Lord Of The Flies

Close Reading On Reenacting The Hunt

Jack, recovering, could not bear to have this story told. He broke in quickly.

“We spread round. I crept, on hands and knees. The spears fell out because they hadn’t barbs on. The pig ran away and made an awful noise-“

“It turned back and ran into the circle, bleeding-“

All the boys were talking at once relieved and excited.

“We closed in-“

The first blow had paralyzed its hind quarters, so then the circle could close in and beat and beat-“

“I cut the pig’s throat-“

The twins, still sharing their identical grin, jumped up and ran round each other. Then the rest joined in, making pig-dying noises and shouting.

“One for his nob!”

“Give him a four penny one!”

Then Maurice pretended to be the pig and ran squealing into the center, and the hunters, circling still, pretended to beat him. As they danced, they sang.

“*Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Bash her in*.”

Ralph watched them, envious and resentful. Not till they flagged and the chant died away, did he speak.

“I’m calling an assembly.”

One by one, they halted, and stood watching him.

“With the conch. I’m calling a meeting even if we have to go on into the dark. Down on the platform. When I blow it. Now.”

He turned and walked off, down the mountain (68).

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| Concrete Detail | Commentary Questions | Student Answers |
| 1. “Jack recovering could not bear to have his story told” | Why do you think Jack “could not bear” for Roger to tell the story? |  |
| 2. Same | What does this tell us about Jack’s personality? |  |
| 3. “All the boys were talking at once, relieved and excited” | Why do you think all of the boys speak simultaneously? |  |
| 4. Same | What does the word “relieved” mean? |  |
| 5. Same | Why do you think the boys are both “relieved” and “excited”? |  |
| 6. “the rest joined in, making pig-dying noises and shouting” | Why do you think the boys make “pig-dying noises”? |  |
| 7. “Maurice pretended to be the pig and ran squealing into the center” | What do you think makes Maurice decide to play the part of the pig? |  |
| 8. “As they danced, they sang” | What image do you get when it says that “they danced, they sang”? Why? |  |
| 9. “Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Bash her in.” | How would you describe this song? |  |
| 10. “Ralph watched them, envious and resentful” | Why do you think Ralph is both “envious” and “resentful”? |  |
| 11. “I’m calling an assembly” | Why do you think he chooses this moment to call an assembly? |  |
| 12. “Down on the platform. When I blow it. Now” | How would you describe Ralph’s tone based on these short sentences? |  |
| 13. “He turned away and walked off, down the mountain” | How do you envision Ralph’s departure? What does it tell you about him? Why do you think he does it this way? |  |