

Sample Poem based on *Lord of the Flies*

The Beast

It's a snake thing that hangs in the branches  
It's slithering creepers that want to eat.  
It's a nightmare waiting in the dark  
And a ghost that clenches the heart -  
    Causing a terrifying beat.

It's the unknown on an unknown island  
That once voted on, most agree.  
A mystery science denies  
That becomes reality.

It's a beast with claws and teeth,  
Under the sliver of a moon,  
Crouching on a blackened mountain top  
It's a giant ape with a face in ruin.

But a pig's head on a stick,  
The great Lord of the Flies,  
- A gift for the beast -  
Tells a lone boy otherwise.

"I'm a part of you," it taunts.

"I'M the reason why it's a no go.  
Not something you can hunt or kill.

The beast?

It's **YOU** - your greatest foe."

**\*Notice how the poem**

- uses unique key words and phrases from the original text
- focuses on multiple scenes from the original text (in the order they occur) throughout the poem that help to convey a similar theme as the original text it is based on
- has multiple stylistic devices

## Summary Paragraph

This poem is about how the idea of a beast evolves when a group of boys is stranded on an island in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. Initially, the idea of the beast is one that is scoffed at by the older boys and it is only the "little-uns" who express their fears and are tormented by nightmares. Their elders laugh at the idea of the "snake-things" and "creepers" that are dangerous and might hurt them. They know they are just jungle vines. The longer the boys are away from civilization, however, the more the little-uns' fears begin to spread. The idea of the beast also becomes less tangible and more of a supernatural force that goes against logic and reason. This is apparent during an assembly when Piggy tries to talk sense into the boys claiming that science defies ghosts. A vote though indicates he cannot sway them. Their fears are fully realized when Sam-n-Erik race down the mountain from fire-watch, scared out of their wits carrying news of what they have seen. The reader knows this really is a parachutist, but when a small party investigates, it looks to be a "giant ape," and when the wind blows and the parachute lifts the body up, the rotting face "in ruin" is terrifying. It is only Simon who, after coming face to face with the Lord of the Flies, discovers the truth - the beast is not something with claws and teeth that can be killed at all. It is a symbol for mankind's natural propensity for evil that comes out when unfettered from the laws and boundaries of civilization.

## Theme & Stylistic Devices in My Poem

The beast as a symbol is used to show the theme that inside humans lies a monster that is capable of horrific acts that is only kept at bay by the laws and restrictions of society. The **repetition** of "It's" serves to show how the beast changes from concrete things like snakes to supernatural forces like ghosts that go against reason and logic. The repetition of the word "unknown" especially to describe the island is used to emphasize the isolation and separation from the rest of civilization, which is the cause for the boys' growing fears. And the **irregular rhyme scheme** in the first stanza is designed to mirror an irregular heartbeat to represent that fear. As the poem ends, "The beast?" is phrased as a **rhetorical question**. This is done to suggest a sarcastic tone and draw attention to the irony of the boys' search when they only had to look inside themselves, emphasized by YOU being written in all capital letters. This idea is hinted at though earlier in the poem through the imagery of the "blackened mountain top." The reason it is black is due to a fire they started that swallowed one of the boys. The idea that the real monsters are humans is further shown through **imagery** used to describe the dead parachutist who is confused to be the beast because he looks like a "crouching ... giant ape with a face in ruin." The fact that it is actually a man they are afraid of hints at who the beast really is. The **dashes** around the phrase - "A gift for the beast" - again help point out irony. This time, it is pointing out the irony of leaving a sacrifice when there is nothing on the island that is out to get them. More importantly though, this gift, achieved through violence and killing, emphasize what the final line reveals - that humans are the most destructive force there is and should be our greatest fear.