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Language and Literature

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Symbols in *Lord of the Flies* and Their Identities

The key symbols in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding have their own identities. These include the island and the conch shell. Ralph uses the conch shell as a way to grab everyone's attention. He uses it so people will take turns speaking and listen to everyone's thoughts. The island gives off a feeling of comfort at first. The characters create this home for themselves without seeing the danger that could come.

The conch shell brings unity to the island. Once it was shattered that unity was lost. The conch brings a set of rules in some ways. With the conch there is order and peace. Jack seems to disapprove of the conch towards the end of the book. The conch doesn't give him full power over the rest of the children.

The Island acts as an influence to the characters. They characters even question it on page 52 " 'As if it wasn't a good island.' ". This implies an evil coming from the island. The characters in *The Lord of the Flies* fear this unknown thing. Whether that is the beast the island or each other Fear is a big theme. The island gives this fear to them especially Jack. " '...as if you're not hunting, but---being hunted, ...' " (p. 53). The characters refer to it as a feeling. The island is all they had and even that is bringing fear and discomfort.

Overall, these symbols can create either fear or comfort. If that comfort shatters, like the conch, then fear will take over. Likewise, if your fear is drained you will feel comfortable and content.