

Lord of the Flies: A Survival Story

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Lord of the Flies is a famous novel about a group of students who were landed on an uninhabited island somewhere in the Pacific after their plane crashed when they were being evacuated, in course of great European war. The author of this novel, William Goldin, was a schoolteacher of an English school. Therefore the novel presents a convincing story of British Boys left in a situation without the guidance of a adult society.

After the plane fell on a desolate island and the engine part with its crew is destroyed, two boys Ralph and Piggy appear on the beach and try to assure their new condition. Then the boys assemble to decide how to manage the situation for their safety and wellbeing. The fat and bespectacled boy, Piggy, discovered the conch and suggested its use to call the boys to assemble for a meeting and as a symbol of authority. Ralph liked the idea and proposed in the meeting then any member could speak after getting to conch in his hand. In this way, the conch shell is used as a symbol of power in their community. Because of not being any grownups, it was hard to control the shouting small boys.

They exchanged their names and start discussing about the plan for their safety and wellbeing until they are rescued. The three boys Ralph, Jack and Piggy set out to determine if they had really landed an island. They soon confirm that they are indeed on an island and there no names, no grownups and no fire at all. Thus they became excited because they were left to themselves without any threat of the adult society. They felt their situation just like in the storybook 'The Carol Island', 'Treasure Island' and 'Robinson Cursoe' as they had read in school. In this way, the boys started to adopt by eating various root and fruits. They bathe in the lagoon and play in the beach. Some of them go out hunting and kill wild pigs as they soon realized that they cannot live forever in the island in primitive style.

The students can be clearly divided into two groups: big-ones (bigguns) and little-ones (littluns). Their age was not more than 12 and not less than 5 years. The member of 'bigguns' were Simon, Roger, Sam and Eric including Ralph, Piggy and Jack and the number of 'littluns' were Percival, Harry,

John and remaining. The small boys who were also known as 'shrimp of boy', got perished when the fire was lit for the first time. Eating fruit, playing in sand, crying often in the night, the small boys gradually adopted themselves to the rhythm of primitive life in the island. They often talked about 'snaked and beast things'. In the other hand, the bigger boys were looked like grownups compared to the little kids because the bigger boys, remembering their home and school life, they planned ahead for shelter, rescue and to survive in such miserable condition.

Ralph is fair, good, kind, and gentle with good health, Jack is confident, cold, rough, egoistic and partial with good hunting ability and Piggy is fat, balding and ugly. He is the only boy with power glasses for his eyes. Piggy is one of the big and greedy boy along with Ralph, Jack, Simon and Roger. He was called Piggy and teased because he was ugly, fat, clumsy and awkward suffering from asthma. He also came from working class family and he speaks in the ungrammatical sentences. When he try to make sundials in the sand, everybody laugh at his serious ideas. But he is thoughtful and serious and wants the boys to follow and

obey their rule and leader Ralph and to be well behaved and cooperative. He is the boy who discovered the conch shell and suggested its use for regulating the meeting.

Ralph blows the conch and organizes a meeting to decide rules of behavior and to determine various responsibilities. First of all they collect vote to choose the leader. Ralph is elected as a leader who decided many action for all the boys. Then the boys begin building shelter, collecting drinking water and they also light the fire in the mountain with the help of Piggy's spectacle, hoping that the smoke would signal their presence to the passing ship.

The pig head stuck to a stick as a gift to the force of darkness is call the lord of the flies in the novel. The boys in the camp were afraid of unknown beasts in the island. The little boys were especially terrified of various types of imaginary beasts that seemed to raise their heads at night. All the boys were mortally horrified when they heard about the beast from the air that was in fact the dead air-man with his parachute that landed on the mountain. After this shocking experience Jack killed a pig and its head was left at the mountain to appease the unknown

beast. The pig's head attracted a lot of flies and it became known as Lord of the Flies to Simon and others. The title words signify dark forces that fight against good in nature. The novel is dominated by the theme of fear, irrational premonition of threat felt by the little kids. The pig's head was a symbol of man's desire to satisfy the demonic forces. Therefore the title of the novel is quite appropriate.

In this way Ralph thinks for the Group's benefit but for the Jack, he is concerned only with his own pleasure. Jack could not tolerate Ralph to be a leader of the assembly because he secretly wished to be the leader. Then, Ralph and Jack soon develop antagonism towards each other. They fell into two opposite sides of human nature. Ralph was easy going and cheerful to make happy social order and he wanted to maintain fire on the mountain. So that the smoke from it would help the rescuers to locate them. But Jack went out hunting and he did not care fire and getting rescued.

But Jack is happy in hunting and having fun. He start breaking rules and discipline. He quarreled with Ralph and established a separate community of his supporters on the Castle Rock. He

naturally declared himself the leader of the break-aways of castaways. Some fun loving boys supported him. He said that he would kill the beast as the little boys were afraid of beasts and nightmares. This group became the tribe of savages because they painted their bodies and faces in strips of many colors. They walked naked and carried sharp wooded spears. Ralph was angered by the break in discipline because he stood for order and discipline. But he could not enforce his order because he depended on every body's cooperation.

Gradually the quarrel between Ralph and Jack was so intense that they became mortal enemies. Jack's group and Ralph Group start to hate and fight each other. Soon, Jack challenged Ralph's leadership and both start fighting. Later, Jack encourage his boys to kill Simon, Piggy mercilessly and by the treachery of Jack and announced death warrant against Ralph. It was certain that Jack would kill Ralph if the rescue team had not arrived there. Jack symbolized savage tribes, anarchy and un-civilization that was fallen to the low level of primitive welfare. Thus, they are unconcerned about being rescued and wished only for blood game. In this way the peace was

shattered and the boys were divided into two feuding groups.

Thus, what began as thrilling adventure ended in near tragedy? This unfortunate situation was brought about by revelry between Ralph and Jack. Both the boys represents opposing aspects of human nature. Ralph is good nature, thoughtful and serious while Jack is cruel, only fun loving and rash. Jack can force his order upon others and Ralph depends on persuasion. Thus the novel can be seen as a fable of allegory of good versus evil. The story also reveals the deep-seated problems of human life. A society rest on hard work such as what Ralph believes in but there are many people like Jack in every society who like to do whatever they enjoy. Struggle of good and evil is the central focus of this novel.