

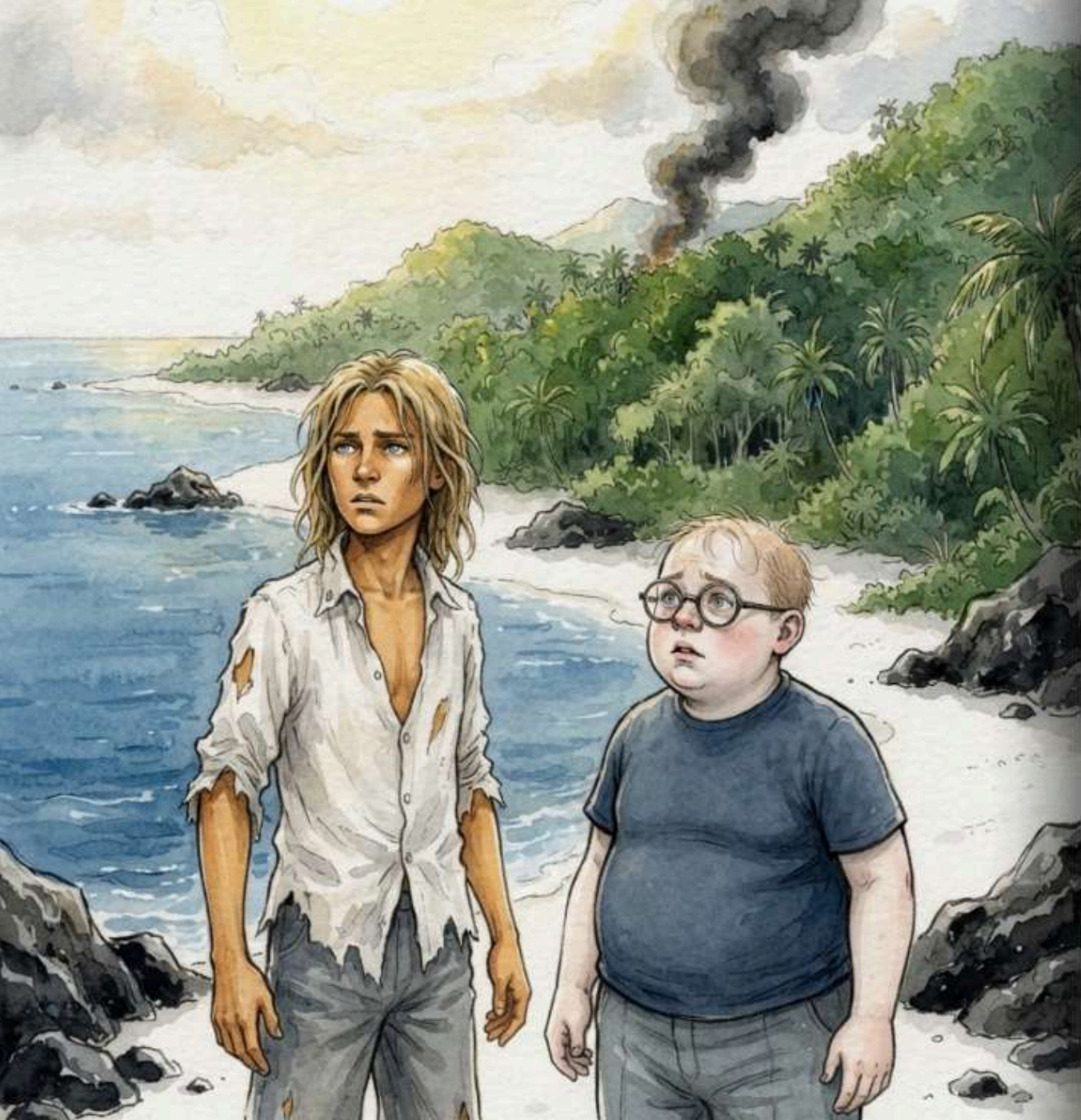


Lord of the Flies
By
William Golding

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**A Short Story for ESOL & Functional
Skills Learners**



During a war, a plane carrying a group of British schoolboys crashes on a remote island. There are no adults with them, so the boys must learn how to survive on their own.



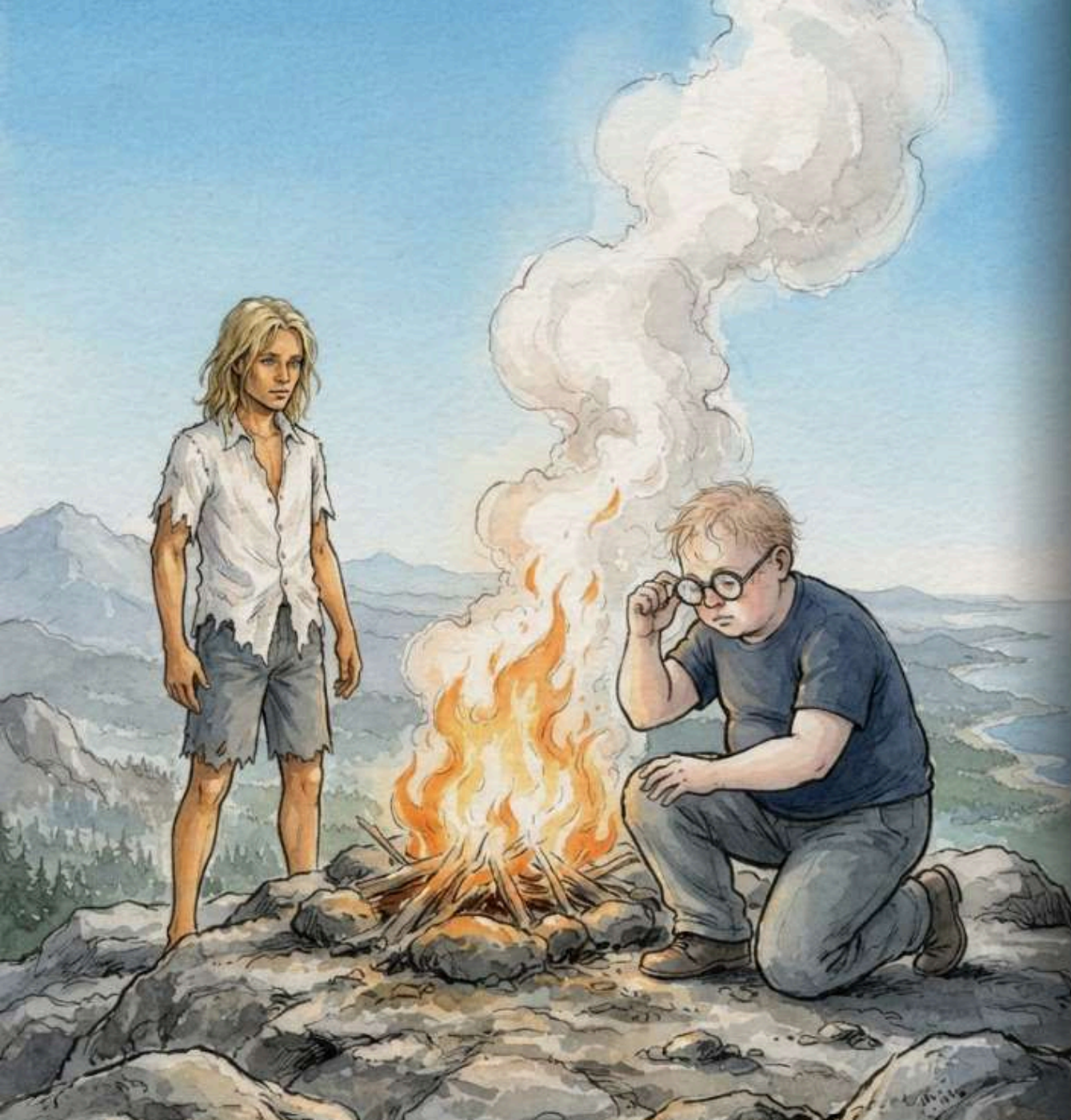
Two boys, Ralph and Piggy, find a large shell called a conch. Ralph blows the conch to call the other survivors together, and the boys begin to organise themselves.



The boys choose Ralph as their leader. Ralph wants everyone to work together, build shelters and find a way to be rescued.



Another boy, Jack, wants to be the leader and is disappointed when Ralph is chosen. Jack becomes responsible for a group of boys who will hunt animals and find food.



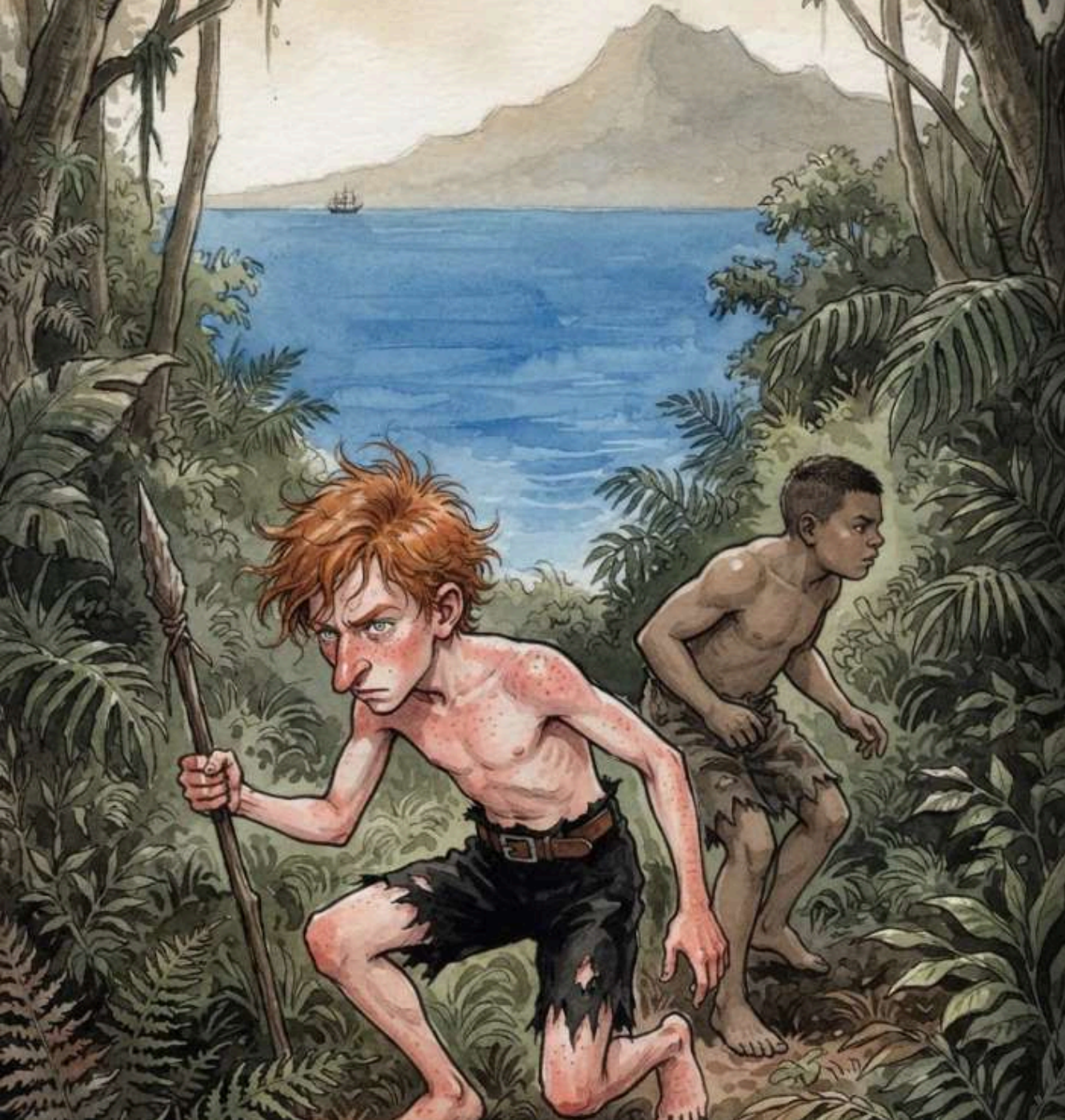
Ralph says that they must keep a signal fire burning on top of the mountain. If a ship sees the smoke, the boys may be rescued and taken home.



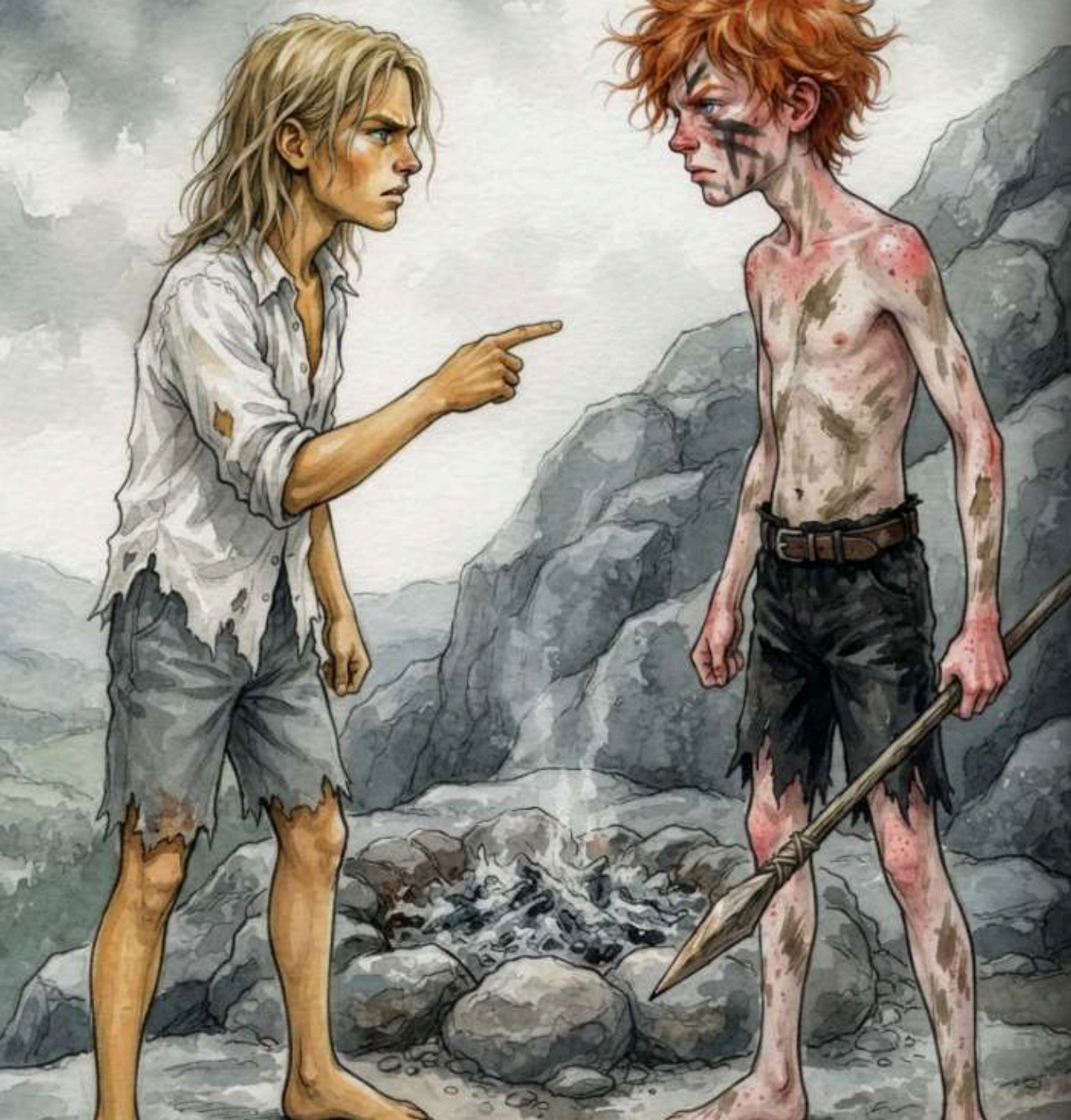
At first, the boys are excited by their freedom and enjoy life without adults. However, some of the younger children begin talking about a frightening “beast” that they believe lives on the island.



Ralph tries to convince everyone that there is no beast. However, fear begins to spread, especially at night, and the boys become increasingly frightened.



Jack becomes more interested in hunting pigs than keeping the signal fire burning. One day, the fire goes out while a ship passes the island, and the boys lose an important chance to be rescued.



Ralph is furious because Jack and the hunters were responsible for watching the fire. Jack cares more about successfully killing a pig, and the disagreement between the two boys grows.



As time passes, Jack becomes more powerful and aggressive. He promises the boys meat and protection from the beast, while Ralph continues to argue for rules, shelters and rescue.



One night, the boys see a strange shape on the mountain and believe that it is the beast. In reality, it is the body of a dead parachutist who has fallen onto the island during the war.



A thoughtful boy called Simon begins to understand that the real danger may not be a monster on the island. He realises that fear and violence are growing inside the boys themselves.



Jack leaves Ralph's group and forms his own tribe. Many boys join him because he offers them food, hunting and protection, and they begin to paint their faces and behave more violently.



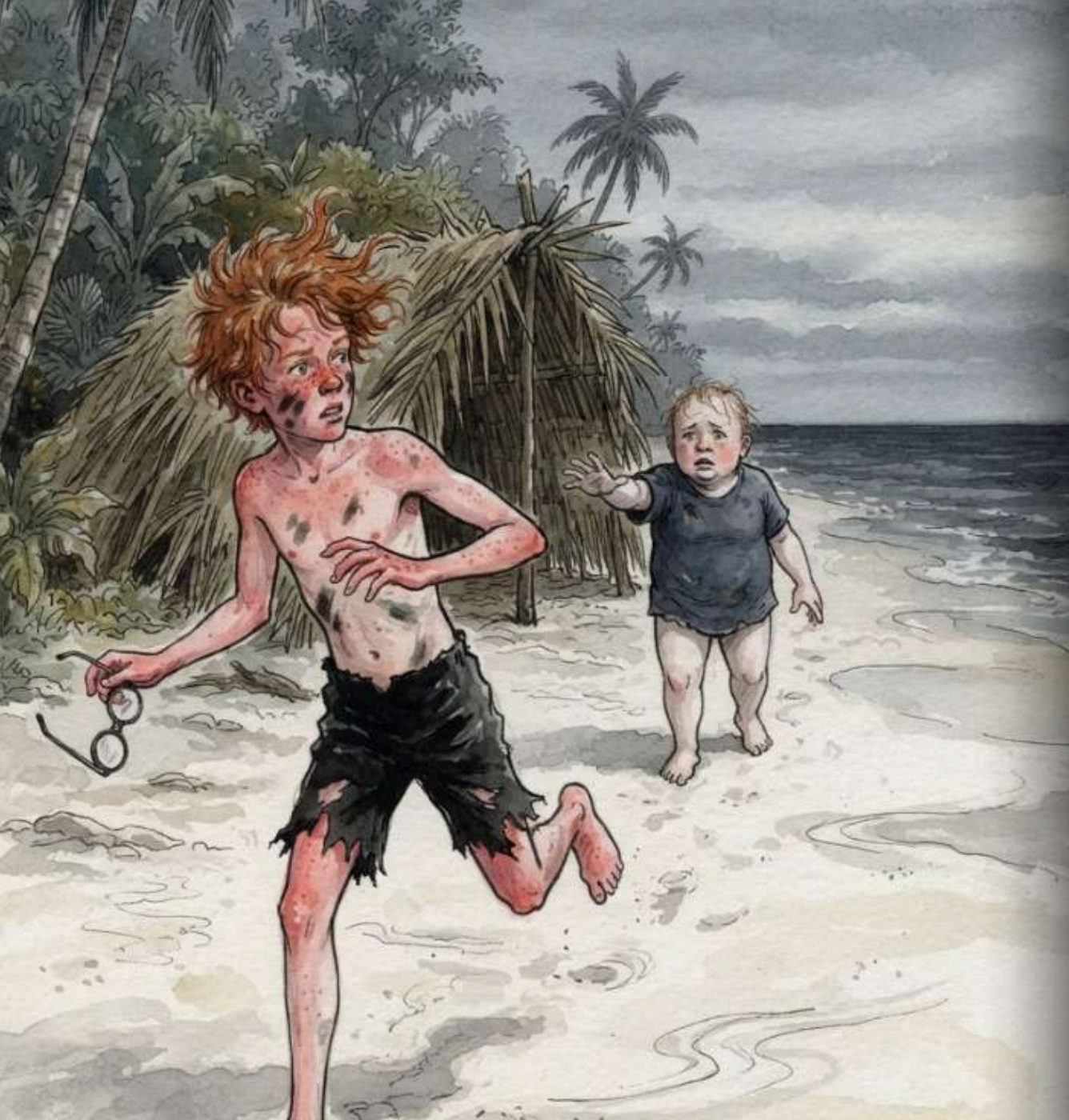
Jack's hunters kill a pig and place its head on a stick as an offering to the imagined beast. Simon sees the pig's head and understands more clearly that the boys' own fear and cruelty are the true "beast."



Simon climbs the mountain and discovers the truth about the frightening shape. He realises that it is only a dead parachutist and rushes to tell the other boys.



During a violent storm, the frightened boys are dancing wildly when Simon suddenly appears. Mistaking him for the beast, the group attacks Simon, and he is killed.



After Simon's death, the situation becomes even more dangerous. Jack's tribe steals Piggy's glasses because they need them to make fire, leaving Piggy almost unable to see.



Ralph and Piggy go to Jack's camp to demand the glasses back. During the argument, one of Jack's boys pushes a large rock down a hill, killing Piggy and destroying the conch.



Ralph is now alone, and Jack's tribe begins hunting him across the island. They set the forest on fire to force him out of hiding, and Ralph runs desperately towards the beach.



On the beach, Ralph suddenly meets a naval officer who has seen the smoke and come to rescue them. The boys are finally safe, but Ralph cries for Piggy, Simon and the innocence they have lost. Their experience shows how quickly rules and civilisation can disappear when fear and violence take control.