

JACK, MARCUS, SIMON, RALPH, PIGGY, ROGER

JACK: He says the beast comes out of the water.

MARCUS: Daddy said they haven't found all the animals in the sea yet. I mean when Jack says you can be frightened because people are frightened anyway that's all right. But when he says there's only pigs on this island, he doesn't know, not really, not certainly I mean — my daddy says there's squids that are hundreds of yards long and eat whales whole. I don't believe in the beast of course. But, as Piggy says, life's scientific, but we don't know, do we?

This sends the entire assembly into chaos. Everyone begins arguing at once. Several different voices are heard and the fighting covers all the subjects that have been brought up by the individuals who spoke.

SIMON: Maybe. Maybe there is a beast.

This hushes the assembly immediately.

RALPH: You Simon. You believe in this?

A storm breaks in the distance. Thunder, followed by lightning.

SIMON: I don't know. But maybe it's some sort of ghost.

PIGGY: I don't believe in no ghosts - ever!

JACK: Who cares what you believe — Fatty!

PIGGY: I have the conch!

JACK: You give me the conch back!

RALPH goes between the two of them and wrestles the conch out of PIGGY'S hands.

RALPH: There is too much talking about ghosts. We ought to have left this for the daylight.

ROGER: Perhaps that's what the Beast is — a ghost.