*LORD OF THE FLIES*

CLOSE READING ON PIGGY’S DEATH

The rock stuck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee; the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist. Piggy, saying nothing, with no time for even a grunt, traveled through the air sideways from the rock, turning as he went. The rock bounded twice and was lost in the forest. Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea. His head opened and stuff came out and turned red. Piggy’s arms and legs twitched a bit, like a pig’s after it has been killed. Then the sea breathed again in a long, slow sigh, the water boiled white and pink over the rock; and when it went, sucking back again, the body of Piggy was gone (164-165).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Concrete Detail | Commentary Questions | Student Answers |
| 1. “the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments” | What is the connotation of “exploded”? Why is it a good word here? |  |
| 2. Same | What is the point of saying one thousand pieces? |  |
| 3. Same | What is the connotation of “fragments”? Why is it a good word here? |  |
| 4. “ceased to exist” | Why do you think it is important that the conch has “ceased to exist” at this point? |  |
| 5. “Piggy, saying nothing, with no time for even a grunt” | What have we learned about Piggy’s contributions to the group? What can we predict about the future knowing that he can no longer speak? |  |
| 6. Same | Why do you think the author chooses the word “grunt” here? |  |
| 7. “The rock bounded twice and was lost in the forest” | What is the point of telling the reader that the rock disappears? |  |
| 8. “His head opened and stuff came out” | Why do you think the author uses the word “stuff” to describe Piggy’s brains? |  |
| 9. “Piggy’s arms and legs twitched a bit, like a pig’s after it has been killed” | Why do you think the author compares Piggy to an animal? Why does he compare him to a pig specifically? |  |
| 10. “the sea breathed again in a long, slow sigh” | Why do you think the author personifies the sea? |  |
| 11. “the water boiled white and pink over the rock” | Why do you think the author says the sea is boiling? What image is he creating in your mind? |  |
| 12. Same | What is the point of describing the water as white and pink? |  |
| 13. “and when it went, sucking back again, the body of Piggy was gone” | Imagine the sea “sucking back again.” How would you feel if you watched this happen? |  |
| 14. Same | Why do you think the author says “the body of Piggy was gone” and not “Piggy was gone”? |  |
| 15. Reread the paragraph | The author describes Piggy’s death in detail, but he never says, “Piggy is dead” or “They killed Piggy.” Why not? |  |