

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: In *Lord of the Flies*, Chapter 4, the boys continue to adjust to their life on the island, transitioning from carefree mornings to the harsh heat of the afternoon. The littluns, as they are called, are slowly becoming accustomed to their new existence, but they are still struggling with their deep-seated fears, particularly the terrifying idea of the dark. Although some of the younger boys engage in games to pass the time, others, like Percival, start withdrawing from the group, showing signs of emotional distress and confusion. The overwhelming feeling of discomfort in their environment, coupled with the constant anxiety about their safety, forces the littluns to face a harsh reality about survival that they are not yet emotionally ready to accept.

As the day wears on, the boys' personalities and characteristics become more evident. Henry, Johnny, and Roger engage in a game near the beach, but the tension is palpable, especially with Roger. His early signs of malicious intent become more noticeable when he intentionally destroys the littluns' sandcastles, an act of cruelty that hints at his darker side. Henry briefly experiences a fleeting sense of power over small sea creatures, but Roger, in contrast, seems to take pleasure in causing harm, foreshadowing the violence that will unfold. This juxtaposition between Henry's momentary joy and Roger's growing malice underscores the complex and troubling nature of their interactions, marking the beginning of the shift from innocent play to the darker instincts emerging in the boys.

At the same time, Jack's obsession with hunting continues to grow as he takes a significant step in embracing his primal instincts. The act of painting his face with clay and charcoal is a symbolic moment, signifying his rejection of civilization and his desire to give in to the wild, untamed part of himself. Jack's transformation into a more savage figure is marked by the exhilaration he feels after donning the face paint, which enables him to abandon societal constraints and dive deeper into his primal

desires. This newfound identity gives Jack a sense of liberation and power that continues to distance him from Ralph's ideals of rescue and civilization. Jack's face painting signifies a deeper psychological shift, one that marks his embrace of chaos and disorder, moving further away from the hope of being rescued and rejoining the world of society.

Meanwhile, Ralph continues to struggle with the challenge of maintaining the fire, a vital symbol of hope for their rescue and a tether to civilization. His constant attempts to keep the fire burning reflect his belief that this connection to civilization is their only chance of survival. However, his efforts are constantly undermined by Jack and his followers, who are increasingly consumed by the thrill of the hunt and the promise of power that it brings. This division between Ralph's desire for order and Jack's descent into savagery reaches its peak when Ralph confronts Jack about the fire going out during their hunt. This confrontation highlights the deepening rift between the two boys, as Ralph insists on the importance of the fire and rescue, while Jack dismisses these concerns in favor of hunting and the intoxicating power it brings.

The conflict between the two boys exemplifies the broader theme of the struggle between civilization and savagery, as the boys are forced to choose between these two opposing forces. Ralph's insistence on maintaining order and hope for rescue is constantly challenged by Jack's obsession with power and dominance through hunting. This tension escalates as Jack becomes more defiant, rejecting the rules and the authority of the conch, the symbol of order that Ralph holds dear. The boys' descent into savagery becomes more pronounced, and the group begins to fracture as their priorities shift, illustrating the fragility of civilization when the boys' inherent fear and primal instincts take over.

Ultimately, this chapter captures the growing divide between the boys and the shift in their identities as they adapt to life on the island. The innocence of the early days is gradually replaced by a deeper, darker side of human nature, which emerges as the boys' fears, desires, and impulses begin to shape their actions. The chapter highlights the fragility of social structures and how easily they can be disrupted in the face of

fear, hunger, and the lure of power. The growing divide between Ralph and Jack represents the larger struggle between civilization and savagery, a theme that will continue to dominate the narrative as the boys are forced to confront the darkness within themselves. The boys' increasing detachment from the rules of society signals the unraveling of their moral compass and the descent into chaos that will ultimately consume them.