**Gift for the Darkness, Chapter Nine**

**Group One**

* **Which character is living in the real world and who is living in a world of their own making?**
* **What does ‘a world of their own making’ mean?**
* **What are the possible effects (things that can occur or things that are occurring in the text) for someone living in his or her own world and not reality? Give examples from life and from the text.**

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**Group Two**

* **What is Jack trying to accomplish in the group by saying these statements about Ralph? How does he go about doing it? Include as many ways as possible.**
* **Why is Jack acting in this manner?**
* **What does this tell us about Jack’s character?**

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**Group Three**

* **What does this moment tell us about Jack’s character?**
* **Why does no one respond?**
* **Do you think “play” has a double meaning? Why or why not?**
* **If the island and the kids are representative of the world, what does this statement tell us about human behavior?**

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**Group Four**

* **Why does Simon say, “I think we ought to climb the mountain?” What is he trying to communicate to the group about the beast?**
* **What does the beast mean as a symbol (something that stands from something else)?**
* **What does the above statement say about Simon’s character? Why does the group react to Simon the way they do and are they right for doing so? Why or why not?**

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**Group Five**

* **What can be implied about the human condition from Ralph’s statement: “If a doctor said take this because if you don’t you die—you would wouldn’t you?”**
* **What is Ralph saying about the problem of not keeping the fire going? What does this seem to tell us about human beings in general?**
* **Evaluate (make a judgment) on Piggy’s statement. Would grown-ups know better? Consider the symbol of the parachute guy. What does the parachute guy represent? What does it mean that Piggy keeps looking to adults? What is he hoping for? Why?**

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**Group Six**

* **On a deeper level, what exactly is Jack doing by giving a gift to the beast?**
* **What does Simon mean by saying, “the infinite cynicism of adult life? Define cynicism first and explain Simon’s statement.**
* **What could the pig’s head mean then?**

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**Group Seven**

* **Is Piggy right? Think, what does Jack represent now? What has he done to the group? Do their problems extend beyond Jack? Why or Why not?**
* **What does “taboo” mean? Do taboos place a varnish (a masking) over the reality of human behavior in society? Why or why not? Explain what effect the taboo of Jack’s name has.**

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**Group Eight**

* **Why did Piggy choose to protect the conch from Jack? Think, what does the tribe represent and what does their act of taking fire mean? Remember, the signal fire means something too. Put it all together. Explain.**
* **What does the mask mean? Connect it to our lives. Do people wear masks? What do masks allow people to do? What does may this be saying about human beings?**

**Gift for the Darkness, Chapter Nine**

**Group Nine**

* **What does the Lord of the Flies represent?**
* **What exactly is the Lord of the Flies trying to have Simon do and why? What does Simon represent? Why does the Lord of the Flies call him “child?” Think deeper than simply saying that Simon is actually a child.**
* **Why would the island get worse if they are allowed “to have fun on this island?” If the island gets worse because Simon did not give the truth about the beast to the others, would Simon be responsible? Why or why not.**