

CLOSE READING—LORD OF THE FLIES—BAD TO THE BONE

Excerpt 1 - Chapter 4

Roger stooped, picked up a stone, and threw it at Henry—threw it to miss [...] Roger gathered a handful of stones and began to throw them. Yet there was a space round Henry, perhaps six yards in diameter, into which he dare not throw. Here, invisible yet strong, was the taboo of the old life. Round the squatting child was the protection of parents and school and policemen and the law. Roger's arm was conditioned by a civilization that knew nothing of him and was in ruins.

Excerpt 2 - Chapter 4

Jack planned his new face. He made one cheek and one eye-socket white, then he rubbed red over the other half of his face and slashed a black bar of charcoal across from right ear to left jaw. He looked in the pool for his reflection, but his breathing troubled the mirror.

“Samneric. Get me a coconut. An empty one.”

He knelt, holding the shell of water. A rounded patch of sunlight fell on his face and a brightness appeared in the depths of the water. He looked in astonishment, no longer at himself, but at an awesome stranger. He spilt the water and leapt to his feet, laughing excitedly. Beside the pool his sinewy body held up a mask that drew their eyes and appalled them. He began to dance and his laughter became a bloodthirsty snarling. He whispered toward Bill, and the mask was a thing on its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness. The face of red and white and black swung through the air and jiggled toward Bill.

Excerpt 3 - Chapter 5

“Maybe,” he said hesitantly, “maybe there is a beast.” The assembly cried out savagely and Ralph stood up in amazement.

“You, Simon? You believe in this?”

“I don't know,” said Simon. His heartbeats were choking him. “But [...]” The storm broke [...]

“What I mean is [...] maybe it's only us.”

“Nuts!” That was from Piggy, shocked out of decorum.

Simon went on. “We could be sort of [...]” Simon became inarticulate in his effort to express mankind's essential illness.

Source:

Golding, W., & Lowry, L. (2016). *Lord of the flies*. Penguin Books.