

# CHAPTER SEVEN

In Chapter Seven of "Lord of the Flies," titled "Shadows and Tall Trees," Ralph follows Jack along the pig-run near the rocky coastline. The oppressive afternoon heat forces Ralph to confront his discomfort and dirtiness, prompting reflections about hygiene and the changes he has undergone since being on the island. As the boys eat bananas, Ralph observes their unkempt appearances, realizing he has normalized their filthy conditions. Looking out to sea, he feels a sense of isolation contrasted with memories of home.

Suddenly, Ralph is distracted by Simon, who offers a reassuring word about getting back home, despite Ralph's sarcasm over ships. The encounter leads to a shared moment where they both smile, signifying an alliance amidst growing tensions. Meanwhile, Jack is keen on hunting; they discover fresh pig droppings, and the group's hunt is fueled by fear and the thrill of the chase.

Jack becomes increasingly assertive, leading the group in search of meat, while Ralph reflects on previous childhood memories filled with warmth and comfort. However, the boys' carefree spirit soon morphs into chaos when they chase a wild boar. In an outburst of adrenaline, Ralph successfully strikes the pig, resulting in a mixture of pride and fear amongst the group, deepening the ethical dilemmas they face.

As the hunting game escalates, an impulsive bout of aggression results in Ralph and the others nearly injuring Robert during an imitation of pig hunting rituals. They become engrossed in this brutal play, illustrating the blurring lines between boys and savagery. Amidst the euphoria of the hunt, Ralph feels uneasy about their violent behavior but is swept up in the excitement.

When they finally acknowledge the quest for the beast to climb the mountain, debates arise on fear and responsibility. Jack's challenge to Ralph ignites a rivalry colored with bravado and contempt, leading them both to ascend the mountain in the enveloping darkness. Their hike reveals Ralph's internal conflict, balancing leadership against the creeping understanding of their dire situation and the beast they fear. The chapter concludes with a suspenseful encounter as Jack leads Ralph and Roger into the unknown, facing whatever lurks ahead in the shadows .