

# *Lord of the Flies* – Huts on the Beach

## 1. Characters

### Ralph

Ralph tries to build shelters on the beach. He attempts to maintain a civilised society. The collapse of a hut shows how difficult it is to maintain civilisation. In addition to the heavy workload, Ralph and Simon are left alone by all the other boys who are reluctant to help them and prefer bathing, playing and eating.

When Jack arrives, they argue about what is more important: building shelters or hunting pigs: “the antagonism was audible.” (65) Ralph gives two reasons for building huts: they serve as protection against the rain and as homes, especially because of the littluns’ fear of a beast. However, the two boys begin to differ on their views of what is more important. There is a widening gap between the two boys: “They walked along, two continents of experience and feeling, unable to communicate [...] They looked at each other, baffled in love and hate.” (70)

### Jack

Jack practises hunting techniques. First he is compared to “a sprinter” (61) then to a dog: “dog-like [...] on all fours.” (61) Gradually, his movements change from those of a civilised boy into those of a hunter. Suddenly he is startled by “a harsh cry that seemed to come out of the abyss of ages.” (62) This refers to the gap between modern world and past ages, when primitive man had to hunt in order to survive.

Jack has an “opaque, mad look” (67) in his eyes. The “promise of meat” (63) has turned him into a fierce hunter. He forgets about their present situation and wants to “catch a pig first” (67) before thinks about their rescue.

When talking about the littluns’ fear of a beast, Jack describes his own anxiety when hunting in the jungle: “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.” (67) He plans to paint his face (camouflage) in order to be invisible to the pigs.

### Simon

Simon first follows Ralph and Jack but then walks into the forest. He is described as a “small, skinny boy, his chin pointed, and his eyes so bright they had deceived Ralph into thinking him delightfully gay and wicked.” (70) As he walks into the forest, the littluns follow him and Simon “found for them the fruit they could not reach, pulled off the choicest from up in the foliage, passed them back down to the endless, outstretched hands.” (71) His is the only one to help Ralph and now again his charity is shown. This image and others surrounding Simon often parallel Bible stories of Christ. Simon helps his fellow humans. The name ‘Simon’ is clearly related to the Bible as two of the twelve apostles are called Simon. The Hebrew name means “he who hears”.

Simon then retreats into the jungle like a hermit: “he was utterly alone.” (72) In the jungle he is surrounded by “pale flowers” (71), the “dark canopy” (71), the dark air, creepers “like the rigging of foundered ships” (71) and “dark aromatic bushes.” (71) All that moves in the hot air is “a pair of gaudy butterflies.” (72) Butterflies only live for a short time and are very delicate. As a symbol they anticipate or parallel the boys’ life on the island.

Finally, “darkness poured out” (72) as the day draws to a close. The beautiful description of the foliage as night falls serves to portray Simon at one with the natural world.

## 2. Vocabulary: Hunting

trail (61)	a path through the countryside	(Trampel)Pfad
hoof ( <i>pl.</i> hoofs or hooves) (61)	the hard part of the foot of some animals, for example horses	Huf
trace (61)	a mark, an object or a sign that shows that sb/sth existed or was present	Spur
to steal (forward) (61)	to move secretly and quietly so that other people do not notice you	(vorwärts) schleichen
to bolt (62)	if an animal, especially a horse, bolts, it suddenly runs away because it is frightened	durchgehen
abyss (62)	a very deep wide space or hole that seems to have no bottom	Abgrund
furtive (62)	behaving in a way that shows that you want to keep sth secret and do not want to be noticed	verstohlen
spear (62)	a weapon with a long wooden handle and a sharp metal point used for fighting, hunting and fishing in the past	Speer
to sneak (62)	to go somewhere secretly, trying to avoid being seen	heranschleichen
meat (63)	the flesh of an animal or a bird eaten as food	Fleisch
to track down (65)	to find sb/sth after searching in several different places	ausfindig machen
to wound (65)	to injure part of the body, especially by making a hole in the skin using a weapon	verwunden
barb (62)	the point of an arrow or a hook that is curved backwards to make it difficult to pull out	Speerspitze mit Widerhaken
fierce (66)	(especially of people or animals) angry and aggressive in a way that is frightening	wild, kämpferisch
to dash (67)	to throw sth or make sth fall violently onto a hard surface	schleudern (Speer)
opaque (67)	(of glass, liquid, etc.) not clear enough to see through or allow light through	undurchsichtig
rapt (68)	so interested in one particular thing that you are not aware of anything else	gespannt, atemlos
camouflage ("paint our faces", 68)	a way of hiding soldiers and military equipment, using paint, leaves or nets, so that they look like part of their surroundings	Tarnung, Schutzfärbung
to buzz off (69)	to go away ( <i>colloquial</i> )	abhauen