

Worksheet 1. Direct and Indirect Characterization of Simon

Fill in the columns to analyze how William Golding develops Simon over the course of the text.

Textual reference	Direct statements about Simon	Inferences about Simon
Chapter 1	The text states that Simon faints and Jack comments that this is not unusual. Simon is the first to mention feeling hungry.	Perhaps Simon has a physical disability or is simply very sensitive. He does not seem to be a very important character.
Chapter 3	Simon helps Ralph build huts. Ralph describes him as "queer" and "funny". He is small and thin with dark hair and eyes, and he helps the smaller boys reach food. He has devised a secret place to hide under vines in the forest.	In physical appearance and behavior, Simon seems different from the others. He is by nature kind and helpful. He seeks solitude more than companionship. He is probably an outsider—not disliked, but also not understood.
Chapter 5	When the boys conjecture about the existence of a beast, Simon suggests, "Maybe it's only us." When the others do not understand, he makes a comparison to excrement. He wants Ralph to continue as the leader.	Though Simon seems to find it difficult to find words to express himself, he is perceptive and has insights deeper than those of the other castaways. For example, he understands the evil on the island comes from inside the boys themselves, not from an outside threat. He senses that Jack would be a dangerous leader.
Chapter 6	Simon is part of the group of older boys who set out to discover the "beast."	There is a kind of hierarchy among the boys based on age; Simon is accepted as one of the older and smarter boys.
Chapter 7	Simon says to Ralph, "You'll get back to where you came from." When Ralph accuses him of being "batty," Simon responds, "No, I'm not. I just think you'll get back all right."	Simon seems almost like a prophet with a sense of the future. Note here he does not predict that he himself will get back home—an example of foreshadowing. He seems to have a kind of quiet confidence in his own insights.
Chapter 8	After seeing the hunters kill the sow and display its head on a stick, Simon has a hallucination in which the pig's head seems to talk to and threaten him. Then he faints (or has a seizure).	Simon is not interested in hunting, but stays hidden while the others kill the sow. There is something either mystical or hallucinatory about him. One suspects deep inside, he fears the others.
Chapter 9	Simon discovers the body of the fallen pilot and races down to share it with the others. In the mob frenzy intensified by their hunters' chant, they kill Simon, who is completely unable to defend himself. His body floats out to sea.	Simon has a deep sense of responsibility to the group and perhaps is also rather naïve and idealistic. He is easily victimized and, once Simon's body disappears, the others will be in denial and not have to face and talk about what they have done.