

CHAPTER TWO

In Chapter Two of "Lord of the Flies," titled "Fire on the Mountain," Ralph gathers the boys on the platform using the conch shell, which has become a symbol of order and authority. The setting contrasts with the morning meeting; the boys are more subdued in their sunburnt clothes. Ralph sits surrounded by his peers and feels uncertain about how to lead. Once he begins to speak, he becomes more confident, explaining their situation on the uninhabited island and the need for order.

Ralph stresses the lack of adults, asserting that they must take care of themselves. This is met with a mix of acceptance and chaos, leading Ralph to propose a system by which the boys can speak without interruption using the conch. Jack enthusiastically supports the idea of hunting for food, and they all share their excitement about the possibility of hunting pigs.

However, when a small boy reveals he has seen a "beastie" or "snake-thing," a shift occurs. Initially dismissed by Ralph, the fear of the unseen creature takes hold of the group, spurring debate and laughter before the larger boys attempt to calm the little one's fears. Jack takes charge, insisting that if there is a threat, they will hunt it while also planning to hunt pigs.

Ralph, aiming to maintain focus, states that they need a signal fire for rescue. Everyone gets excited, and Jack leads the charge up the mountain to gather wood, laying the groundwork for a fire. They struggle to light it until Ralph suggests using Piggy's glasses as a lens. The fire ignites dramatically, spreading rapidly and igniting the forest in a frenzy, causing the boys to cheer wildly.

However, amidst the exhilaration, Ralph realizes the fire is out of control. Chaos ensues as they recognize the fire is more disastrous than useful. The chapter concludes with Piggy anxiously pointing out the presence of the missing boy with a birthmark, heightening the tension as the boys grapple with both exhilaration over their new power and fear over the potential consequences of their recklessness. The innocence of childhood begins to clash with the darkness brought on by fear and chaos .