1. Talk about the differences between the two main antagonists, Ralph and Jack. How are they different from one another, and what broad "types" of individuals do they represent?

2. In what way can Piggy with his eye glasses be seen as representing the rational, scientific aspects of society?

3. What role does the conch play? How does it represent a civilizing force?

4. What does the beast represent? How is it used by Jack to control the others? Are there parallels for "the beast" in the real world, the one outside of fiction?

5. What do the boys‟ attitudes and actions (e.g. Ralph‟s joy at being free of “grownups,” the vote for leader, Ralph‟s telling the other boys about Piggy‟s nickname) reveal about human nature?

6. Compare and contrast Ralph and Simon. Both seem to be “good” characters. Is there a difference in their goodness?

7. What do you feel Golding's vision of humanity is? Do you think he believes we born with an instinct for peace and cooperation...or for dominance and savagery? Does his vision accord with your own?

8. What do you think about the rules of civilization? Do they free us and enable us to rise to our best selves? Or do the rules constrain our bad nature that lie at the heart of ourselves?

9. What does hunting mean to Jack...at the beginning, and then later?