

Upon returning, Ralph calls everyone together for a meeting using the conch. Ralph says that they could be there a long time, adding, "Until the grownups come to fetch us we'll have fun." A younger boy takes the conch but is unable to speak aloud, so he speaks through Piggy. He asks what they are going to do about the snake thing or beast. Ralph and the others try to reassure him that there is no such thing. As the boy insists, the older boys become anxious as well. Jack takes the conch and after agreeing with Ralph, he says, "If there was a snake we'd hunt it and kill it." Piggy, who initially stays back with Ralph, mocks their behavior. Jack realizes they can use Piggy's glasses to make fire and snatches them off his head. He and Jack have an argument before Ralph steps in. He takes the conch and suggests they have certain special people care for the fire. Piggy says they would have been wiser to build shelters first. Jack adds that an army is needed for hunting pigs, and Ralph agrees. Ralph is annoyed but eventually continues.