Chapter Four:

Painted Faces and Long Hair

**Summary:**

1. The littluns play on the beach but their play is disturbed by Roger and Maurice who destroy their sandcastles. Roger throws stones close to Henry.
2. Jack paints his face with clay and charcoal and goes hunting.
3. Ralph spies the smoke of a ship on the horizon.
4. He discovers the fire has gone out.
5. The hunters return with a dead pig.
6. Ralph is angry and Piggy backs him up. Jack smashes a lens in Piggy’s glasses.
7. Ralph, upset about the fire going out, calls a meeting.

**Why is this chapter important?**

A Roger’s **cruelty** comes to light.

B With the **successful hunt** – the first occasion where blood is spilt – we are allowed a glimpse into possible future events, when **human blood** is spilt.

C The chance of a **rescue** is lost and so the boys are given time to **descend into savagery**.

D In the hunters’ chant and re-enactment of the kill we see a **de-civilising** process emerging.

E Attitudes towards **Piggy** are further exposed, and Golding shows the **growing division** between Jack and Ralph.

**Attitudes towards Piggy:**

At the bathing pool, Ralph considers Piggy in a **negative** light, believing him to be ‘a bore’ (p68). At this point in the novel, Ralph thinks Piggy’s ideas are ‘dull’ (p68) and he smiles at the prospect of pulling Piggy’s leg. However, it is Ralph who, in the last chapter, **recognises Piggy’s value to the group.**

The others see **Piggy as ‘an outsider’** (p68). His **accent** is different, less middle-class than the other boys’. His size, his asthma and the fact that he wears glasses set him apart. He is of little help in hunting or building shelters, which **reinforces** the view that he is **different and useless**.

When Jack breaks his promise by letting the fire go out, he is unable to face up to failure. He realises that the possibility of rescue is far more important than hunting. He is **confronted** by Ralph and also **criticised** by Piggy, and he **lashes** **out** **at the easiest target** – Piggy – breaking a lens in his glasses.

When the boys cook and eat the pig, Piggy asks for meat but Jack points out that he is not entitled to any because he did not hunt. **Simon, feeling guilty** about not having hunted either, gives his meat to Piggy.

**The growing gap between Ralph and Jack:**

Jack is **determined** and **single-minded** in his pursuit of the pigs yet **proud** and **aggressive** in the incident involving Piggy. **He apologises for letting the fire go out but not, significantly, for breaking the glasses**.

Jack lashes out at Piggy partly because he is **embarrassed** about his mistake, but also because he feels **cornered**. The apology is a painful – and **unusual** – experience for him.

Ralph exhibits **real despair** at the passing of the ship, possibly because he is beginning to feel the **pressure** of his overall **responsibility** for the boys. He has been involved in work, building the shelters, and the idea that the island is fun is wearing off. He is also beginning to re-assess the **usefulness** of his fellow castaways.

**Violence and conflict:**

1. Roger and Maurice kick over the littluns’ sand castles. Maurice is still **civilised** enough to feel ‘the unease of wrong-doing’ and he leaves feeling **ashamed**.
2. Roger throws stones around a littlun, but he **doesn’t** try to hit him. He’s been **conditioned** by society not to hurt others – but his **excitement** shows that he wants to.
3. Jack paints a **mask** onto his face which turns him into an ‘awesome stranger’ – he’s ‘liberated from shame’ and could be **capable of anything.**

The boys are now used to life on the island but they’re not **happy or safe!** The heat is ‘a blow’ and they’re ‘menaced by the coming of dark’.

**Jack V Ralph:**

1. Jack feels **ashamed** about the fire – he takes his **frustration** out by hitting Piggy, breaking his glasses. It’s a sign that Piggy’s **logical** way of thinking is about to become less important.
2. Jack **apologises** for letting the fire go out, and hands out meat. Earning the boys **respect** and providing food for them helps him **take control**. It **foreshadows** the way he takes power later.
3. Ralph announces that he’s calling an assembly. He still **trusts the authority the conch gives him to enforce the old rules**.

***Things to think about for an A grade:***

1. *Do you think that the choice of* ***Piggy’s name*** *is significant? If you have the chance in the exam, get these small points across – it shows you understand* ***symbolism*** *and choices the writer is making.*
2. *Why is Jack so keen for meat on an island which is rich in fruit and shellfish?*
3. *Roger emerges as a* ***cruel*** *character during the course of the novel. Here his cruelty is portrayed for the first time as he destroys the three littluns’ sandcastles and kicks sand into Percival’s eye. What motive does he hand, if any?*

**Writing about the move away from civilisation:**

Notice how Jack uses **clay** as facial **camouflage**. When the hunters return, they chant in triumph – having killed a pig. They retell the story of the hunt and re-enact the kill.

Evidence of a gradual de-civilising process is emerging. The boys now display a **lack of cleanliness** when eating and their **personal hygiene** is deteriorating. The **three-syllable chanting and simplistic replay of the whole event is a move away from civilisation.**

When you write about this theme be aware of how the move away from civilisation becomes more obvious as the novel progresses.