrontation, Roger, one of Jack's followers, pushes a large rock that kills Piggy instantly. At the same time, the conch shell is destroyed, marking the end of any remaining order.

In the final part of the story, Ralph is left alone and becomes the target of Jack's tribe. They hunt him across the island, setting it on fire in the process. Just as Ralph is about to be caught, a naval officer arrives and rescues the boys. The officer is surprised by what he sees, and Ralph breaks down, overwhelmed by everything that has happened.

## Main Characters

Ralph represents leadership and the idea of maintaining order. He believes in rules and long-term survival.

Jack represents the opposite. He is driven by power and instinct, and he gradually becomes more violent.

Piggy stands for intelligence and reason. He often has the right ideas but is ignored because of his appearance.

Simon represents kindness and moral understanding. He is the only one who truly grasps the nature of the “beast.”

Roger shows how cruelty can grow when there are no consequences.

## Themes

One of the central ideas in the novel is the conflict between civilization and savagery. At the beginning, the boys try to create a structured society, but this slowly breaks down as fear and desire for power take over.

Another important theme is the loss of innocence. The boys start as ordinary children but change into something much more violent and unpredictable.

The novel also explores fear, showing how it can spread quickly and lead to poor decisions. The “beast” is never real, but the belief in it causes real harm.

Power is another key idea. Jack’s rise to control shows how easily leadership can turn into domination when people act on impulse instead of reason.

## Ending Explained

The ending of Lord of the Flies brings the story back to the outside world, but it does not offer a simple sense of relief. Ralph’s rescue comes at the last possible moment, highlighting how close the boys were to complete destruction.

The arrival of the naval officer represents a return to order, but it also creates a contrast. While the boys’ behavior seems shocking, the world outside the island is still involved in war. This suggests that the same capacity for violence exists everywhere, not just on the island.

Ralph’s emotional breakdown at the end reflects his understanding of what has been lost, including innocence, friendship, and any sense of safety.

## Conclusion

Lord of the Flies is not just a story about survival. It is a study of human behavior under pressure. Through a simple situation, William Golding shows how quickly order can collapse and how easily people can turn against each other when fear and power take control.