# Lord of the Flies

William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* examines the nature of man and the root of evil within human beings. The plot includes a plane full of British boys, dropping upon a remote island. The boys are marooned without the command of adults and as time progresses, their civilized manners begin to deteriorate. The inhumane imagery in *Lord of the Flies* invokes a cadaverous mood, stressing the savagery of the boys. William Golding’s novel reflects the devolution of the so-called civilized man, posing an ironic statement against the privileged class in that man in whatever society will be savages.

As the novel progressed, the boys in the beginning of the novel were characterized as sophisticated and respectful boys who believed that they should elect a leader to run their colony. As it is shown in the beginning of the novel Ralph and Jack, are good friends and get along pretty well. Nevertheless in the eyes of Ralph there was a doubt that Jack and he shared a weight putting their bond at risk since the boys elected Ralph as leader first. At first Jack tells us, “I agree with Ralph we’ve got to have rules and obey them” Golding (42). This displays to us that at one point in time just like Ralph, Jack supported being civilized men. This democratic society conversely does not last long as the boys start to abandon their respect for the conch and seem to change. William Golding demonstrates this to us when Jack states, “We don’t need the conch anymore, and we know who should say things.” (101). Creating an argument that undeniably anyone can be over powered and become savage.

Furthermore in *Lord of the Flies* the monster signifies the brutality that lives in everyone, swaying to force some people to hurt one another and at times kill. The Lord of the Flies not only symbolizes a monster but also it has a characteristic of altering the children on the island in a manner that they know longer want to go back to their sophisticated ways. In other words the monster in the novel changes the boys from being urbane to becoming vicious savages. An examples of the savagery that arouse in the society the boys lived in are the glasses that Piggy wore, when they first landed on the island they were spotless and perfect, similar to how the boys were. However as time went on, when Jack started picking on Piggy and at one point fought him, it resulted in Piggy’s glasses being scratched, which symbolizes how the tribe was becoming alienated. Then lastly to disrupt all of society the rebel tribe under Jack’s grasps robbed Piggy of his glasses in the night. William Golding illustrates the rage infused in Ralph by stating: “You’re a beast and a swine and a bloody, bloody thief!”(177).

Unfortunately the savagery did not stop there in *Lord of the Flies*, though the death of Simon can be seen as an accident, it symbolizes the cruelty and complete lack of remorse Jack and his group of hunters had. This is verified in the novel when Jack utters to his clan that “He came disguised. He may come again even though we gave him the head of our kill to eat. So watch; and be careful.” (160). Ralph and Piggy were severely bothered by this event, while the hunters just forgot about what happened and went on with life. Like the cultured society we live in today many people would not be able overlook a death for a while conversely on the island the boys were stranded on. They forgot everything instantaneously. The murder of Simon embodies the small amount of humanity left in the boys till the death of Piggy, which shows the complete transition to barbarity.

In the novel William Golding validates the point that immoral tactics are not recognized in specific populations or situations however they are evident. For instance on the island the beast is visible in the cruel group dances, face masks and man hunts, just like in the outside world the yearning for power and control collaborates to the start of a devastating war. In *Lord of the Flies* William Golding has managed to display that evil is existent in everyone and will be for years come.

# Works Cited

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