The Simpsons episode 5F11 ‘Das Bus’

1) Which character from the novel does each Simpsons character represent?

Bart: Ralph
Lisa: Simon
Nelson: Jack
Milhouse: Piggy
Ralph Wiggum: Percival, or one of the littluns

2) Match each quote from the episode with a quote or line from the novel. In some cases there may be more than one appropriate answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bart: “I’m glad we’re stranded. It’ll be just like the Swiss Family Robinson, only with more cursing! We’re gonna live like kings. Damn hell ass kings!”</th>
<th>‘Treasure Island—’ ‘Swallows and Amazons—’ ‘Coral Island—’ (p.33)</th>
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<td>Ralph: [Groaning after eating some berries] “They taste like burning.”</td>
<td>‘They were used now to stomach-aches and a sort of chronic diarrhoea.’ (p.61)</td>
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<td>“Kill the dorks! Bash their butts! Kick their shins!”</td>
<td>‘Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!’ (p.206)</td>
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<td>Bart: “Let’s get to work. Me and Nelson will build the tree house. Martin, draw up plans for a coconut radio and, if possible, a coconut Nintendo system.”</td>
<td>Ralph: ‘...someone would say we ought to build a jet, or a submarine, or a TV set.’ (p.51)</td>
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<td>Lisa: “Wait! We’re not savages!”</td>
<td>Piggy: ‘What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?’ (p.98)</td>
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<td>Lisa: “We are not here to debate the existence of monsters.”</td>
<td>Ralph: ‘But I tell you there isn’t a beast!’ (p.36)</td>
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<td>Nelson: “Aw, sucks to the law!”</td>
<td>Ralph: ‘Sucks to your ass-mart!’ (p.8)</td>
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<td>Bart: (About his shelter) “Well, when monsoon season comes you’ll be glad it’s there.”</td>
<td>Ralph: ‘Who’s clever now? Where are your shelters? What are you going to do about that?’ (p.167)</td>
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3) What four significant objects or things from the novel appear in the episode?

- Conch
- Glasses
- Shelters
- Fire

4) How does the ending of the episode differ from that of the novel? In the novel the boys come close to killing each other and are only rescued when they inadvertently create a huge smoke signal.
5) Why is it appropriate and ironic that the kids become stranded on the island while on their way to a Model UN Convention?

The United Nations was created after WWII to prevent war and harmonise relations between nations. Often, though, Member States fight amongst themselves. Like the UN, the children have competing needs and desires that inevitably lead to conflict. As Principal Skinner says in the episode as the children argue amongst themselves, “Do you kids want to be like the real UN? Or do you just want to squabble and waste time?”

Note

The beginning of the episode, in which Bart and Lisa persuade their mother to let them stay up to watch Troy McClure in a TV series about Noah’s Ark, may seem unrelated to the broader episode, but it is not. William Golding intended Lord of the Flies as a story of survival in a post-apocalyptic world. In his original manuscript, the novel begins with a long description of the nuclear war that forced the children to be evacuated. Charles Monteith, an editor at Faber & Faber (which would eventually publish the novel), persuaded Golding to remove this section and begin at the moment the children wash up on the island.

Thus, far from being unrelated, the reference to Noah’s Ark, a story of biblical apocalypse, is wholly apt.