

## Entry 77: Symbol Paragraph

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| <b>Assertion Statement</b>  | Golding's description of ___( <i>insert symbol</i> )___ helps develops it as a symbol to reinforce the idea that ___( <i>insert opinion statement related to symbol's significance to ideas developed in novel</i> )_____.<br><br><i>See sample paragraph below for an example assertion.</i>   |
| <b>Paragraph Assignment</b> | Following the guidelines outlined in entry 24, use your assertion to write a thoughtful and organized paragraph.  |
| <b>Sample Paragraph</b>     | Golding's description of the <b>pig's head on a stick</b> helps develop it as a symbol to reinforce the idea that <b>fear prevents rational thought</b> . When Jack first offers the head of the sow to appease the beast and calm they boys' fears, Golding describes as life-like although it is dead: "The head remained there, dim-eyed, grinning faintly, blood blackening between the teeth" (137). In addition to presenting a frightening and creepy image, the "dim-eyed" gaze mirrors the imperfect vision paralyzing the boys. Their fear prevents them from looking more clearly about the facts of their situation. This image suggests that if the boys' vision wasn't obscured or dimmed, they would be acting more rationally. After the boys run away in fear from the pig's head, Simon has a mystical conversation with it. The head suggests, as Simon believes, that the beast is within the boys. Right before he falls unconscious "Simon found he was looking into a vast mouth. There was blackness within, a blackness that spread" (144). The use of the word blackness here, repeated twice in connection with this representation of the boys' fear, signals to readers that Simon, one of the more rational boys on the island, is losing his struggle to bring clarity and light to the boys. The idea that blackness grows from the pig's mouth and seems to swallow him whole shows readers that fear can spread and extinguish even those who are not afraid. Later in the story, Simon's attempt to enlighten the boys with the news that there is no beast on the mountaintop fails and results in the fear-frenzied boys murdering him. Fear plays a huge role in the irrational acts unfolding on the island, and Golding develops the pig's head as a symbol to support this idea through his careful choice of words. |