

Textual Questions

1. How did the boys who crash-landed on the island organize themselves?

William Golding's novel, *Lord of the flies* deals with the adaptation of a group of British school boys to new surroundings in an unknown coral island in the Pacific-Ocean. During the nuclear World War a passenger plane evacuating a number of children from different schools, was shot down by enemy planes. The pilot and the crew were killed but the passenger tube crash-landed safely on an island.

Thus the boys whose ages ranged between twelve and six found themselves on this coral island, cut off from the rest of the world and away from the influence and guidance of the grown-ups. The first boy to realize their peculiar position was Ralph, a fair haired boy of twelve. He was walking down from the rocks towards the lagoon when he heard the voice of someone calling him. Soon another boy, a shorter fat boy with thick spectacles, joined him. Later on he would be known as Piggy. Piggy was frightened at the prospect of a life without elders but Ralph was delighted at the thought of a realized ambition.

They found a beautiful pool on the beach and jumped in for a swim. Ralph spoke of his father who was a commander in the navy. He was quite sure that his father would come sooner or later to rescue them from this island. But Piggy pointed out that the pilot, the crew and perhaps even the people at the airport might have been destroyed in the nuclear attack. There was, therefore, only a very dim possibility of his father knowing where they had crash-

landed. Piggy said in consternation, "We may stay here till we die." This was a serious problem. Besides in all likelihood there were other boys too.

As they were talking they saw something shining in the water. It was a beautiful shell, deep cream in colour and eighteen inches long. Piggy was excited because it could be blown to assemble the other boys scattered on the island. After a few trials Ralph learned to blow it. Hearing the sound the boys started to assemble. The first one to appear was a little boy of six, named Johnny. Others followed him and they were all in uniforms and bore badges of their different schools. Soon they found in the distance a group of boys in black cloaks with black caps and silver badges marching towards them. They were a school choir under the leadership of Jack.

Piggy introduced the assemble boys. There was Roger, Robert, Henry, Simon and a pair of twins Sam and Eric. Ralph now suggested that they would have a chief to decide on things. Jack immediately projected himself as the natural leader. But Roger suggested that they should rather vote for the chief. There was all round agreement and they started shouting, "Vote for chief." Soon their clamour for chief changed to an acclaim of Ralph as chief. Thus Ralph, "him with the shell" was chosen leader unanimously. Jack was depressed at this turn of events. Ralph realizing it made him second in command. He would be the leader of the choir, thereafter to be known as "Hunters." Jack was flattered and he accepted the post with joy. Thus the stranded boys organised themselves under Ralph and Jack.

Their first decision was to explore the land and find out if they were on an island or not. So it was decided that three of them, Jack, Simon and Ralph should set out to explore the place. Piggy wanted to accompany them but Ralph turned him down and asked him to make a list of the boys. The explorers climbed up the mountain and felt the thrill of exploration. They soon reached the summit and found water all around them. They were on an island, cut off from the rest of the world by the open sea. On their way back they came upon a piglet, tangled in the creepers. But before Jack could stab it to death, it escaped and ran away to safety. So they understood that they were on

uninhabited island where they could get plenty of fruits and pigs to eat. This was the important gain of their exploration.

2. Describe how they came to light the fire on the mountain.

When Ralph, Jack and Simon returned from their exploration of the island, a second meeting was held. Ralph gave a picture of the situation in which they were. They were on an uninhabited island and they would have to fend for themselves without the assistance of groups. Therefore it was necessary to have certain rules and regulations. Ralph laid down the first rule that only the person having the conch in his hand alone should speak, since it would not be possible for all of them to speak together. "We'll have rules!" he cried excitedly. "Lots of rules! Then when any one breaks' em—"

He further told them that they were marooned on the island and probably no one knew where there were—not even the people at the airport. Hence they might have to be there for a very long time. They had to think of being rescued. For that they had to make their presence known to passing ships. It was, therefore, absolutely necessary to make a fire on the mountain top and keep it burning all throughout the day and night. The smoke might attract a passing ship.

The boys were thrilled by the idea of a fire and they rushed to the mountain top, shouting, "A fire," make a fire! Jack led them. Piggy alone did not like this show of emotion. He muttered to himself, "like kids. Acting like a crowd of kids." But no one listened to him and all of them disappeared in the forest. Soon a huge heap of dry wood was gathered on the mountain top. The spectacles of Piggy were used to light the fire. As the heap of dry wood burst into flames, the boys danced round it in sheer joy. But the fire soon died out for lack of wood. They realized that it would be impossible to keep up such a huge fire. What they needed was a smaller one to be kept burning for ever.

Ralph suggested that some one should take up the responsibility of keeping the fire going. Jack in a generous gesture, offered that his hunters would look after the fire. Jack's offer was accepted and they were all happy.

Piggy alone pointed out how foolish they were to build the huge fire. It had now spread down the mountain slope, burning out precious firewood and also their food of fruit. He reminded them that they should have "put first things first and act proper." What they needed most were the shelters but the boys only laughed at him. Their laughter soon changed into gloom when Piggy remarked that one of them, the little boy with mulberry-coloured birth mark who had spoken of the snake-like beast, was missing. It was their first casualty. They were awe-struck and a silent horror spread among them.

3. How does difference of opinion and rivalry between Ralph and Jack develop?

We saw in the very first chapter of the novel that Jack was depressed when Ralph was chosen leader of the group. Ralph had at last temporarily won him over by offering him the post of second in command as the leader of the hunters. He had acquiesced but was nursing his grievance in his heart. Soon signs of its bursting forth were seen.

Following the suggestion of Piggy and they had decided to build shelters. All of them except the hunters were to help in the building of the shelters. But the bitter experience of Ralph was that no one seemed to take things seriously. There was only Simon to help him. The others would wander away to bathe, to eat or to play. Thus when Jack returned all exhausted from a hunting expedition, he found Ralph complaining and blaming. Ralph described their daily assemblies as mere talk and talk and talk. No one took things seriously. Even the hunters rarely helped. This hint made Jack smart and he turned upon Ralph in anger. "Are you accusing?" They were on the verge of open antagonism. Ralph was eager to build the shelters and keep up the fire. But Jack was bent on doing something spectacular. He felt the compulsion to track down and kill. Their views stood poles apart. An interesting element of the novel is the development of this rivalry between Ralph and Jack. It will soon reach a breaking point. And Jack will lead away his group from Ralph's leadership.

But for the moment their antagonism died out when Simon mentioned the fear among the little boys who screamed in their sleep. Jack himself admitted that

sometimes he also felt the fear. When he went out hunting in the forest, he felt as if he was being hunted. That was the case, it was all the more imperative that they should be rescued at the earliest opportunity. For that they had to keep the fire going. Jack's mind was on the pig he had pursued. So he ridiculed Ralph, "You and your fire." But Ralph was irritated by this unreasonable attitude of Jack and retorted "All you can talk about is pig, pig, pig." Once again ill-feelings were roused up but soon they calmed down.

Ralph explained how people were never quite what they were thought to be. No one except Simon was there to help him with the shelters. Hearing this Jack offered to help him before his bath. But then Simon was missing. He had gone into the forest to pluck fruits and enjoy his own solitude among the flowers and creepers until darkness crept in. So Ralph and Jack too went off to have a swim in the pool. Their bitter feelings were forgotten and they were happy with one another once more.

4. Describe how they lost the chance to be rescued by a passing ship.

The boys on the island soon settled down to a regular routine of life and they were happy in a way. But Jack alone was in search of greater excitement. He was bent on hunting down a pig. According to him, what they most needed was meat. For him therefore, hunting had become a passion, more important than the fire. In order to succeed in his endeavour, he decided to paint himself with coloured clay and charcoal. This would enable him to get near to the pigs and stab them. As he says, "I'll creep up and stab!" So one day he painted himself to look like something else, say 'mouth on a tree trunk.' He asked all his hunters to follow him, even the twins Sam and Eric who were on duty at the fire. The protests of the twins were brushed aside and they too were forced to join him in the hunt.

The other boys, Ralph, Piggy, Simon etc. were having a swim. Suddenly Ralph noticed something out in the sea and jumped out of the water. It was a spiral of smoke coming from the funnel of a ship. He was at once happy and anxious that the ship might notice their smoke on the mountain. He had to make sure and rushed frantically up

the mountain. The other boys too followed suit. Piggy alone stood wondering for he could not see the smoke. But he too struggled up after the others.

To his great chagrin Ralph found that the fire had gone out. Jack's hunters had neglected their duty and gone after excitement. He raved in fury and helplessness. The ship was moving farther and farther away. He could only stand there and shout in despair "come back! come back." He was filled with uncontrollable anger. Soon he noticed in the distance a procession of almost naked boys. They were the hunters and Jack was leading them. They were chanting a song and the twins carried a killed pig swinging from a pole.

Soon the procession reached the mountain top and they started talking in great excitement about the way they hunted down the pig. But Ralph spoke seriously, "you let the fire out." Jack could not understand his attitude and was visibly irritated by this irrelevance. He went on talking excitedly about the hunt. But Ralph repeated his words "you let the fire out." Jack explained that even the twins were needed to complete the ring for the hunt. The fire might have been out for an hour or two. They could light it up again. At this Ralph told them grimly that while they were away sporting, a ship had passed by. Because they had neglected the fire, a golden opportunity for rescue had been lost. Jack heard these words in silent anger. But when Piggy joined in the criticism of his conduct, he flew into a rage and hit him on the head and stomach. The spectacles fell off and a lens was broken.

After this show of violence Jack calmed down and he apologised to Ralph about the fire. This put him in the right and Ralph obscurely in the wrong. The hunters admired him for his generous apology. But Ralph considered it a dirty verbal trick. "The fire was dead, the ship was gone. Anger instead of decency passed his throat." He asserted his leadership. But soon the tension eased when he ordered them to light the fire again. The positive action of gathering fire-wood relieved their tension.

When the fire burnt brightly Jack cut up the pig and roasted it over the fire. They had a glorious meal of pork and soon they started talking excitedly about the hunt. They took up chanting their song of triumph, "Kill the

pig. Cut her throat. Bash her in." When the noise died down, Ralph announced that he was going to hold an urgent assembly. He then walked down the mountain side, all by himself.

5. Describe the urgent meeting held in the wake of their having lost chance of rescue.

Ralph was very much disgusted with Jack and the hunters because of their dereliction of duty at the fire. If it were not for them, they might all have been back home. He was also angry because of the way Jack had reacted to his charge. It was rebellious and antagonistic. So he had decided to summon an urgent meeting to put things in order and establish respect for rules.

He paced the beach, thinking of what he wanted to say at the assembly. He realised how difficult it was to think but by now he had become a specialist in thought and could recognise thought in another. The other boys were already assembled and he climbed up to the platform in an air of solemn gravity. He wanted to put things straight and he did not want this meeting to be like the past ones—mere talk. But in the end this also would break up in confusion.

He first of all reminded them of the several things they had decided but not carrying out. There was the case of storing fresh water from the stream, the building of shelters, the place to be used as a lavatory and above all the neglect of the fire. "How can we ever be rescued except by luck, if we don't keep a fire going?" Turning to the hunters he reminded them that the smoke is more important than the pig. To make sure that the fire would be attended to always, in future there would be only one fire and that would be the one on the mountain top. If anyone wanted to cook anything, he should go up to the mountain. This caused a commotion and there were shouts of protest. But Ralph strongly reminded them. "You voted me for chief. Now you do what I say."

When the boys quietened down Ralph mentioned the fear of the beast that had spread among them. It was only nonsense to fear a beast that did not exist. Jack told them how he had moved all over the island and yet had not seen a beast so far. Piggy too said the same but there were a

few little ones who spoke of strange beasts. Percival, a little boy spoke of a huge beast that came out of the sea. They were now really frightened because they were so close to the sea. There ensued a discussion on the beast. Someone mentioned the beast being a ghost and this was more frightening because it was already becoming dark. There was an exchange of angry words between Piggy and Jack.

Jack announced that if there was a beast, he would hunt it down. He started chanting song and the crowd of boys moved away as if in mock hunting. Only Ralph, Piggy and Simon were left on the platform. Ralph felt very much dejected and even thought of giving up being leader. But Piggy and Simon would not hear of it because in that case Jack would definitely become the leader. "He'd have all hunting and no fire." Besides he hated Ralph from the day he was elected chief and because he had blamed him about the fire.

Thus the meeting which Ralph had wanted to be serious, broke up in confusion. He had decided to put things in order but ended up in Jack's flouting the rule of the conch. He had shouted against Ralph. "Bollocks of the rules! We're strong-we hunt!"

6. What was the beast from air? What effect had it on the boys?+

The meeting held in late afternoon with its talk of beasts and ghosts had unnerved the boys. They wished for the company of grown-ups who would have been able to solve their problems. In the night when they were all fast asleep a sign came down from the world of grown-ups. A battle was raging high up in the sky. A sudden explosion was heard and an aeroplane with a trail of fire fell. A figure dropped swiftly beneath a parachute. The figure fell and crumpled among the blue flowers of the mountain side. The parachute got tangled with the rocks in such a way that when the wind blew the figure lifted its head and seemed to peer across the mountain. But when the wind dropped the figure bowed forward, sinking its head between its knees. This figure would be mistaken by the boys as the "beast from air."

That night the twins Sam and Eric were on duty at

the fire. Both of them had gone off to sleep contrary to the instructions. So they woke up hastily and tried to blow up the fire to flames. They were anxiously lighting it when Eric noticed a huge figure on the rock nearby. They were convinced that it was the beast and they ran for their life towards the shelters on the beach. They woke up the camp and narrated what they had seen on the mountain and how they had scarcely escaped from the sharp claws of the beast.

Jack immediately suggested that they should set out to hunt down the beast. But Ralph pointed out the folly of approaching it with mere wooden spears. Piggy was of the opinion that they should rather stay where they were because the beast might not come near them. It was finally decided that they should set out to search for the beast, leaving the little ones under care of Piggy.

There was only one corner of the island where Jack had not been. So they went directly to that place first. Simon alone could not believe the story of the beast. They found the corner to be a castle of rock. Ralph and Jack went over the rock risking their own lives. But there was no beast and they soon decided to return because the fire had to be lighted.

They moved towards the mountain. But it was getting late and Maurice asked if they should not return to Piggy before dark. Ralph realised the gravity of the question and opined that someone should go and tell Piggy that they would return only after dark. Simon offered to go alone. The rest moved on towards the mountain. But soon they felt it would be better to climb the next day. But Jack insisted that he would go even alone, to look for the beast there and then. Ralph could not stay back. So both of them moved up. Soon they were joined by Roger. But the others returned to the shelters.

It was now becoming dark and Ralph suggested they should return but Jack went on alone. Soon he returned in great fear and told them about a huge thing bulging on the mountain, making a kind of 'plop' noise. The three of them now went up to investigate, moving on all fours not to disturb the beast. They saw the rock like hump in the gap of the rock. It looked like a great ape sitting asleep with its head between its knees. But soon the wind blew

and the creature lifted its head. The three boys were frightened out of their wits and they ran for their life. They had at last found the beast. It was a reality and even the bravest of them trembled in fear. Soon the group would break and Jack would lead away a large chunk with him to a life of savagery.

Simon went up the mountain by himself and discovered what the beast was. It was only the dead body of a man in a parachute tangled to the rocks. He freed the lines and soon the parachute and the dead body were blown up by the wind and dropped in the sea. Simon alone, therefore, knew the truth but before he could make it known to his companions he himself was killed. His body too was washed out to sea.

7. How was the group of boys split into two rival camps?

Right from the beginning Jack Merridew had staked claim as chief. When he was set aside by the majority of the boys and Ralph was chosen leader he was struck to the quick. But he was offered the post of the leader of the hunters and he had calmed down apparently. But his silent antipathy was clearly exhibited when Ralph blamed him for neglecting the fire for the sake of hunting. But the crisis passed and they stuck together. Then came the discovery of the beast on the mountain top. It would be impossible to keep the fire going. According to Ralph the hunters could do nothing about it. After all they were only "boys armed with sticks." This remark about his hunters irritated Jack and he decided to summon an assembly on his own.

He blew the conch inexpertly and the boys assembled. He told them about the beast and how Ralph had insulted him and his hunters. Ralph thought they were cowards running away from the boar and the beast. He concluded his speech saying that Ralph himself was a coward. He was like Piggy. He was not a proper chief. "He just gives orders and expects people to obey for nothing." He then asked for a vote to remove Ralph from leadership. But to his great chagrin no hands went up to support him. So he announced his decision to go away. He would no longer be part of Ralph's lot. If anyone wanted to hunt, he could

join him. Saying this he ran away along the beach, unheeding the call of Ralph to return.

Piggy thought it a good riddance. They could be happy without Jack. Besides with the beast on the mountain, no hunting could be done. He then suggested moving the fire to the beach. Ralph thought it a good idea and they soon started building up a fire. But they found it extremely difficult to keep it up because most of the hunters had gone after Jack. Piggy thought they could be happier without the hunters and they celebrated it with a feast of fruits. Thus the group of boys had split into two rival camps. *advantage of meat according to Jack*

Jack too, was happy with his small group of hunters. He decided to hunt down a pig and entice more boys away from Ralph with the offer of meat. So they moved into the forest and came upon a herd of pigs. They pursued one and killed it. They wanted to leave part of it for the beast. So the head was cut off and stuck into a stick planted in the gap of a rock. This was their offering for the beast, "the gift for darkness". Simon who had wandered off into the forest all by himself watched the drama unseen by anyone. The place was soon swimming with flies and the Lord of the flies hung on his stick and grinned.

The hunters found that they had no fire to cook the meat. So they decided to raid the camp of Ralph and steal fire. Four of them, Jack, Roger, Bill and Maurice painted themselves as savages and attacked the rival camp. Jack announced that they had killed a pig and they were going to have a feast. Anyone who wished to come, could join him. The thought of meat made many of the boys still loyal to Ralph, go over to the side of Jack. So even Piggy and Ralph finally went to see what was happening there at the camp of Jack. Jack was sitting in the centre on a great log. He sat there, painted and garlanded like an idol. He had become a rival chief and there could no longer be unity among the boys. The enmity between the rival group and the rival leaders would only increase until it reached an open conflict.

8. Describe how Simon came to be murdered.

Simon was a peculiar boy who was not at all afraid of anything. He did not believe the story of Samneric about the beast on the

mountain. Since no one dared to go up the mountain to investigate, he decided to go by himself. Exhausted by the heat of the day he sat down on a mat of creepers. It was from there that he saw the killing of the pig by Jack and his hunters. He looked on the "gift for darkness" left by them and had a flash of fear, the beast might come to accept the gift. He saw the head swarmed with flies. The Lord of the flies hung on his stick and grinned. In his right temple a pulse began to beat on the brain. He knew one of his fits was coming and he fell unconscious to the ground. The Lord of the flies seemed to talk to him "You are a silly boy... There's none to help you except me and I'm the Beast... Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill... I am part of you?"

When he regained consciousness it had already become evening. But he walked on and suddenly he saw in front of him a thing humped on a rock. It too was swarmed with flies. The life-like movement caused by the wind would scare off the flies from the dead body. The beast they had feared was only the dead body of an airman in a parachute entangled with the rocks. He loosened the strings from the rocks and the figure was related from the wind's indignity. He had to tell the others the truth about the beast and he struggled on in spite of his great weariness.

He saw the camp fire in a different spot on the beach and thought they must have shifted camp. He walked on with great difficulty and by the time he reached the edge of the forest he was crawling on all fours. In the meanwhile Jack and his hunters were celebrating their triumph by a dance and a mock hunting. They worked themselves into a frenzy chanting their song "Kill the beast, cut his throat, spill his blood." Just then they saw something crawling out of the forest. They thought it to be the beast and set on it with their spears. Soon poor Simon was beaten to death. His words about a dead man fell on deaf ears. A storm was brewing and the rain came down in torrents. The waves of the sea beat on the shore and washed out the body of Simon into the open sea. Similarly the wind blew up the parachute and the dead airman had dropped them in the sea. Thus Simon was dead and the truth he had brought also disappeared.

9. Describe the open conflict in the island.

After Jack broke away from Ralph, he tried to entice more and more boys to his side by the offer of meat, a sense of security and fun. Thus there were only Piggy, Samneric and a few "littluns" left with Ralph. They wanted to keep up the fire but they found it impossible. So they decided to let it die out for that night. Soon they all went off to sleep and to their dreams of home.

Jack in the meanwhile had asserted himself and organised his group into a tribe. He had become its autocratic chief and his orders were carried out without questioning. To ward off fear he had regular dancing and chanting of hunting song. It was on one of these occasions that Simon was murdered. Jack kept up the façade and made the tribe believe that it was the beast in disguise. So they had to be very careful. He turned Castle Rock into a fortress and placed guards at the top to challenge anyone that passed. They admired him and said, "He's a proper chief." There was the other side of his character too. He had tied up Wilfred and had thrashed him up. Roger, hearing the news thought of the possibilities of irresponsible authority. Jack sat in the cave, naked to the waist like a savage surrounded by his tribe.

Since they had no fire it was decided that they should raid the camp of Ralph. That night Maurice, Roger and Jack attacked the camp. There was a fight in the dark for a few minutes. Soon the attackers withdrew. But they had snatched away the broken spectacles of Piggy. This would mean they would not be able to light the fire any more and their hope of rescue became very dim. It was, therefore, decided to go and ask Jack to return Piggy's glasses because Piggy was quite helpless without his specs.

So Ralph, Samneric and Piggy set out to the Castle Rock. They were challenged by the guard. Soon Jack appeared with a killed pig and asked Ralph to keep to his end of the land. Ralph told him to return Piggy's glasses. He ought not to have come in the night like a thief. If he wanted fire, they would have given it to him. Jack became furious that he was called a thief and rushed at Ralph with his spear. Soon the two of them were hitting at each other. They parted and stood challenging each other. Ralph once more reminded him about Piggy's specs and the necessity

of keeping up a signal fire.

But Jack had no such thought. He ordered his savages to tie up Sam and Eric. Ralph became furious at this and shouted at him, "You're a beast and a swine and bloody, bloody thief!" They soon rushed at each other. Ralph felt stones flying at him. It was Roger flying stones from the top. The savages now grouped together. Roger pulled at the lever and a huge boulder came bouncing down. Ralph flung himself down on the ground and escaped. But it hit Piggy. The conch in his hand was broken to a thousand pieces and Piggy was thrown down forty feet to the rock below. His head was smashed and his brain was scattered all over the place. The rising waves sucked back and washed out his dead body to the sea. Soon Ralph was attacked by flying spears and he fled frantically into the forest from the pursuers. This was the fight at the Castle Rock.

10. How did the boys come to be the finally rescued?

After the fight at the Castle Rock Ralph found himself alone. Simon and Piggy were dead. Sam and Eric were made captives by the tribe under Jack. He himself had been wounded across the ribs. As the evening advanced he was filled with fear. He needed human company and he moved towards the Castle Rock. He found Robert on guard and realised they were having a feast. Later the guard changed and Samneric was put in charge. Ralph took courage and went up to speak to them. They were quite helpless. They were forced to join the tribe. They told him that the next day they were planning to hunt him down like a pig. Roger had a stick sharpened at both ends.

Someone from the tribe now came up to the post and Ralph had to retire in haste. He told Samneric that he would hide in the nearby thicket and asked them to keep off the hunters from the spot. Soon he went off to sleep and woke up only next morning, hearing the sound of the tribe hunting for him. He crawled deeper into the thicket. He thought the hunters had moved away. But then he heard Jack questioning the twins who revealed his hiding place when they were tortured. The voices now moved up the cliff and soon a huge rock came crashing down on the thicket. Someone came searching and Ralph hit out with

his sharpened stick. The savage retired in pain. They now set fire to the thicket and Ralph was forced to rush out of his hiding. He ran with all his might towards the forest.

He thought of the possibilities before him. He could climb a tree but if he was seen, he would have no chance. He could break the cordon and rush back like the pigs did but the fire was spreading fast. He could finally hide and perhaps escape discovery. As the chase approached nearer, he decided to hide. But soon a savage came to the place. Ralph felt he was discovered. So he rushed out hitting down the savages. He was now pursued by the whole crowd. He ran madly towards the beach. The forest was on the fire. He tumbled over something in the sand. He got up with raised hands to ward off a blow. He was surprised to find himself before a naval officer. The forest fire had attracted the cruiser vessel.

Soon the painted savages too reached the place and the officer thought they were having a game. When asked who was their chief, Ralph answered he was. The officer was surprised to hear that two of them had been killed. He reprimanded them for their appearance and behaviour. He said, "I should have thought that a pack of British boys would have been able to put a better show..." Ralph said that it was like that in the beginning. — "I know Jolly, good show. Like the Coral Island." Soon he started to sob thinking of the change caused by Jack's hostility and pride. The others joined him. The officers were embarrassed and gave them time to pull themselves together before taken them to the cruiser in the distance. Thus the fire set to destroy Ralph led them to their rescue.