

Lord of the Flies

William Golding

Quote	Technique	Effect
“The shore was fledged with palm trees. These stood or leaned or reclined against the light and their green feathers were a hundred feet up in the air. The ground beneath them was a bank covered with coarse grass, torn everywhere by upheavals of fallen trees, scattered with decaying coconuts and palm saplings. Behind this was the darkness of the forest and the open space of the scar” - p. 14	Imagery	This reveals the natural beauty of the island and the vast landscape which appears to have remained relatively ‘untouched’ by humanity.
“Now the shell was no longer a thing seen but not to be touched, Ralph too became excited” - p. 22	Symbolism	The conch is symbolic of power and control and the fact that Ralph ‘became excited’ reflects the overwhelming sway this object can have on an individual.
Jack Merridew speaking to Piggy, “Shut up fatty” - p. 28	Harsh language, derogatory language	By Jack Merridew speaking harshly to Piggy and referring to him as ‘fatty’, this gives an insight into the cruel nature that will be seen later on in Jack (when he becomes the ‘second chief’)
“Oh, Piggy!” A storm of laughter arose and even the tiniest child joined in. For the moment the boys were a closed circuit of sympathy with Piggy outside: he went very pink, bowed his head and cleaned his glasses again” - p. 29	Exclamatory, characterisation	The use of exclamatory in ‘Oh, Piggy!’ reveals how the children find this reference to Piggy as extremely humorous. Further, the characterisation of Piggy, reiterates how he is an awkward, fumbling, embarrassing and slightly sorry character.
“I ought to be chief” said Jack with simple arrogance, “because I’m chapter chorister and head boy” - p. 29	Absolute language.	Jack’s utilisation of absolute language outlines how he is not only hungry for power, but also extremely self-assured and confident.
“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” - p. 30	Characterisation	This depiction of Ralph highlights how he is a calm, sensible and suitable leader.
“Ralph peered into the darkness under the trees. The forest minutely vibrated” - p. 35	Personification	Through personifying the forest, this communicates the immense power and force it has. It is not simply just an ecosystem but it

		seems as though the forest has a life of its own.
“They were in the beginnings of the thick forest, plonking with weary feet on a track, when they heard noises - squeaking - and the hard strike of hoofs on a path” - p. 40	Sensory imagery	The use of sensory imagery again expresses how the island itself is a living entity that is filled with many mysteries and nuances.
“This is our island. It’s a good island. Until the grown ups come to fetch us we’ll have fun” - p. 45	Irony, possessive pronouns	The possessive pronouns such as “our” island, highlights how the boys consider that they own the island and therefore will be in charge of running the island and the people within it too. This sentence however is ironic, as it is not a good island and most of the boys don’t have fun, but it is an island of destruction, that reflects the true darkness of humanity.
“Ralph waved the conch. “Shut up! Wait! Listen!” He went on in the silence, borne on his triumph” - p. 49	Tautology, exclamatory	The use of tautology (repetition) in Ralph’s commentary, reflects how he seeks to control and lead the boys on the island, whilst the exclamatory shows how passionate he is about establishing order.
“You can feel as if you’re not hunting - but being hunted; as if something’s behind you all the time in the jungle” - p. 67	Symbolism	This is symbolic of how the boys eventually end up ‘hunting’ each other and are being ‘hunted’ and unravelled by their own sinful nature.
“The undoubted littluns, those aged about six, led quite a distinct and at the same time intense, life of their own. They ate most of the day, picking fruit where they could reach it and not particular about ripeness and quality. They were now used to stomach-aches and a sort of chronic diarrhoea. They suffered from untold terror in the dark and huddled together for comfort” - p. 74	Characterisation	This characterisation of the ‘littluns’ references how they are often weak and need to be looked after, due to their feeble nature.
“Piggy was a bore; his fat, his ass-mar and his matter of fact ideas were dull: but there was always a little pleasure to be got out of pulling his leg, even if one did it by accident” - p. 81	Characterisation	Again, this description of Piggy reiterates how he is an unfortunate character that the other boys enjoy tormenting.
“Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood”- p. 86	Symbolism	This is symbolic not of the boy’s need to survive, but this chant more deeply reflects their cruelty, brutality and enjoyment in these tasks.

“Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Bash her in” - p. 94	Motif	This chant eventually becomes a recurring motif that the boys say more and more as they become increasingly cruel and ‘undone’.
“Look at us! How many are we? And yet we can’t keep a fire going to make smoke” - p. 101	Exclamatory, rhetorical questioning	The use of exclamatory and rhetorical question, demonstrates Ralph’s increasing frustration at the lack of control and order
“Now I say this and make it a rule, because I’m chief” - p. 101	Absolute language and first person	The use of first person language, coupled with absolute language is symbolic of Ralph’s fervent attempts to maintain power and establish rule.
“The thing is - fear can’t hurt you any more than a dream. There aren’t any beasts to be afraid of on this island” - p. 103	Irony	This is ironic because the audience knows that the boys should be fearful of what is about to ensue and the fact that the boys themselves will morph into beasts.
“The world, that understandable and lawful world, was slipping away” - p. 113	Positive connotation in words ‘understandable’ and lawful	The use of positive connotations, highlights how uncivilised and barbaric the island is becoming. It also establishes how Ralph is quite homesick.
“What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?” - p. 113	Rhetorical questioning, symbolism	Establishes how the boys are becoming less and less human and instead are slowly but surely morphing into animals and savages.
Ralph thinking of his home in the UK, “Everything was all right; everything was good-humoured and friendly” - p. 139	Reflective tone	Reflects his deep sense of longing for home and his dissatisfaction with the state of affairs on the island.
(When they pretend to kill Robert as if he is a pig) “The chant rose ritually, as the last moment of a dance or a hunt. “ <i>Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in</i> ” Ralph too was fighting to get near, to get a handful of that brown, vulnerable flesh. The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering” - p. 142	Motif	This motif, coupled with the scene of ‘pretending’ to kill Robert is telling of the boys decline in their sense of humanity.
Jack talking to the boys on the island, “Hands up,” said Jack strongly, whoever wants Ralph not to be chief? The silence continued, breathless and heavy and full of shame” - p. 157	Personification of silence	The personification of silence is two-fold. Firstly, it communicates how Jack is becoming the new chief. Secondly, it gives insight into how Ralph is embarrassed that he is no longer considered the only chief.
When Jack divides up the boys on the island,	Allusion to ‘Waiting	This is an allusion to Samuel Beckett’s

Ralph says, "There's no help. Piggy. Nothing to be done"	For Godot' and also short syntax	'Waiting For Godot' and draws on the similar themes of hopelessness and deterioration. The short syntax reiterates Ralph's loss of hope and his defeat.
"The fire's the most important thing. Without the fire we can't be rescued. I'd like to put on war-paint and be savage. But we must keep the fire burning" - p. 175	Fire is symbolic (of hope), tautology	The fire not going out is symbolic of the hope for humanity. The use of tautology, displays that by keeping the fire alive, the boys can have hope of being rescued.
Jack speaking to the boys, "Who'll join my tribe and have fun?" p. 186	Questioning, positive connotations in the word 'fun'	By Jack employing questioning, this makes the boys think about the prospects of joining his tribe. The positive connotation of the word 'fun' also outlines how Jack is trying to 'sell' the idea of his tribe to the boys.
"I'm frightened. Of us. I want to go home. O God I want to go home" - p. 194	Symbolism, repetition	Ralph's fear in this instance, is not just fear for never being rescued, but rather, fear of the capability of the boys on the island. The repetition of wanting to go home, also communicates his feelings of homesickness and dissatisfaction with how things have 'panned out' on the island.
"Then there was a vicious snarling in the mouth of the shelter and the plunge and thump of living things" - p. 205	Sensory imagery	The use of sensory imagery shows the sense of 'life' within the island and how it seems to have a life of its own.
"There were sounds coming from behind the Castle Rock. Listening carefully, detaching his mind from the swing of the sea, Ralph could make out a familiar rhythm. " <i>Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!</i> ". The tribe was dancing." - p. 209	Sensory, motif	The sensory imagery reveals the 'hyped' nature of the boys, whilst the motif again is reminiscent of their cruelty and increasing savageness.
"He staggered to his feet, tensed for more terrors, and looked up at a huge peaked cap. It was a white drill, epaulettes, a revolver, a row of gilt buttons down the front of a uniform. A naval officer stood on the sand, looking down at Ralph in wary astonishment" - p. 246	Biblical symbolism, characterisation and contrast	The biblical symbolism is evident in how the Officer is clothed in 'white', which is reflective of purity and a saviour. The contrast in characterisation between the officer and Ralph distinctly outlines how 'far from grace' the boys have fallen and their complete lack of civility and order.
"Fun and games," said the officer" - p. 246	Irony	This is ironic, because the audience indeed knows that life on the island for the boys was not 'fun and games' but actually destruction and chaos.

<p>The officer speaking to Ralph again, “I should have thought that a pack of British boys - you’re all British aren’t you? Would have been able to put up a better show than that” - p. 248</p>	<p>Repetition, convinced tone</p>	<p>The repetitive, convinced tone explores how the Officer believes that British people, particularly young British boys are far too civilised and upper class to engage in any ‘savage behaviour’. Of course, William Golding however, wants to highlight in his book that all humans are inherently poor in character and have the potential to do horrendous things, if not monitored.</p>
<p>“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” - p. 248</p>	<p>Emotive language</p>	<p>The use of emotive language encapsulates the shame and sense of disappointment Ralph feels as he comes to terms with acknowledging what really happened on the island.</p>