

Entry 83: Symbol Paragraph Number 3

Sample Paragraph	<p>Golding's repetition of the pig's head as a symbol in the story reinforces the idea that chaos overpowers order. He first includes the symbol as the boys attempt to control the chaos on the island. They offer the head of a sow they have killed to "the beast" so it will stop hunting them. This act does not calm their fears: "All at once, they were running away, as fast as they could, through the forest toward the open beach" (137). They believe that providing a gift for the beast will somehow protect them, which will allow them to find some order within the steadily increasing chaos. The fact that they run away in fear provides evidence that chaos is stronger than order. Giving this "gift" doesn't make them feel safer or reduce the chaos; if they believed it would protect them, they would not run when they realize the beast might come for the head. The first time the head appears, the boys who produce it run in fear. When this symbol reappears in the last chapter of the book, Ralph has taken on the role of running in fear. Ralph, who represents order, finds himself alone after Roger murders Piggy and destroys the conch. As he runs from Jack's group and comes upon the pig's head, he lashes out in fear and anger:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A sick fear and rage swept him. Fiercely he hit out at the filthy thing in front of him that bobbed like a toy and came back, still grinning in his face, so that he lashed out and cried in loathing. <...> The white skull lay in two pieces, its grin now six feet across. (185)</p> <p>When the skull breaks, it grows larger, rather than exploding out of existence like the conch. This suggests that fear and anger feed and strengthen chaos. The growth of the pig's head mirrors the savagery, murder, and terror that have grown from the boys' fear of the beast and Jack's anger at not being chosen as leader. The repetition of the symbol helps readers understand that the chaos of pig's head replaces the order of the conch, clearly demonstrating chaos's triumph over order.</p>
Assertion Statement	Golding's repetition of the _____ as a symbol in the story reinforces the idea that _____.
Paragraph Assignment	Following the guidelines outlined in entry 24, use your assertion to write a thoughtful and organized paragraph.