YEAR 9 ENGLISH · LORD OF THE FLIES

Chapter 9: A View to a Death

Feelings, frenzy and blame: how Golding shows the boys change.

Today’s outcomes

1 · DESCRIBE

How Ralph and Piggy feel visiting the feast

2 · EXPLAIN

How the boys change as they dance and chant

3 · EVALUATE

How Ralph and Piggy react to what happens to Simon and “the beast”

How you will know you have succeeded

All	Describe how Ralph and Piggy feel, with two pieces of evidence, and say what changes when the boys dance and chant.
Most	Explain how the boys’ behaviour and language change, using short quotations and naming a technique.
Some	Evaluate how far Ralph and Piggy are to blame, linking to Golding’s ideas about human nature.

STARTER · 5 MINUTES

Crowd or me?

Type one sentence in the chat: how do people behave differently in a crowd (a match, a concert, online) than when they are on their own?

Stuck? Try: “In a crowd, people…”

The story so far

The boys are afraid of a **beast** on the island.

Jack has broken away from Ralph and leads a hunting tribe.

Simon has found the truth about the “beast” on the mountain.

Chat: what do you think will happen when Simon tries to tell the others?

Key vocabulary

frenzy
wild, uncontrolled excitement

mob mentality
people following the crowd

ritual
a set of actions repeated together

savagery
cruel, violent behaviour

rationalise
find excuses for what you did

foreshadowing
hints of what will happen later

READ · 7 MINUTES

Three moments to read

1 · The feast

Ralph and Piggy decide to go, and arrive at the edge of Jack’s gathering.

2 · Dance and chant

The storm builds and the boys circle, chanting together.

3 · Simon’s death

A figure staggers out of the forest, and the circle turns on him.

While you listen, note one detail about how each boy feels or acts.

Quick check in the chat

1. Where do Ralph and Piggy go, and why?
2. What do the boys do as the storm builds?
3. Who do the boys think the figure is?

One short answer each. No wrong ideas yet.

TASK 1 · DESCRIBE · 10 MINUTES

How do Ralph and Piggy feel at the feast?

Feeling	Ralph	Piggy	Evidence
Nervous or anxious	…	…	…
Left out	…	…	…
Tempted to join in	…	…	…
Uneasy or afraid	…	…	…
Your own feeling	…	…	…

Tick the feelings you notice and add a short quotation or detail as evidence.

TASK 1 · WRITE TWO SENTENCES

Describe one character’s feelings

Support: *Ralph / Piggy feels ___ when ___. This is shown when…*

Core: *At the feast, Ralph seems ___ because ___. The detail “___” suggests that…*

Stretch: *Although Ralph / Piggy ___, he also ___, which shows a conflict between…*

Word bank: apprehensive, uneasy, isolated, torn, vulnerable, tempted, relieved, ashamed.

TASK 2 · EXPLAIN · 13 MINUTES

Track how the boys change

Moment	What the boys do or say	Technique	Effect on the reader
Start of the dance	…	…	…
The chant	…	…	…
The storm breaks	…	…	…
Simon appears	…	…	…

Techniques: repetition, rhythm, imperative verbs, verbs of violence, animal imagery, pathetic fallacy, symbolism, foreshadowing.

TASK 2 · EXPLAIN

How does Golding show the boys changing as they dance and chant?

Support: *At the start of the dance the boys ___, but by the end they ___. Golding shows this by…*

Core: *Golding uses [technique] to show the boys losing ___. The word "___" suggests that…*

Stretch: *The ritual removes individual identity, because ___. This links to Golding's idea that civilisation is…*

THINK AND DISCUSS

Why might moving and chanting together make people stop thinking for themselves?

Link back to our starter: crowd or me?

TASK 3 · EVALUATE · 13 MINUTES

Gather the evidence

What do Ralph and Piggy **do** and **think** as the dance builds, when the “beast” appears and when Simon dies?

Character	What they do or feel	Evidence
Ralph	…	…
Piggy	…	…

Find two pieces of evidence for each.

TASK 3 · PLACE THEM ON THE SCALE

How far are Ralph and Piggy to blame?

Completely to blame	Partly to blame	Understandable	Blameless

Place each character on the scale in the chat. Be ready to explain why.

Remember: weigh up more than one view.

WRITE · 8 MINUTES

How far are Ralph and Piggy to blame for what happens to Simon?

Support

Ralph and Piggy react by… This shows that they feel… I think they are / are not to blame because…

Core

Ralph reacts by ___, which suggests he is ___. Piggy, however, ___. On the one hand… on the other hand… Overall, I think…

Stretch

Golding presents their reaction as ___, which complicates the idea that only Jack's group are savage. Although it is understandable because ___, it is also…

Check your paragraph

I gave a clear judgement.

I used at least two pieces of evidence about Ralph and Piggy.

I explained why each reaction matters.

I weighed up more than one view.

Stretch: I linked my judgement to Golding’s ideas about human nature.

Tick each one yourself while the teacher gives feedback.

EXIT TICKET · 4 MINUTES

Finish these three sentences

1. At the feast, Ralph and Piggy feel… because…
2. As they dance and chant, the boys change from… to…
3. I think Ralph and Piggy are / are not to blame for Simon’s death because…

HOMEWORK · ABOUT 20 MINUTES

How does Golding present the dance and chant as a turning point for the boys?

Write one paragraph with **one short quotation** and **one technique**.

Stretch: link to the novel’s ideas about civilisation and savagery.