Chapter Three:

Huts on the Beach

**Summary:**

1. Jack goes pig hunting – **unsuccessfully**.
2. Ralph shows his sense of **responsibility** by attempting to build shelters, but they are only partially successful due to lack of help from the rest of the boys apart from Simon.
3. Jack develops a **fascination** for hunting pigs.
4. Ralph and Jack have a difference of opinion; Jack’s **obsession** with hunting **irritates Ralph**, who is more concerned with the general well-being of the boys.
5. Ralph views Jack’s hunting as enjoyment.
6. Simon goes off into the forest on his **own**.

**Why is this chapter important?**

A Golding further develops Ralph’s character. We see how concerned Ralph is with **practical** matters – mainly keeping a fire burning and constructing shelter.

B We learn more about Simon.

C With virtually all the boys doing what they want, this **foreshadows** later events, when the boys **willingly** turn to **savagery**.

D We witness Jack’s growing **fascination** with hunting pigs – that he is willing to spill blood and he enjoys the **thrill of the hunt**.

E We see how some boys act on the **vows** made at the assembly, while others are **content to survive** day by day.

**Jack and Ralph: DIFFERENCES**

Jack and Ralph argue about their **different priorities**. Ralph thinks they should focus on building **shelters** to be a ‘home’ for the boys, and keeping the signal **fire** whereas Jack’s only interested in **killing** a pig.

Golding uses the **tension** between Ralph and Jack to **symbolise the tension between civilisation and barbarity in every person.**

The argument blows over – but only just. They can’t understand each other – they look at each other ‘baffled, in love and hate.’

Jack has to think before he remembers what rescue is – he’s beginning to **forget his old life**.

**Simon goes off on his own:**

1. Simon helps the littluns by picking fruit that’s too high for long time has just as Jack promised to. Unlike Jack, he **doesn’t** expect gratitude or obedience in return.
2. He finds a quiet spot in the forest and sits alone. The scene has a spiritual **atmosphere** – it suggests Simon is different from the others.
3. Simon wears ‘the remains of shorts’ and his ‘feet were bare’ - quite a long time has passed since the boys arrived.

*Jack goes off to hunt and kill, but* ***Simon is at one with nature and blends in with his surroundings.***

*Simon is helpful in building the shelters and finding food for the littluns, but he is also content sit alone in the forest. The younger boys follow him about, which seems to suggest that he is* ***popular*** *despite being thought of as* ***odd*** *by Ralph.*

*Simon is difficult to pin down. Although he helps with shelters, he also likes to be alone. At the end of the chapter, he has gone into the forest with ‘an air of purpose’.*

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

1. *Try to evaluate the part played by the hunters so far. Who do they see as leader? Notice how their allegiance to Jack develops as the story progresses.*
2. *Golding’s novel is partly a reaction to a Victorian book called* ***Coral Island*** *by R. M. Ballantyne. It was about a group of children who are marooned and get on really well together. Golding thought the story was unrealistic and that groups of children do not behave as the book depicts. Make sure you show the examiner that you understand this and explore how he goes about presenting this to us – what does he choose to show us about these children?*
3. *Think ‘outside the box’.* ***Is a fire essential for rescue or is Ralph as obsessed with keeping the fire going as Jack is with hunting pigs?***

**Writing about Piggy’s glasses:**

Piggy’s glasses expose the **break down of law and order**. They belong to Piggy, who needs them to see properly. Used with permission, they start the fires that are seen as **essential** both for rescue and for hygienically cooked food.

In later chapters, Jack **refuses to respect** Piggy’s right to the glasses – first **punching** him and breaking a lens, then **stealing** them to light fires. Jack is **challenging** Ralph’s style of leadership, which has kept things reasonable on the island.

Piggy’s glasses also represent the idea of **possession or ownership** – what belongs to whom. By using Piggy’s glasses to start the fire, **Jack replaces the rule of law with personal desire and need.**

Use this information as part of an answer if you are asked to write about **law and order** on the island.

***QUESTION:***

1. ***What are the hunters doing while Jack is still looking for pigs?***
2. ***What evidence is there that Jack is fully focused on hunting?***