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**Novel Analysis: Lord of the Flies**

*Lord of the Flies* is a classical book written by William Golding and published in the year 1954 (*Lord of the Flies*). The book gives an account of the story involving a group of individuals, mainly young boys who get deserted on an unknown island as a result of a terrible plane crash in the phase of the World War II. To help themselves in an absence of any external assistance, the boys formulate some basic rules to govern their stay and ensure survival at the island. They form a community where everyone is given responsibility for certain tasks. However, in an absence of any adult monitoring, they eventually start acting out and become violent in the process. They start killing each other and ultimately fall into chaos in the face of sin, evil and terror. This coincides with the main idea of the book that deep down all human nature is essentially savage (Alaa). This essay serves to analyze the novel based on setting, plot, and characters.

**Setting**

The story sets at an unknown remote tropical island located in the heart of the Pacific Ocean during an era of the World War II in the year 1950 (Kruger). The group of young boys reach the island after going through a terrible plane crash, the plane which was supposedly evacuating them. As soon as they reach the island, they begin harming the natural order of the island. The name “scar” is given to the place where the plane crashes and rips off most of the trees (Golding). In means of ensuring survival via hunting, they start killing wild pigs and, on several occasions, build fires that go out of control rendering the entire island “scorched up like dead wood” (Golding). They use the beach as a bathroom. In a profound analysis, the island is depicted as a land that is not friendly towards its new inhabitants (XIA and WANG). At the beginning of the novel, the boys embrace their individuality and ambiance while enjoying the thrilling adventures on the island, but eventually realize its inhospitality after experiencing various setbacks. This is additionally depicted by the symbolism according to which coconuts are “skull-like”, sun rays seem to be “invisible arrows” and the name of “evil” is given to the sound of trees rubbing against each other (Golding) (Jia-yin). When the brutalized bodies of Piggy and Simon show up at the shore, the nature proves that it is intolerant towards the uncivility of humans (Jia-yin).

**Plot**

In the middle of the raging war, an airplane carrying a bunch of students from the school of Britain crashes on the unknown island. Ralph and Piggy, two of the survivors assemble the rest of the boys by using a shell/conch as a call. After they get together, they decide to strive for their rescue and appoint Ralph as the leader of the group. Ralph appoints Jack as the head of the group ensuring to provide the rest of the group with food by hunting. After successfully exploring the island, both Jack and Ralph agree on building a fire as a smoke signal to draw the attention of nearby ships. They successfully build the fire but do not pay much attention to it. As a consequence, the fire gets out of control and burns the minor part of the forest including a boy who gets lost in the fire. The boys accept the fact that they might not get rescued as soon as they want, so they decide to live happily with what they have already. They start enjoying their stay by performing various activities such as playing games. Ralph keeps a close eye on the situation and advises Jack along with his group to monitor the fire signal. Jack, on the other hand, is more involved in hunting as his boys haven’t yet caught any pig. One day, after missing a ship passing them by, Ralph scolds Jack. At the same time, Jack’s group members show up with a dead pig. The boys, with utter happiness, celebrate the accomplishment of the hunting group, while Piggy hits Jack across the face and he falls on the ground. Ralph, as a group leader, restores the order by giving a speech about peace and cooperation. One day at a group discussion, everyone reveals how they feel about the forest and island. The majority believes that the island is home to some kind of monster who often lurks in the forest. Ralph and the other leading bodies disagree and advise others to think sensibly in this situation. In a military fight, a hopeless parachutist lands on the signal fire mountain after he ejects from his plane. Two twins, Eric and Sam, who are in charge of keeping the signal fire up, refuse to recognize the parachutist and believe that it is the monster of the Island. They head back to the camp and alert others about the attack of the monster. Both Jack and Ralph head up to the mountain to observe the monster. They come back and hold a meeting about how they are going to take out the monster. In the meantime, Ralph accuses Jack of being a coward which makes Jack angry and he heads down to the beach and assembles his crew to overthrow Ralph. Ralph gathers the rest of the boys and orders them to build a fire at the beach. Jack takes his crew of hunters on an expedition where they kill a pig and place his head on the sharp stake. One of the boys, Simon believes that the head is talking. The head tells him that they will not find the monster on the mountain as it exists within them (Cox). Being fearful, Simon goes up to the mountain and finds the dead parachutist. When he turns back to tell the others about the truth, he finds all of them running towards him with spears in their hands. Oblivious of the fact that it could be one of their own members, the furious gang including Jack and Ralph kills poor Simon, perceiving him as the monster. The next day, Piggy gets killed as a consequence of another feud. Jack orders his people to kill Ralph who later escapes them and hides in the forest. In an attempt of running away from the forest, Ralph gets found by the military officer at the beach who after seeing the furious gang and the situation turns his back on them.

The competition involving Jack and Ralph is the greatest conflict in Lord of the Flies (Jing). The fight for the 'leader of the island' is the conflict between a stable democracy embodied by Ralph and a brutal dictatorship embodied by Jack (Jia-yin). These teenagers remain as leadership candidates of the entire group, although Jack reluctantly acknowledges Ralph's leadership in the beginning as the storyline progresses, their dispute escalates until it becomes a challenge to extinction. Jack and Ralph including their associates reflect different human instinct principles and characteristics. Ralph portrays respect for the constitution, responsibility, purpose, and defense of the poor, while Jack portrays brutality, oppression, mob rule, fear-ridden administration, and dictatorship (Ju-hua). As we can tell of Ralph's control over the other boys slipping and collapsing until he has been thrown over and chased, the tale convinces everyone that the aggressive and barbaric instincts of mankind are much more dominant than morality, which is naturally delicate (Fitzgerald and Kayser). Although Ralph is saved by a character of the military officer, in the end, the assumption that a third world war is raging reinforces the notion that society is indeed experiencing major threat from the elements of terror (Jing).

**Characters**

The leading character of the book, Ralph is the young English kid who is stranded on the island with the rest of his fellows. He struggles to coordinate the actions of the boys to create a small society until they are recovered. Ralph reflects the moral nature of human beings as compared to Jack's wild nature (Sunderman). The villain of the story, Jack is the oldest one in the group, stranded on the island. Initially, he is a leader of the hunter's crew, however, as the tale develops, he yearns for absolute power and becomes more dangerous, brutal, and violent. Jack, an expert at exploiting the other people, demonstrates the human instinct of brutality as compared to Ralph's human nature (Fitzgerald and Kayser). The "lieutenant" of Ralph, Piggy is a petulant, creative boy. The creativity of Piggy also contributes to ingenuity, including the homemade sundial used by the group to keep track of time. He reflects the logical and pragmatic side of human civilization (Kruger). Simon is portrayed as a quiet, vulnerable boy in the group. He, in certain aspects, is the only inherently "right" protagonist in the story. He takes care of the younger boys and is keen to work for the collective good. Therefore, as his motive is embedded in a profound sense of belonging with creation, Simon seems to be the only individual whose moral sense is not enforced by culture (Ju-hua)*. The Lord of the Flies* is a term given to the pig's head that the crew of Jack impels on a stake and tears down as a sacrifice to the "monster", lurking in the woods. It signifies the human nature of dominance and violence that seizes control of Jack's crew (Jia-yin).

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