



## CHAPTER ONE The Sound of the Shell

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon. **Though he had taken off his school sweater<sup>1</sup>** and trailed it now from one hand, his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead. All round him the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat. **He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks<sup>2</sup>** when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry; and this cry was echoed by another.

“Hi!” it said. “Wait a minute!”

The undergrowth at the side of the scar was shaken and a multitude of raindrops fell pattering.

“Wait a minute,” the voice said. “I got caught up.”

The fair boy stopped and jerked his stockings with an automatic gesture **that made the jungle seem for a moment like the Home Counties<sup>3</sup>**.

The voice spoke again. “I can’t hardly move with all these creeper things.”

The owner of the voice **came backing out of the undergrowth<sup>4</sup>** so that twigs scratched on a greasy wind-breaker. The naked crooks of his knees were plump, caught and scratched by thorns. He bent down, removed the thorns carefully, and turned around. He was shorter than the fair boy and very fat. He came

### Chapter 1

- <sup>1</sup> *Хотя он снял свой школьный свитер*
- В этом предложении Past Perfect обозначает действие, произошедшее ранее какого-то момента в прошлом (*до описываемого момента*), см. Грамматический справочник (ГС) 42.
- <sup>2</sup> *Он с трудом пробирався среди вьющихся растений и поваленных стволов*
- Past Continuous описывает сцену в прошлом в начале повествования, см. ГС 39.
- <sup>3</sup> *который на мгновение сделал джунгли похожими на окрестности Лондона.*
- За сказуемым *made* следует конструкция *сложное дополнение* с инфинитивом *seem* без частицы *to*, см. ГС 56.
- <sup>4</sup> *задом вылез из подлеска*
- См. также последнее предложение абзаца: *He came forward, searching out safe lodgments for*

*his feet* – Он шагнул вперёд, выбирая, куда поставит ногу. Причастия настоящего времени *backing* и *searching* с зависимыми словами служат обстоятельствами образа действия, см. ГС 15.  
<sup>5</sup> *Наверно, здесь нет взрослых.* Здесь используется конструкция *there is/are* с отрицанием, см. ГС 55.

В отрицательном предложении употребляется *any* в значении *какой-нибудь, сколько-нибудь* (в переводе опускается) и его производное *anywhere* – *где-нибудь*, переводится *нигде*, см. ГС 5.

<sup>6</sup> *Все остальные ребята ... Некоторые из них, должно быть, выбрались. Скорее всего, правда?*

В небрежной речи *them* часто употребляется вместо определённого артикля *the*.

Модальный глагол *must* с перфектным инфинитивом *have got out* выражает предположение, граничащее с уверенностью, о воз-

forward, searching out safe lodgments for his feet, and then looked up through thick spectacles.

“Where’s the man with the megaphone?”

The fair boy shook his head.

“This is an island. At least I think it’s an island. That’s a reef out in the sea. **Perhaps there aren’t any grownups anywhere.**”<sup>5</sup>

The fat boy looked startled.

“There was that pilot. But he wasn’t in the passenger cabin, he was up in front.”

The fair boy was peering at the reef through screwed-up eyes.

“**All them other kids,**” the fat boy went on. “**Some of them must have got out. They must have, mustn’t they?**”<sup>6</sup>

The fair boy began to pick his way as **casually as possible**<sup>7</sup> toward the water. He tried to be offhand and not too obviously uninterested, but the fat boy hurried after him.

“Aren’t there any grownups at all?”

“I don’t think so.”

The fair boy said this solemnly; but then the delight of a **realized ambition**<sup>8</sup> overcame him. In the middle of the scar he stood on his head and grinned at the reversed fat boy.

“No grownups!”

The fat boy thought for a moment.

“That pilot.”

The fair boy allowed his feet to come down and sat on the steamy earth.

“**He must have flown off after he dropped us. He couldn’t land here.**”<sup>9</sup> Not in a place with wheels.”

“We was attacked!”

“He’ll be back all right.”

The fat boy shook his head.

“When we was coming down I looked through one of them windows.<sup>10</sup> I saw the other part of the plane. There were flames coming out of it.<sup>11</sup>”

He looked up and down the scar.

“And this is what the cabin done.<sup>12</sup>”

The fair boy reached out and touched the jagged end of a trunk. For a moment he looked interested.

“What happened to it?” he asked. “Where’s it got to now?”

“That storm dragged it out to sea. It wasn’t half dangerous with all them tree trunks falling<sup>13</sup>. There must have been some kids still in it.<sup>14</sup>”

He hesitated for a moment, then spoke again.

“What’s your name?”

“Ralph.”

The fat boy waited to be asked his name<sup>15</sup> in turn but this proffer of acquaintance was not made; the fair boy called Ralph smiled vaguely, stood up, and began to make his way once more toward the lagoon. The fat boy hung steadily at his shoulder.

“I expect there’s a lot more of us scattered about.<sup>16</sup> You haven’t seen any others, have you?<sup>17</sup>”

Ralph shook his head and increased his speed. Then he tripped over a branch and came down with a crash.

The fat boy stood by him, breathing hard.

“My auntie told me not to run,” he explained, “on account of my asthma.”

“Ass-mar?”

• возможности действия  
• в прошлом, см. ГС  
• 25, 53.

• Третье предложе-  
• ние — это раздели-  
• тельный вопрос, о  
• типах вопросов см.  
• ГС 59.

• <sup>7</sup> как можно более  
• *непринуждённо*

• Здесь употребляет-  
• ся сравнительная  
• конструкция *as ... as*  
• с наречием *casually*,  
• см. ГС 13.

• <sup>8</sup> *исполнившееся же-*  
• *лание*

• Причастие про-  
• шедшего времени  
• *realized* стоит перед  
• существительным  
• *ambition* и является  
• его определением,  
• см. ГС 16.

• <sup>9</sup> *Он, наверно, уле-*  
• *тел после того, как*  
• *высадил нас. Он не*  
• *мог здесь сесть.*

• Модальный глагол  
• *must* с перфектным  
• инфинитивом *have*  
• *flown* выражает  
• предположение,  
• граничащее с уве-  
• ренностью, о воз-  
• можности действия  
• в прошлом, см. ГС  
• 25, 53.

• Модальный глагол  
• *could* с отрицанием  
• обозначает отсут-  
• ствие возможности  
• выполнить дей-

ствие в прошлом, см. ГС 23.

<sup>10</sup> *Когда мы снижались, я смотрел в окно.*

В предложении выражены два длительных действия. В придаточном предложении, начинающемся с союза *when*, временем Past Continuous выражено длительное действие (*снижались*), проходившее в то же время в прошлом, что и другое действие (*смотрел*), см. ГС 39. Это другое действие выражено временем Past Simple, а не Past Continuous, возможно, в силу лексического значения глагола *look*, выражающего действие некоторой протяжённости. В образовании формы Past Continuous мальчик делает грамматическую ошибку — употребляет *was* вместо *were*. В речи этого персонажа много ошибок.

<sup>11</sup> *Из него вырывалась пламя.*

Буквально: *Было пламя, вырывавшееся из него.* Здесь

“That’s right. Can’t catch my breath\*.  
I was the only boy in our school what had  
asthma,” said the fat boy with a touch of  
pride. “And I’ve been wearing specs since I  
was three.<sup>18</sup>”

He took off his glasses and held them  
out to Ralph, blinking and smiling, and  
then started to wipe them against<sup>19</sup> his  
grubby wind-breaker. An expression of pain  
and inward concentration altered the pale  
contours of his face. He smeared the sweat  
from his cheeks and quickly adjusted the  
spectacles on his nose.

“Them fruit.”

He glanced round the scar.

“Them fruit,” he said, “I expect—”

He put on his glasses, waded away from  
Ralph, and crouched down among the tangled  
foliage.

“I’ll be out again in just a minute—”

Ralph disentangled himself cautiously  
and stole away through the branches. In a  
few seconds the fat boy’s grunts were behind  
him and he was hurrying toward the screen  
that still lay between him and the lagoon.  
He climbed over a broken trunk and was out  
of the jungle. The shore was fledged with  
palm trees. **These<sup>20</sup>** stood or leaned or reclined  
against the light and their green feathers  
were a hundred feet up in the air. The ground  
beneath them was a bank covered with coarse  
grass, **torn everywhere by the upheavals of  
fallen trees, scattered with decaying coconuts  
and palm saplings<sup>21</sup>**. Behind this was the  
darkness of the forest proper and the open  
space of the scar. Ralph stood, **one hand**

\* Can’t catch my breath! — Трудно дышать.

against a grey trunk<sup>22</sup>, and screwed up his eyes against the shimmering water. Out there, perhaps a mile away, the white surf flinked on a coral reef, and beyond that the open sea was dark blue. Within the irregular arc of coral the lagoon was still as a mountain lake—blue of all shades and shadowy green and purple. The beach between the palm terrace and the water was a thin stick, endless apparently, for to Ralph's left the perspectives of palm and beach and water drew to a point at infinity; and always, almost visible, was the heat.

He jumped down from the terrace. The sand was thick over his black shoes and the heat hit him. He became conscious of the weight of clothes, kicked his shoes off fiercely and ripped off each stocking with its elastic garter in a single movement. Then he leapt back on the terrace, pulled off his shirt, and stood there among the skull-like coconuts with green shadows from the palms and the forest **sliding over his skin**<sup>23</sup>. He undid the snake-clasp of his belt, lugged off his shorts and pants, and stood there naked, looking at the dazzling beach and the water.

He was old enough, twelve years and a few months, to have lost the prominent tummy of childhood and not yet old enough for adolescence to have made him awkward<sup>24</sup>. You could see now that he might make a boxer, as far as width and heaviness of shoulders went, but there was a mildness about his mouth and eyes that proclaimed no devil. He patted the palm trunk softly, and, **forced at last to believe in the reality of the island**<sup>25</sup> laughed delightedly again and stood on his head. He turned neatly on

- используется кон-
- струкция *there is/are*
- в Past Simple, см.
- ГС 55.
- Причастие настоя-
- щего времени *com-*
- *ing* с зависимыми
- словами образует
- причастный оборот,
- служащий опреде-
- лением существи-
- тельного *flames*, см.
- ГС 15.
- <sup>12</sup> *Это след от само-*
- *лётта.*
- В придаточном
- предложении упо-
- требляется время
- Present Perfect,
- которое обозначает
- действие в про-
- шлом, результат
- которого важен в
- настоящем. В не-
- брежной речи вспо-
- могательный глагол
- *has* опущен, см. ГС
- 41.
- <sup>13</sup> *когда падали все*
- *эти деревья.*
- У существительного
- *trunks* два определе-
- ния. Одно стоит пе-
- ред ним и выражено
- существительным
- *tree (tree trunks –*
- *стволы деревьев).*
- Это типичное для
- английского языка
- словосочетание из
- двух существитель-
- ных без предлогов,
- первое из которых
- является определе-

нием ко второму, ср. *stone wall* – каменная стена, *university library* – библиотека университета. В сочетании этого типа может входить не только два, но также три и даже четыре существительных, при этом главным (определяемым словом) всегда является последнее, а предшествующие слова – определения, ср. *south ocean fauna* – фауна южных морей, *university library book* – книга из университетской библиотеки, *heart trouble treatment recommendations* – рекомендации по лечению заболеваний сердца. Существительные-определения употребляются, чаще всего, в единственном числе, даже если имеется в виду несколько предметов. Второе определение существительного *trunks* стоит после него, это правое определение, выраженное причастием настоящего времени *falling*, см. ГС 15.

to his feet, jumped down to the beach, knelt and swept a double armful of sand into a pile against his chest. Then he sat back and looked at the water with bright, excited eyes.

“Ralph—”

The fat boy lowered himself over the terrace and sat down carefully, using the edge as a seat.

“I’m sorry I been such a time. Them fruit—”

He wiped his glasses and adjusted them on his button nose. The frame had made a deep, pink “V” on the bridge. He looked critically at Ralph’s golden body and then down at his own clothes. He laid a hand on the end of a zipper that extended down his chest.

“My auntie—”

Then he opened the zipper with decision and pulled the whole wind-breaker over his head.

“There!”

Ralph looked at him sidelong and said nothing.

“I expect we’ll want to know all their names,” said the fat boy, “and make a list. **We ought to have a meeting<sup>26</sup>.**”

Ralph did not take the hint so the fat boy was forced to continue.

“**I don’t care what they call me,**” he said confidentially, “**so long as they don’t call me what they used to call me at school<sup>27</sup>.**”

Ralph was faintly interested.

“What was that?”

The fat boy glanced over his shoulder, then leaned toward Ralph. He whispered.

“They used to call me ‘Piggy.’”

Ralph shrieked with laughter. He jumped up.

“Piggy! Piggy!”

“Ralph—please!”

Piggy clasped his hands in apprehension.

“I said I didn’t want—”

“Piggy! Piggy!”

Ralph danced out into the hot air of the beach and then returned as a fighter-plane, with wings swept back, and machine-gunned Piggy.

“Sche-aa-ow!”

He dived in the sand at Piggy’s feet and lay there laughing.

“Piggy!”

Piggy grinned reluctantly, **pleased despite himself at even this much recognition**<sup>28</sup>.

“So long as you don’t tell the others—”

Ralph giggled into the sand. The expression of pain and concentration returned to Piggy’s face.

“Half a sec’.”

He hastened back into the forest. Ralph stood up and trotted along to the right. Here the beach was interrupted abruptly by the square motif of the landscape; a great platform of pink granite thrust up uncompromisingly through forest and terrace and sand and lagoon to make a raised jetty four feet high. The top of this was covered with a thin layer of soil and coarse grass and shaded with young palm trees. **There was not enough soil for them to grow to any height**<sup>29</sup> and when they reached perhaps twenty feet they fell and dried, forming a criss-cross pattern of trunks, very convenient to sit on. The palms that still stood made a green roof, covered on the

• <sup>14</sup> *Наверно, в нём всё ещё были ребята.*

• Здесь используется конструкция с *there* с модальным глаголом *must*, см. ГС 55. *Must* с перфектным инфинитивом *have been* выражает предположение, граничащее с уверенностью, о возможности действия в прошлом, см. ГС 25, 53.

• <sup>15</sup> *ждал, когда его спросят, как его зовут*

• После глагола *wait-ed* употребляется пассивный инфинитив *to be asked*, см. ГС 53.

• <sup>16</sup> *Думаю, тут повсюду много наших.*

• Здесь используется конструкция *there is/are*, см. ГС 55. Как и в других местах, мальчик делает ошибку — употребляет *is* вместо *are* в конструкции *there is/are* с последующим множественным числом.

• <sup>17</sup> *Ты никого больше не видел, а?*

• Это разделительный вопрос, см. ГС

• <sup>18</sup> В нём употребляется время Present Perfect, которое обозначает дей-



ствие в прошлом, результат которого важен в настоящем, см. ГС 41.

<sup>18</sup> *И я ношу очки с трёх лет.*

Здесь употребляется время Present Perfect Continuous для обозначения длительного действия, начавшегося в прошлом и продолжавшегося до настоящего времени, см. ГС 44.

<sup>19</sup> *Он снял очки и протянул их Ральфу, моргая и улыбаясь, а потом начал протирать их*

Последовательность действий в прошлом выражена временем Past Simple, см. ГС 35.

Причастия настоящего времени *blinking* и *smiling* являются обстоятельствами образа действия, см. ГС 15.

<sup>20</sup> *Они*

Местоимение *these* замещает ранее употреблённое словосочетание *palm trees* вместо местоимения *they*.

<sup>21</sup> *то тут, то там развороченная корнями упавших деревьев, на ней валялись*

underside with a quivering tangle of reflections from the lagoon. Ralph hauled himself onto this platform, noted the coolness and shade, shut one eye, and decided that the shadows on his body were really green. He picked his way to the seaward edge of the platform and stood looking down into the water. It was clear to the bottom and bright with the efflorescence of tropical weed and coral. A school of tiny, glittering fish flicked hither and thither. Ralph spoke to himself, sounding the bass strings of delight.

“Whizzoh!”

Beyond the platform there was more enchantment. Some act of God—a typhoon perhaps, or the storm that had accompanied his own arrival—had banked sand inside the lagoon so that there was a long, deep pool in the beach with a high ledge of pink granite at the further end. **Ralph had been deceived before now by the specious appearance of depth in a beach pool and he approached this one preparing to be disappointed**<sup>30</sup>. But the island ran true to form and the incredible pool, which clearly was only invaded by the sea at high tide, was so deep at one end as to be dark green. Ralph inspected the whole thirty yards carefully and then plunged in. The water was warmer than his blood and **he might have been swimming in a huge bath**<sup>31</sup>.

Piggy appeared again, sat on the rocky ledge, and watched Ralph’s green and white body enviously.

“You can’t half swim.”

“Piggy.”

Piggy took off his shoes and socks, ranged them carefully on the ledge, and tested the water with one toe.

“It’s hot!”

“What did you expect?”

“**I didn’t expect nothing**<sup>32</sup>. My auntie—”

“Sucks to your auntie\*!”

Ralph did a surface dive and swam under water with his eyes open; the sandy edge of the pool loomed up like a hillside. He turned over, holding his nose, and a golden light danced and shattered just over his face. Piggy was looking determined and began to take off his shorts. Presently he was palely and fatly naked. He tiptoed down the sandy side of the pool, and sat there up to his neck in water smiling proudly at Ralph.

“**Aren’t you going to swim?**<sup>33</sup>”

Piggy shook his head.

“I can’t swim. I wasn’t allowed. My asthma—”

“Sucks to your ass-mar!”

Piggy bore this with a sort of humble patience. “You can’t half swim well.”

Ralph paddled backwards down the slope, immersed his mouth and blew a jet of water into the air. Then he lifted his chin and spoke.

“I could swim when I was five. Daddy taught me. He’s a commander in the Navy. **When he gets leave he’ll come and rescue us**<sup>34</sup>. What’s your father?”

Piggy flushed suddenly.

“My dad’s dead,” he said quickly, “and my mum—”

\* Sucks to your auntie! — На фиг твою тётушку!

- *гниющие кокосы и*
- *ростки пальм.*
- Причастия прошед-
- шего времени *torн*
- и *scattered* с зависи-
- мыми словами об-
- разуют причастные
- обороты, служащие
- определениями
- существительного
- *grass*, см. ГС 16.
- Причастие на-
- стоящего времени
- *decaying* стоит перед
- существительным
- *cocoanuts* и является
- его определением,
- см. ГС 15.
- <sup>22</sup> *опершись одной ру-*
- *кой о серый ствол*
- Это независимый
- оборот с существи-
- тельным, ср. *She*
- *sat on the porch, the*
- *light of the lamp on*
- *her face*. Этот оборот
- является обяза-
- тельством образа
- действия.
- <sup>23</sup> *скользящие по его*
- *коже.*
- Причастие настоя-
- щего времени *sliding*
- с зависимыми сло-
- вами образует при-
- частный оборот,
- служащий опреде-
- лением существи-
- тельного *shadows*,
- см. ГС 15.
- <sup>24</sup> *Он был доста-*
- *точно большой, две-*
- *надцать с лишним,*
- *чтобы пухлый дет-*

*ский животик успел подобраться; но пока не достаточно большой, чтобы в нём ещё не ощущалась неловкость под-  
ростка.*

Перфектный инфинитив *to have lost* употребляется после прилагательного *old* + *enough* и обозначает действие, произошедшее раньше действия сказуемого. После второго *enough* используется конструкция *for* + *существительное/местоимение* + инфинитив с перфектным инфинитивом *to have made*, см. ГС 53.

<sup>25</sup> *вынужденный, наконец, поверить в реальность острова*  
Причастие прошедшего времени *forced* с зависимыми словами образует причастный оборот, служащий определением местоимения *he*, см. ГС 16. Определительные обороты, образованные причастиями прошедшего времени, как правило стоящие в начале предложения, часто имеют допол-

He took off his glasses and looked vainly for something with which to clean them.

“I used to live with my auntie. She kept a candy store. I used to get ever so many candies. As many as I liked. When’ll your dad rescue us?”

“Soon as he can<sup>35</sup>.”

Piggy rose dripping from the water and stood naked, cleaning his glasses with a sock. The only sound that reached them now through the heat of the morning was the long, grinding roar of the breakers on the reef.

“How does he know we’re here?”

Ralph lolled in the water. Sleep enveloped him like the swathing mirages that were wrestling with the brilliance of the lagoon.

“How does he know we’re here?”

Because, thought Ralph, because, because. The roar from the reef became very distant.

“They’d tell him at the airport.”

Piggy shook his head, put on his flashing glasses and looked down at Ralph.

“Not them. Didn’t you hear what the pilot said? About the atom bomb? They’re all dead.”

Ralph pulled himself out of the water, stood facing Piggy, and considered this unusual problem.

Piggy persisted.

“This an island, isn’t it?<sup>36</sup>”

“I climbed a rock,” said Ralph slowly, “and I think this is an island.”

“They’re all dead,” said Piggy, “an’ this is an island. Nobody don’t know we’re here. Your dad don’t know<sup>37</sup>, nobody don’t know—”

His lips quivered and the spectacles were dimmed with mist.

“We may stay here till we die<sup>38</sup>.”

With that word the heat seemed to increase<sup>39</sup> till it became a threatening weight and the lagoon attacked them with a blinding effulgence.

“Get my clothes,” muttered Ralph. “Along there.”

He trotted through the sand, enduring the sun’s enmity, crossed the platform and found his scattered clothes. **To put on a grey shirt once more was strangely pleasing<sup>40</sup>**. Then he climbed the edge of the platform and sat in the green shade on a convenient trunk. Piggy hauled himself up, carrying most of his clothes under his arms. Then he sat carefully on a fallen trunk near the little cliff that fronted the lagoon; and the tangled reflections quivered over him.

Presently he spoke.

“We got to find the others. We got to do something<sup>41</sup>.”

Ralph said nothing. Here was a coral island. Protected from the sun, ignoring Piggy’s ill-omened talk, he dreamed pleasantly.

Piggy insisted.

“How many of us are there?”

Ralph came forward and stood by Piggy.

“I don’t know.”

Here and there, little breezes crept over the polished waters beneath the haze of heat. **When these breezes reached the platform the palm fronds would whisper<sup>42</sup>**, so that spots of blurred sunlight slid over their bodies or moved like bright, winged things in the shade. Piggy looked up at Ralph. All the shadows

• нительное значение  
• обстоятельства.

• Этот оборот, хотя  
• он стоит в середине  
• предложения, так  
• же имеет дополни-  
• тельное значение  
• обстоятельства  
• причины.

• <sup>26</sup> *Нам следует*  
• *устроить собрание.*  
• Модальный глагол  
• *ought to* выражает  
• совет, желатель-  
• ность действия, см.  
• ГС 31.

• <sup>27</sup> *Мне всё равно, как*  
• *они будут называть*  
• *меня, ... пока они*  
• *не будут называть*  
• *меня так, как звали*  
• *в школе.*

• Сложным союзом  
• *as long as* вводится  
• придаточное пред-  
• ложение времени,  
• в котором будущее  
• действие выража-  
• ется Present Simple,  
• см. ГС 34.

• Конструкция *used*  
• *to* обозначает ситу-  
• ацию в прошлом,  
• которая не сохра-  
• нилась до настоя-  
• щего времени, см.  
• ГС 21.

• <sup>28</sup> *против воли до-*  
• *вольный даже тако-*  
• *му признанию.*

• Причастие про-  
• шедшего времени  
• *pleased* с зависи-  
• мыми словами об-

разует причастный оборот, служащий определением имени собственного Piggy, см. ГС 16.

Определительные обороты, образованные причастиями прошедшего времени, как правило стоящие в начале предложения, часто имеют дополнительное значение обстоятельства.

Этот оборот, стоящий в конце предложения, так же имеет дополнительное значение обстоятельства причины, см. также ком. 25.

<sup>29</sup> *Почвы было недостаточно, чтобы они подросли*

После *enough* используется конструкция *for + существительное/местоимение + инфинитив* с инфинитивом *to grow*, см. ГС 53.

<sup>30</sup> *Ральф до этого уже обманулся кажущейся глубиной заводи на берегу и приблизился к этой, готовый к разочарованию.*

В начале предложения используется форма страдательного залога Past Perfect, обозначающую

on Ralph's face were reversed; green above, bright below from the lagoon. A blur of sunlight was crawling across his hair.

"We got to do something."

Ralph looked through him. Here at last was the imagined but never fully realized place leaping into real life. Ralph's lips parted in a delighted smile and Piggy, taking this smile to himself as a mark of recognition, laughed with pleasure.

"If it really is an island—"

"What's that?"

**Ralph had stopped smiling and was pointing into the lagoon**<sup>43</sup>. Something creamy lay among the ferny weeds.

"A stone."

"No. A shell."

Suddenly Piggy was a-bubble with decorous excitement.

"S'right. It's a shell! I seen one like that before. On someone's back wall. A conch he called it. **He used to blow it and then his mum would come**<sup>44</sup>. It's ever so valuable—"

Near to Ralph's elbow a palm sapling leaned out over the lagoon. Indeed, the weight was already pulling a lump from the poor soil and soon it would fall. He tore out the stem and began to poke about in the water, while the brilliant fish flicked away on this side and that.

Piggy leaned dangerously.

"Careful! You'll break it—"

"Shut up."

Ralph spoke absently. The shell was interesting and pretty and a worthy plaything; but the vivid phantoms of his day-dream still interposed between him and Piggy, who in this context was an irrelevance. The palm

sapling, bending, pushed the shell across the weeds. Ralph used one hand as a fulcrum and pressed down with the other till the shell rose, dripping, and Piggy could make a grab.

Now the shell was no longer a thing seen but not to be touched<sup>45</sup>, Ralph too became excited. Piggy babbled:

“—a conch; ever so expensive. I bet if you wanted to buy one, you’d have to pay pounds and pounds and pounds<sup>46</sup>—he had it on his garden wall, and my auntie—”

Ralph took the shell from Piggy and a little water ran down his arm. In color the shell was deep cream, touched here and there with fading pink. Between the point, worn away into a little hole, and the pink lips of the mouth, lay eighteen inches of shell with a slight spiral twist and covered with a delicate, embossed pattern. Ralph shook sand out of the deep tube.

“—mooed like a cow,” he said. “He had some white stones too, an’ a bird cage with a green parrot. He didn’t blow the white stones, of course, an’ he said—”

Piggy paused for breath and stroked the glistening thing that lay in Ralph’s hands.

“Ralph!”

Ralph looked up.

“We can use this to call the others. Have a meeting. They’ll come when they hear us<sup>47</sup>—” He beamed at Ralph. “That was what you meant, didn’t you? That’s why you got the conch out of the water?”

Ralph pushed back his fair hair.

“How did your friend blow the conch?”

“He kind of spat,” said Piggy. “My auntie wouldn’t let me blow on account of

• шего действие, про-  
• изошедшее ранее  
• какого-то момента  
• в прошлом (*до опи-  
• сываемого момен-  
• та*), см. ГС 42.

• Местоимение *one*  
• замещает ранее  
• употреблённое су-  
• щественное *pool*,  
• чтобы избежать его  
• повторения, см.  
• ГС 12.

• Причастие настоя-  
• щего времени *pre-  
• paring* с зависимы-  
• ми словами образу-  
• ет причастный обо-  
• рот, выражающий  
• сопутствующие  
• обстоятельства, см.  
• ГС 15.

• У причастия *prepar-  
• ing* есть дополне-  
• ние, выраженное  
• пассивным инфи-  
• нитивом *to be disap-  
• pointed*, см. ГС 53.

• <sup>31</sup> *он как бы плавал в  
• огромной ванне.*

• Модальный глагол  
• *might* с перфектно-  
• продолженным  
• инфинитивом *have  
• been swimming* выра-  
• жает предположе-  
• ние о возможности  
• действия, начавше-  
• гося в прошлом и  
• продолжавшегося  
• до какого-то опре-  
• делённого момента,  
• см. ГС 24, 53.