



**BOOK REVIEW OF *LORD OF THE FLIES*  
WRITTEN BY WILLIAM GOLDING**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

For S-1 Degree in Literature

In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Rigadhi Pinakari

13020111140114

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer honestly confirms that he composes this final project entitled Book Review of *Lord of the Flies* Written by William Golding by himself, without taking any result from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer confirms that he does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper expect from the references mentioned.

Semarang, March 2<sup>nd</sup>2017

RigadhiPinakari

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

*“Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine.”*

**Alan Turing**

*“If you let limits limit you, you will be limited, but if you break through the limit, you will be limitless.”*

**Dalai Lama**

*“The man who does not spend time with his family can never be a real man”*

**Don Corleone**

**This final project is dedicated to  
my family and my future life ahead**

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**Written by:**

**RigadhiPinakari**

**NIM: 13020111140114**

is approved by project advisor,  
on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Project Advisor,

Drs. Jumino, M.Lib., M.Hum

NIP. 19620703 199001 1001

The Head of the English Department,

Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M.A.

NIP. 19640814 199001 1 001

## **VALIDATION**

Approved by  
Strata I Final Project Examination Committee  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University  
On Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Chair Person

First Member

Drs. Siswo Harsono, M.Hum.  
NIP. 19640418 499001 1 001

Dra. R. A.J. Atrinawati, M.Hum  
NIP. 19610101 199001 2 001

Second Member

Third Member

Ariya Jati, S.S, M.A.  
NIP.19780228 200502 1 001

Eta Farmacelia N, S.S, M.Hum, M.A  
NIP. 19551003 197812 2 001

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I acknowledge that this final project is still far from being perfect. Thus, I am willing to receive any positive criticisms and opinions to make this perfect. I hope that this project will be helpful for the readers

Semarang, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

RigadhiPinakari

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## ABSTRACT

At the time of nuclear war in the 1940s, a plane carrying British school children crashes into the Pacific Ocean. The plane crash survivors become stranded on an uninhabited island. The British children try to survive on the uninhabited island by creating a group and electing a leader. The two strongest candidates for the role of chief have contrasting ways of leading. Ultimately, the boys survive by any means necessary until they are rescued off the hellish island.

In this literature review of the novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, the writer examines the two main characters of the novel and specifically analyzes their different leadership styles and goals. The writer focuses on the protagonist and antagonist and their development into leadership roles; the writer peels back and exposes the novel's characterization. The author uses library research to collect the data and complete this literature paper. The paper satisfies the final task Project for Literature students

Keywords: Survival, Leadership, Characterization

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding is an adventurous thriller about a group of English school boys who are tested mentally and physiologically to survive on an abandoned island. The two rivalling youths, Jack and Ralph, must establish a hierarchy within their group in order to win against nature. Ralph's focus is to get rescued while Jack's focus is to create a long-term structures on the island. The protagonist, Ralph, is wise and optimistic, and possesses the ability to calm group members. Jack is authoritative and possesses the ability to make people follow his orders because of his confidence in his decisions. Originally, Ralph was elected as leader of the group, however, as life on the island becomes harder, Jack becomes the new leader, because he promises he can provide for the group. This story has relevant social-political aspects related to real world situations. Golding wants readers to explore character's development in extremely hard situations. Golding offers readers meaningful lessons in life in his book. He shows how two very young boys with very different leadership styles take on the responsibility of other people. How do people change and in what ways do they show their true selves (strength and weaknesses) in life-threatening situations?

Additionally, an important thing to point on in this project is the investigation of leadership. This project is designed to inform the readers about the different characterizations and leadership styles that emerge in this life-threatening situation: an abandoned island. In this project, the writer investigates the rivalling leadership styles of two characters, Ralph and Jack. It is, however, important to recognize that these two characters are still very young children put into a high-stake situation. They are thrown into leadership, due to the fact that they are older than the other plane crash survivors. Because of this, the reader would like to clarify that this project sees these characters, Jack and Ralph, as *emerging leaders*. Additionally, this book is about situational leadership, when two young boys are forced to become strong leaders in this context. This means that this project intends to investigate not only characters' personality characteristics but also the evolving process of them becoming leaders. Because of this, the writer relies heavily on plot details and also interpretation of the text. He interprets

the plot, which in turn, establishes this project as not just a literature review but an argumentative paper.

### **1.1 Biography of the Author**

This biography is paraphrased from the original source [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org). William Gerald Golding was born in Cornwall in 1911 and received his education at Marlborough Grammar School and at Brasenose College, Oxford. William Golding was not only a writer, but also an actor, headmaster, a mentor, a sailor, and a musician throughout his life.

While spending his college life at Oxford, William Golding started reading English literature. He graduated from Oxford University. In 1935, Golding wrote a lot of poems for a hobby. The same year, he became a teacher at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury. William Golding spent six years in the ocean because he was recruited in the Royal Navy in 1940.

At the sinking of the Bismarck, William Golding experienced warfare between submarines and aircrafts. While a lieutenant of a ship, he fought in the D-Day invasion off the French coast, and later on the island of Walcheren. He went back to teach after finishing his duty at war. He soon started to write again. He wrote *Lord of the Flies*, which was his first novel, and in 1954 it was published. The book was filmed for three times in 1963, 1990, and 1993.

## **2. SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL**

One day during an unknown period of war, a plane is shot down and crashes in the Pacific. Most of the British schoolboys on board survive. The boys swim to an island where there is no one there. The plot begins with Ralph and Piggy who stumble upon each other while in the forest. Piggy and Ralph predict other boys are on the island. Together they think of ways to assemble all the plane survivors. Ralph dives in the ocean for a conch. After he finds one, he uses it to call the other boys towards him and Piggy. When the boys assemble on the shore, Ralph proposes that they should have a Chief who will function as the leader of the tribe. Ralph immediately finds a rivalling leader- Jack Merridew. Ralph and Jack are both same in height and age. The younger

boys elect Ralph as leader because of his earnest and optimistic belief for a rescue and his clever use of the conch.

The plot follows the boys' journey to establish order and hunt for food. Originally, the boys settle with foraging for fruits. In the beginning, the boys have good manners towards each other, even though there are no adults to watch over them. Ralph has idea to make a bonfire as a Safe Our Soul a.k.a S.O.S signal. As time passes on the island, Jack confesses he isn't sure whether they will ever get off of the island. After the boys make a map of their new home and their first failed attempt at killing a piglet, Ralph expresses that he wants to make a bonfire as a Safe Our Soul a.k.a S.O.S signal. Because Ralph trusts Jack, he asks for Jack to manage the fire. While Ralph is looking for fruits, Jack does not manage the fire with the younger boys. Instead, he goes hunting for a pig. While Jack's hunting group is away, the fire goes out. Coincidentally, a ship far off in the ocean passes. On the other side of the island, Ralph sees the ship's steam. He jumps up and down with excitement, thinking that surely the ship will see the smoke from the fire. His foraging partner, Simon, points out that he can't see the smoke from the fire. Ralph gasps and runs as fast as he can to the fire pit, only to see in astonishment the fire is out. Ralph can't start the fire alone, and the ship leaves the area. Ralph calls an assembly with his conch. Jack and his hunting group come back feeling victorious; they have caught a very large pig. Ralph ignores their hunting success and criticizes Jack for letting the fire out. Also, he points out other problems, such as the littleuns childish antics and unhelpfulness. Jack apologizes, but points out that Ralph only gives order, while he is able to provide food to the tribe.

Another assembly is called where the little kids- who are affectionally called the littleuns, express their fear over a Beast. They think that there is someone walking around the island, who intends to hurt them. The fears from the littleuns are dismissed as nightmares. The plot continues with Jack and his hunting group hunting near a cave. Jack's team catch and kill a boar. To show off his success, Jack leaves the head of the boar on a post in front of the cave. Before he leaves to return to the main camp, Jack hears a strange noise from the cave, which he interprets as a man in agony. This time, the littleuns' fears are taken into more consideration, since Jack heard a Beast. When

Jack returns with his boar meat, the kids become crazy and chant "kill the pig!" Ralph understands that Jack does not like him. Jack talks badly about Ralph because he does not want to hunt for meat. Ralph wants to harvest bananas, coconuts, and other fruits. Jack says that Ralph is a coward. After this confrontation, another hunting trip is organized between Jack and Ralph. They go off to try and find the man who they call the Beast.

Meanwhile, Simon finds the head of the boar. Simon names the boar head Lord of the Flies. He sees that flies are swarming around the boar's head. Simon thinks that the head reminds him that he is a foolish boy. When Simon returns to camp to talk about the head as Lord of the Flies, the group of littleuns call Simon crazy.

Tension in the tribe escalates because Jack begins to dominate the group. Jack asks for another vote about who is better to lead: him or Ralph. In this case, most of the kids choose Jack because Jack seems more attractive than Ralph. Jack goes for hunts, and offers the kids his food. The groups of boys split up. Only Piggy, Ralph's advisor and closest friend, goes with him while the other boys follow Jack. Jack makes his own campsite with the littleuns which he calls Castle Rock. After the kids join Jack's tribe, they become very wild. They remove their clothes and express a desire to slaughter animals for the fun of it. At this point, Jack starts to become mad. He has so much power over the other kids. Later on, Simon goes in the middle of the night as he usually does. Jack provokes the kids to hunt and kill Simon because in the dark, he thinks that Simon is the Beast. When they discover the horrible thing that has happened, Jack takes responsibility for Simon's death. After Simon's death, the boys realize that they are acting different. They realize they are being savages and that scares them. However, the littleuns can't seem to stop their behavior because they are afraid of Jack and his brutal leadership.

On the other side of the island, Piggy and Ralph talk about Simon's death. They feel guilty about his death because Simon was weak and needed their protection. However, Piggy and Ralph understand that Simon died because of the littleun's instinctual fear of killed or be killed. At this point, Jack feels that his leadership is in jeopardy. He calls for an assembly with Piggy and Ralph also present. At Jack's

campsite, Castle Rock, Jack insists that the group re-accepts him as the ultimate and only leader of the island. To show his power, Jack orders for the group to take a littleun, tie him up, and beat him with ropes.

Jack's group show their loyalty again by bullying Ralph and Piggy. They take Piggy's glasses so he can no longer see. Ralph uses his last string of power, his conch, to assemble the tribe at his and Piggy's campsite in order to amend the wrong doing and call for a truce. Every member of the tribe shows up after Ralph's call. Jack has a secret motive. He knows that the twins, Eric and Sam, told Ralph to hide from Jack because Jack wants to trap Ralph. Jack orders the twins to be punished. The twins are tied and beaten with rope. Then, Ralph and Piggy are chased away from Castle Rock the crazy tribe of boys.

Ralph and Piggy hide below a mountain at Castle Rock. Ralph realizes that there is no peace and no point in trying to make amends. He realizes that his former friends are now savages. While they are hiding, Ralph watches Jack's tribe roll a giant rock down the mountain. The giant rock crushes and kills Piggy. Then, the tribe decides to burn the forest down. Because the fire makes a lot of smoke, a navy arrives at the island to investigate. Finally, the navy finds Ralph. The boy savages are also rescued by the naval crew. They cry tears of joy. The novel ends with all the boys (minus Simon and Piggy) getting off the island.

### **3. REVIEW OF THE NOVEL**

#### **3.1. Theoretical Framework**

The focus in this project is on the differing leadership styles of the two oldest boys on the island, Jack and Ralph. Characters are the most important part of a story because we attach to them and we learn as readers right from wrong from the characters' experience. We learn right from wrong through two characterizations there are two kinds of character, Protagonist and Antagonist. Roberts and Jacobs (1998) in *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing* explain that, "the protagonist to the central action, moves against antagonist" (p. 153). Thrall and Hibbard (1960) explain that

characters are imaginary people, but there is something about them that makes them human and relatable. (p. 79)

In this project, the writer interprets Jack as the antagonist and Ralph as the protagonist. Both the characters have incredibly relatable qualities, such as their obvious fear of nature, which makes the readers empathize with their situation. What helps in identifying who is the antagonist and the protagonist of the novel is by with type of conflicts the characters find themselves in. Since Jack reeks havoc on the other characters and leaves Ralph (the first character introduced in the novel) fighting for his leadership and his life, he is identified as the antagonist. Ralph dominates the plot. While Jack is not always mentioned in a plot scene, Ralph is always there. A protagonist is someone who the readers are fighting for; they are hoping that the protagonist will confront and win over their conflicts. Based on these interpretations of a protagonist and antagonist, the writer's argument for Jack as the antagonist and Ralph as the protagonist is justified. Thrall and Hibbard (1960) explain the methods of characterization:

There are three fundamental methods of *characterization* in FICTION: (1) the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct EXPOSITION ;(2) the presentation of the character in action;(3) the presentation from within a character (1960: 80).

According to the paragraph from Thrall and Hibbard (1960), the author give sa clear description about the character through the characterization, andboth character and characterization influence the reader point of views.

The writer would like to mention a paragraph about conflicts in novel. In general, it is important for characters to deal with conflict in order for them to evolve and on the flip side for readers to learn from their mistakes. Outside of books, conflict is an everyday phenomenon in the real world. For the writer, conflict is embodied in the single lyric, "Nobody said it was easy" from his favorite band Coldplay. The writer mentions this to clarify that in this novel, the conflicts that the characters face need to be considered lightly. The writer will employ this understanding of conflict as "Nobody

said it was easy” to clarify his position of Jack as yes, the antagonist of the novel, but also not the villain of *Lord of the Flies*.

The writer feels confirmed about his beliefs that Golding is trying to demonstrate this notion of “Nobody said it was easy” in his novel. In the end of the novel, the boys are rescued off the island. The previous conflict and pain is gone, since the boys are rescued. The novel doesn’t end with Ralph and Jack fighting on the Navy ship. The novel ends as if there was no conflict ever at all. The writer interprets the end of the novel through the slogan, “What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas”. The readers need to intercept the conflict that happened on the island very lightly, as even Golding himself does not continue the conflict off the island in the ending scene. Golding is trying to demonstrate at the end of the novel that the readers should not harbor bad feelings towards the antagonist, as even the boys themselves do not harbor bad feelings toward each other. As said before, “Nobody said it was easy.” The writer firmly believes that this life lesson is the most important takeaway for readers.

### **3.2. Analysis**

The readers don’t learn exactly right from wrong in their daily lives through the conflicts and behaviors of the Lord of the Flies characters. Instead they learn about two conflicting and emerging leadership styles. The novel tells about two kids that feel forced to lead a group of kids on an abandoned island. Both these kids have different leadership styles. Ralph’s leadership is the following: Ralph optimistic; Ralph has important leadership roles models who influence his perspectives; and Ralph tries to maintain man as civilized. On the other hand Jack’s leadership style is the following: Jack is unready for leadership and changes his mind frequently; he uses violence towards other to maintain power; and uses power because of paranoia and fear.

The protagonist Ralph is optimistic in his belief that the boys will eventually get off the island. When the boys assemble for the first time on the island after Ralph’s conch call, Ralph proclaims: “We’ve got to decide about being rescued” (Golding, 22). Ralph takes steps to get off the island by building a S.O.S. bonfire.

Ralph demonstrates an attempt to maintain man as civilized. Ralph is the first to establish order on the island with his use of the conch. The conch is used to call members of the team together. Also, during assemblies the conch is passed to individuals to speak. The person who has the conch as the floor; only the person with the conch can speak. Also, Ralph makes a bonfire for rescue purposes. He builds the fire specifically for rescue purposes; he thinks that if the fire is large enough and produces enough smoke, a ship could see it; such a signal would help get them off the island. Fire is of course, what differentiated man from all other species in the beginnings of time. It was man who made and wielded the fire. With fire, man became the top dog in nature. Humans have tended to be on this path; long ago, we distinguished ourselves from other species through using our intelligence to survive. One way we demonstrated our intelligence was our capability using what is at our disposal to create something, such as fire.

Ralph has a leadership role model, which explains Ralph's optimistic nature. The writer of this project believes that this specific role model influences Ralph's leadership style. This leadership role model is Ralph's father, who is a captain in the British navy. His belief in his father's words about the Queen of England's knowledge of all the islands in the world contribute to his optimistic belief that the boys will get off the island. Ralph says that: "My father's in the Navy. He said there aren't any unknown islands left. He says the Queen has a big room full of maps and all the islands in the world are drawn there. So the Queen's got a picture of this island" Ralph has his role model his father, who is in the Navy, he will be rescued by his father (Golding, 37)

He wants to harvest and make a community. Jack wants immediate results- he wants to kill and be fed. The novel isn't about demonstrating what is a good and bad leader. What the novel is trying to make us to do is realize that with situational leadership, we have to empathize with different leadership approaches. Jack should not be as the villain of the novel because he was trying to do everything he could to survive. What the novel is trying to show us is to realize the different parts of ourselves that come out being a leader in a hard situation. If we look the ending of the novel when the band of boys are all picked up by the Navy, it is not just a cliff hanger leaving the reader

disappointed. It is trying to show how in situations that are high-stress and high-stake (live or die) we can excuse behavior from people.

The story does tell an interesting discussion about politics. When you are in power for so long, it becomes crazy. That why in politics, you have elections. Power is stressful and eats at you. This novel reflects real life situations when people are offered by two options. Not everyone is fit to lead. What makes a leader more attractive? When they can provide for you?

The writer gives review the leadership styles of the characters of Ralph and Jack in *Lord of the Flies*. Ralph and Jack are has a contrary leading attitude compared with each other that will be presented afterwards.

“Aren’t there any grownups at all?” (Golding, 8). Quote from Jack when they all the boys assembled after Ralph’s call with the conch. There is innocence with his question; it notes that he is still a child, seeking a parent to take care of the children. This quote is pre-island disasters and his fall into savagery. This quote is significant because it will show the evolving process from Ralph as an innocent boy to a savage leader.

“He was old enough, twelve years and a few months, to have lost the prominent tummy of childhood and not yet old enough for adolescents to have made him awkward... but there was a mildness about his mouth and eyes that proclaimed no devil” (Golding, 10). A physical description of Jack when he first meets all of the boys, who were gathered by Piggy’s clever idea to blow the conch. As the writer explains, there is nothing about Jack physically, that indicates to readers that he is evil or that he had the personality to do what he would do (kill people, savagery) during his time on the hellish island

Ralph here, as it is summed up in the novel, is described as a boy with a well leadership manner, and he also has an optimism in mind. The story begins with the narration of Ralph appearance, as the author states:

“The fair hair boy lowered himself down near the last rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon. By taken off his school sweater and trailed it , his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead with the long scar

jungle smashed was a bath of heat. He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry that echoed by another.”

The quotation above is stated short before he finds Piggy, and they start discussing about how to gather all the kids that is left from the airplane crash. The representation of Ralph optimism nature can be seen from the way he believes that he will find the other kids and is going to do something about it, as he states, “We got to find the others. We got to do something” (Golding, 14). Ralph believes that Piggy and him should gather the other kid first before making decision about what to do next. It reflects both optimism; that he can find the other kids, and the clever decision making of him. Later they find a shell, and Piggy says, “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. It’s ever so valuable” (Golding, 15). They try to blow it in order the other kids will follow its voice. The trial is successful and many kids come from different way. Untill there is a group of kids, headed by Jack come last. “We’ve got to decide about being rescued” (Golding, 22). Before the boys begin their process of figuring out who will be Chief and lead them, Jack actually proclaims this first objective to the boys; how to get off the island and be rescued. This quote is important because it shows how Jack is still thinking very rationally and his urgency- he, too, he wants to get off the island. As the plot progresses, Jack will have a different objective: of being Lord of the Flies and continue his lawless life on the island.

The first conflict begins when both Jack wants to be the chief:

“I ought to be chief,” said Jack with simple arrogance,  
“because I’m chapter chorister and head boy. I can sing C sharp.”  
Another buzz (Golding, 22).

This quotation above represents Jack arrogance in the very first place that he thinks he can be a good leader just because he is a chapter chorister and can sing well.

It is followed by how the kids are asked if they want Jack to be the chief. “With dreary obedience the choir raised their hands” (Golding, 23). Certain kids vote for Jack because they feel afraid of him. Therefore, the kids do the vote, and Ralph gets more votes from the kids. Ralph becomes the chief of the group.

The other description showing that Ralph is wise in managing the group can be seen from Ralph’s statement below:

*Ralph asks to everybody to give him time to decide whether it is an island or not in order to rescuing his friends” (Golding, 23)*

Ralph is having a hard time in making decision, but he tries to decide something that he thinks better for the group by sorting the kids to do their own chores. It is a part of a well-organized leadership in Ralph.

“Better Piggy than Fatty,” he said at last, with a directness of genuine leadership” (Golding, 25). Words used by Golding to describe Ralph after Piggy is upset that Ralph revealed to the boys Piggy’s nickname among his friends off the island. The write indicates already, that Ralph, even though eh has yet to be elected as chief, as characteristics of an emerging leader.

“There came a pause, a hiatus, the pig continued to scream... and the blade continues to flash at the end of a bony arm...Then the piglet tore loose... [and] scurried into the undergrowth...” (Golding, 31)

“They knew very well why [Jack] hadn’t [killed the piglet]: because of the enormity of the knife descending and cutting into living flesh; because of the unbearable blood” (Golding 31). After electing Ralph as a leader and after he instructs the younger boys to stay while the older boys explore their new home, Ralph, Simon, and Jack, while out exploring, discover a pig. They attempt to capture the pig. Jack, who has a knife, tries to slaughter the pig while Simon and Ralph hold it down. However, Jack can’t bring himself to slaughter the pig. This unsuccessful hunting experience demonstrates how Jack is still emerging into his savery. He is still too young and too innocent to inflict pain unto another living creature, much less kill something.

“There aren’t any grownups. We shall have to look after ourselves“(Golding, 33). This quote represents a turn into plot and characterization of Jack, perhaps to be the antagonists, where Jack realizes the reality of situation. However, Jack does not say “yet” that there aren’t any grownups yet and that they, the boys, would have to look after each other, but that there is a sense of hopeless- that they will be stuck on this island.

“While we’re waiting we can have a good time on this island...It is like a book.” (Golding, 34) Ralph maintained his optimism; while the other boys are terrified by the words of Jack who sort of puts down the hammer in this explanation that no one will save them and that there hope for getting of the island is hopeless, Ralph plays Mr. Brightside; he plays with the young children’s imagination and that there time on the island is like one of their fairy tale of nighttime books coming alive; they can pretend to live as pirates or go on treasure hunts. Soon the other boys “in a clamor” interject that life on the island will be like “Treasure Island” or “Swallows and Amazons”- books they read as children (Golding, 34).

Ralph lifted the conch and his good humor came back as he thought of what should he say next, he states:

“All of his friends must climbing the mountain in order to having fun and looking for rescue”

The passionate noise of agreement from the assembly hit him like a wave and he lost his thread. He thought again.

“We want to be rescued; and of course we shall be rescued.” (Golding, 37)

The statement above shows that Ralph is having a clear optimism that they all can be rescued anytime soon. It is also a clever solution that the kids can have fun while doing effort to be rescued. He continues with, “There’s another thing. We can help them to find us. If a ship comes near the island they may not notice us. So we must make

smoke on top of the mountain. We must make a fire”(Golding, 38). It is somekind of clever decision that Ralph decides to make a fire so that the navy could notice the existence of the kids on the island, so they later can get rescued.Ralph is very optimistic about it.

In order to make the fire, at first they have no idea about how they can light the fire because none of them has any matches. So Jack, with his very annoying and rough behaviour, takes Piggy’s specs arbitrarily.

Jack pointed suddenly.

“His specs–use them as burning glasses!”

Piggy was surrounded before he could back away.

“Here–let me go!” His voice rose to a shriek of terror as Jack snatched the glasses off his face (Golding, 40).

Somehow, it can be seen that Jack can be very clever about certain things, but he should do it in a better way. He does not even ask Piggy’s permission for borrowing his specs to light the fire. He makes fun of him and takes his specs away just like that. It shows the arbitrary occured in Jack’s personality. Jack seems to have a hard situation in dealing with conistance. It is shown in the begining of the novel when he is making statement that he agrees with Ralph, “I agree with Ralph. We’ve got to have rules and obey them. After all, we’re not savages “(Golding, 42). The poignancy of the irony is clear in this book after the reader has completed the novel; Jack agrees with Ralph after the newly elected leader explains to his younger tribe members the urgency of establishing rules on the island. Jack feels as Englishman, hailing from the land of Law, that they must establish order and harmony on the island through rules and regulation. This expression for law and order is ironic, because as the plot moves forward, Jack falls into savagery and lawlessness.

“I’ve been watching the sea. There hasn’t been the trace of a ship. Perhaps we’ll never be rescued” (Golding 43). Jack uses his observations to defend his feeling that they will never be rescued; he continues to establish himself as the antagonist of the story and to Ralph, who believes in optimism and that one day they will be rescued off the island.

Ralph counteracts Jack's statement, explaining, "I said before we'll be rescued sometimes. We've just gotta wait, that's all" (Golding 43).

"There's nothing in it of course/ Just a feeling. But you can feel as if you're not hunting, but-- being hunted, as if something's behind you all the time in the jungle'" (Golding, 53) Jack confides in Ralph about his paranoia while hunting in the jungle. The little-uns are terrified about a beast, that they feel is lurking in the forest. The younger boys' fears are dismissed as simple nightmares, but Jack finds this as a moment to reveal his paranoia while in the jungle. This revelation by Jack reveals his maintained fear and innocence and also man's place in the jungle- that there are far greater creatures there besides him. Perhaps this quote reflects Jack's own demons and his own lack of full confidence. Perhaps he uses aggression towards the little ones, Piggy, and Ralph in order to mask his own anxiety

The very first thing to do that can be seen how Jack turns into a savage is when he and the other kids make an experiment by making masks. After wearing the mask, it is later explained that, "Jack planned his new face. He made one cheek and one eye-socket white, then he rubbed red over the other half of his face and slashed a black bar of charcoal across from right ear to left jaw [...]. "Samneric. Get me a coconut. An empty one."

He knelt, holding the shell of water [...]. He looked in astonishment, no longer at himself but at an awesome stranger. He spilt the water and leapt to his feet, laughing excitedly. Beside the pool his sinewy body held up a mask that drew their eyes and appalled them." (Golding, -63). Jack's emergence into a hunter; he puts on the black mask- he makes is transition from a small boy who was obviously one through his face- into a hunter. The transformation of Jack personality can also be seen by the addiction of blood, hunting, and killing. It can be seen by how pleasure he gets just because seeing a lot of blood.

"There was lashings of blood," said Jack, laughing and shuddering,  
"you should have seen it!"

“We’ll go hunting every day—”(Golding, 69).

Furthermore, it is also followed by the quotation, “Ralph stirred restlessly in his narrow bed. One chanced nothing! What could they do? Beat him? So what? Kill him? A stick sharpened at both ends”(Golding, 198). The tribes even have the idea to kill a person who used to be very close to them. It is clear that Jack and the other kids has already been addicted to savage thing.

Another case about Jack’s inconsistency can be seen when he promises to be responsible for keeping a lookout if in any chance there a ship passed by, as Jack states, “And we’ll be responsible for keeping a lookout too. If we see a ship out there”—they followed the direction of his bony arm with their eyes—“we’ll put green branches on. Then there’ll be more smoke”(Golding, 43). However, in during Jack’s turn to watch out the fire, he instead goes to hunt a pig for food. It is when the ship passes by, but they are not aware of any of the kids in the island because there is no fire or smoke as a sign.

“There was a ship.”

Jack, faced at once with too many awful implications, ducked away from them. Ralph brought his arm down, fist clenched, and his voice shook.

“There was a ship. Out there. You said you’d keep the fire going and you let it out!” .

“They might have seen us. We might have gone home—”(Golding, 70).

It is clearly shown that Jack is very inconsistent about what he promises before. At first he intend to work things out with Ralph’s idea, but then he ruins it up. “We needed meat,” (Golding, 71) is all he can say in return. It reflects that Jack is quite selfish and stubborn that he only does whatever he wants to do without the agreement of others. It makes sense that Jack really has hard situation in dealing with self-consistence.

“One side’s broken” (Golding, 73) One side of Piggy’s specs are broken when the boys wrestle with him in order to use them to start their fire. The broken glasses of Piggy, establishes the fall of civility in the boys. Now they will follow Jack blindly, even though deep down, they know his acts are cruel and unacceptable

“Why should choosing make any difference? Just giving orders that don’t make sense” (Golding, 91) Tensions escalates within the tribe, after a conversation about a Beast- a creature that the little-uns explain is real and reeking havoc in the island. Jack points out Ralph’s leadership style to point out that while Jack can be a provider for the boys, Ralph gives orders. This difference perhaps reflects a constant issue with leaders in power- if they can’t produce tangible outcomes and results (in this case meat or a ship to rescue them off an island), are they really doing their jobs?

There is this conversation about their beliefs of beast. Some of them believe, some others do not. Jack and Ralph make decision to figure out if there is a beast on the mountain top that they think they just saw.

Something deep in Ralph spoke for him.

“I’m chief. I’ll go. Don’t argue.”

He turned to the others.

“You. Hide here. Wait for me” (Golding, 104).

The quotation above represents the courage in Ralph which he gets as a leader. He will do it himself without feeling indiscriminated and asks the others to stay hidden and to wait for him. It is a wise personality that Ralph has as a chief even though he feels scared about it deep down his heart. However, as a chief, he keeps going on to do so, as it is stated, “His mouth was tight and pale. He put back his hair very slowly...He forced his feet to move until they had carried him out to the neck of land” (Golding, 105).

“He’s not a hunter. He’d never have got us meat. He isn’t a prefect and we don’t know anything about him. He just gives orders and expects people to obey for nothing. All this talk—” (Golding, 126) Jack stresses for a second time, Ralph’s inability to produce now and areal results for the tribe

At some points, Jack shows a leadership soul in him. It can be seen by how he organizes his tribe to run the chores, “Some of you will stay here to improve the cave and defend the gate. I shall take a few hunters with me and bring back meat. The defenders of the gate will see that the others don’t sneak in” (Golding, 160).

Once he becomes a leader, he thinks that his tribe deserves better than what the kids get when they still under Ralph's command even though Jack sometimes can be quite impatient, as follows:

Jack stood up and waved his spear.

"Take them some meat."

While the other take a meal

Jack waved his spear again.

"Has everybody eaten as much as they want?"(Golding, 149).

Jack makes sure that all the kids already eat the meat. As it is shown in the novel that meat, in that occasion, is something that is very precious. However, Jack has them eat their food impatiently. It shows that Jack thinks he has the pride to own the kid, as it is stated, "His tone conveyed a warning, given out of the pride of ownership, and the boys ate faster while there was still time" (Golding, 149).

Piggy asks Ralph to go together with him for an assembly against Jack's behavior that gets worse each time. However, Ralph thinks that he should go to meet Jack himself because it might be too dangerous for Piggy if he comes with Ralph. Finally, they go together for the assembly. During their walk, Piggy starts feeling insecure, as he asks Ralph not to leave him. Then Ralph tells him to kneel down, "and wait till I come back" (Golding, 175), is all Ralph can say. It is kind of the courage in Ralph that he always wants to protect his friend.

"Which is better--- to be a pack of painted Indians like you are, or to be sensible like Ralph is" (Golding, 180) the words of wisdom from Piggy. Maintaining the first rule of the island that whoever has the conch is the one who can talk, Piggy rebukes the littluns for their behavior on the island. He maintains his loyalty to his first and only Chief and his sensible character

"Which is better, law, and rescue or hunting and breaking things up" (Golding, 180). Ralph says these final words before the tribes up again to their opposite sides of the

island, and right before Piggy is killed by a massive boulder. Ralph unlike Jack has maintained his position throughout his time on the island. He also shows that he continues to try to work sensibly and work sense into the littleuns, even though it seems like their common sense and humanness is long gone.

Later on, Jack becomes such a dictator that whenever someone is up against him, they are going to have a big punishment. Jack has obtained his power by force. Ralph and Piggy are detained because Jack thinks that they will become threat to seize his tribe. Jack even imposes fear toward his own tribe too.

“You two. Get back.”

Jack glanced back at Ralph and then at the twins.

“Grab them!”

No one moved. Jack shouted angrily.

“I said ‘grab them’!”

The painted group moved round Samneric nervously and unhandily.

“Oh, I say!”

“—honestly!”

Their spears were taken from them.

“Tie them up!”

Ralph cried out hopelessly against the black and green mask.

“Jack!”

“Go on. Tie them”(Golding, 178).

The quotations above show that in the end, Jack totally turns into a different person from what he thinks he is in the first place. At first, he thinks he will always be an English-mannered man in solving the situation problem on the island. However, according to his arrogance nature, it turns him into a madly savage. Hence, he thinks that he have the power to force the tribe and to take control of everything.

“There was no Piggy to talk sense. There was no solemn assembly for debate or dignity for debate nor dignity of the conch” (Golding, 196) When Piggy dies, the conch dies with him. The conch is shattered into a million pieces when it falls out of dying Piggy’s hands/clutches. This is an ultimate defying moment because not only Ralph no longer

has his confidante and advisor, but also it seems like the island has totally succumb to savagery and lawlessness.

It is important to take moment to reflect on the evolving process and characterization of Jack, the antagonist of *Lord of the Flies*. It is important to recognize and demonstrate that Jack should not be characterized as the villain of the story. It is in fact the context of the island, that turns Jack into his own worst nightmare and enemy.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The novel *Lord of the Flies* forces readers to reflect about what makes people good and bad in stressful situations. What happens when we lose our courtesies and have to make our own rules? This question leads to the writer to reflect back on the cover of the *Lord of the Flies*.

The novel's cover shows a chubby boy wearing a clean uniform of a school boy. A gigantic fly hovers over the school boy. Below the school boy are broken spectacles. In the backdrop of the novel's cover, is an untamed forest. The boy is not in the forest. It is almost as if he hasn't yet entered the forest as his clothes are very clean and kept. Indeed, his school boy's uniform has yet to be tainted by the dirt, greed, and savagery of the island.

The boy on the cover is Piggy. Piggy in *Lord of the Flies* functions as comic relief for the readers. However, when the readers reflect back on the leaders that emerge in *Lord of the Flies*, it is quite puzzling as to why Piggy was never elected as Chief. After all, it was Piggy who told Ralph to find a conch in the ocean to use to call the other boys. It was Piggy who pointed out that instead of building fires and hunting for pigs during their first few days on the island, that the tribe should have prioritized making shelters. Piggy was the first to point out the silliness of the littleuns calling them "insects" (Golding, 48). Perhaps Piggy's role is also to demonstrate one of the major pitfalls of leadership in politics; sometimes the best leader isn't elected and instead the one that is most charismatic and handsome becomes the leader.

Piggy was really the voice of reason for the tribe and their last link of clarity. Piggy's spectacles are symbolic of reason and clarity. Piggy's glasses are broken when the Jack and his tribe are on the cusp of their full state of savagery. They enter into Piggy and Jack's campsite unannounced and take Piggy's glasses. They break them apart so that Piggy can no longer see. The climax of the novel is when Piggy is killed by a large bolder; the littluns push a large bolder over the edge of Castle Rock with an intention to crush Piggy to death. The bolder is effective; Piggy is crushed and dies. When Piggy dies, the tribes last link to clarity is lost.

Why is Piggy called Piggy? The reason Piggy is called that interesting pig as words. Pigs are the animals the littluns and Jack hunt, when they hunt the pig they eventually kill them. People for many reasons, the writer of this project gives two reasons for hunting. One reason to hunt is to kill something. The other reason is to hunt for a prize or treasure. Jack hunts to kill while Ralph hunts for reason. Ralph is always hunting for reason, he looks to Piggy to clarify his actions. When Piggy dies, it is the death of clarity and reason. When Piggy dies it demonstrates that nature has won, that the savages have won. It is the death of man's reason and logic.

Pigs are important in this novel. The pigs make the tribe separate. Hunting for pigs is Jack's priority which conflicts with Ralph's priority of getting off the island and maintaining the bonfire.

As already discussed, the flies swarming the pig head in that iconic scene in the book symbolize the unruly littluns, whose only concern is to feed their stomachs. Since, however, on the cover there is only one fly, the reader soon reflects on whether this large fly represents the little-uns. A better interpretation of the fly, is that it is Jack, who was never a fan of Piggy. Jack is depicted as an unruly dictator, who becomes lost and maddened by his power. The hovering nature of the gigantic fly over Piggy is important. Man is powerless to Nature and the other animals dwelling there. The cover demonstrates a dichotomy that the readers will soon find in the text *Lord of the Flies*,

where civilization, clarity, and reason are tested and ultimately defeated, by unruly, hunger-thirsty ways, and savagery. The novel's cover functions as foreshadowing. The novel's cover suggest the fall of Man into savagery and the danger of Nature. Indeed, Nature is not romanticized. Nature is not depicted as Mother Nature who provides. Instead, Nature is man's enemy. Nature kills man and pulls him apart from his tribesman.

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding has two major characters, Ralph as the protagonist and Jack as the antagonist. Ralph is described as a boy with a well-leadership personality. He is wise and full of optimism. Jack the antagonist, deals with all his arrogance and dictation. Having totally different personality, Ralph and Jack want to be the leader of the group. Each of them thinks that they can manage the group better. It is proven from the quotation that the writer adds to support the analysis. Ralph can manage the group very well. He is very patient and mature. On the other hand, Jack has very selfish, childish personality. He needs everything set up as he wants without considering the other's opinion. However, the group prefers to follow Jack's order than Ralph in the end.

Is Jack a villain? Jack should not be interpreted as a villain in this novel, only the antagonist. The writer has three reasons. First it is important to remember that Jack is only a child. How much can a child be accountable for his actions? Second, it is important to reflect back on the context, the kids are trying to do everything they can to survive on an island. The motto, survival of the fittest comes to full effect. Thirdly, it is important to remember that not only blame for the horrible incidences that happened on the island are Jack's responsibility, it is important to remember that a leader is only as good as his followers. Piggy and Simon could not die without the help of the tribe. Thus, not all events are Jack's mistake.

In this context, on an abandoned island with only youths, different leaders arise. However, something must be said about the followers of the leaders and how the leaders

that emerge do not have the most loyal followers. In fact, perhaps it is not only the island and that context that develops these polarizing opposites- Ralph, the optimistic leader who is looking for ways off the island and Jack, a once innocent boy who turns into slavery, but also the people they are leading. It are the boys the littleuns that bring in the worst and best of these leaders. They feed the leaders egos, and since the boys are so young and easy to turn from good to bad, the leaders use that to gather more power. The boys are so young that they need to be taken care of, they are not old enough to take of their own.

*Lord of the Flies* reflects the real life situation when people are offered by two option between a good one, that in this case is reflected in Ralph's personality, compared with something that is more attractive even though it is bad, like Jack representation. Most of people would like to come into the bad one. This situation can be seen by how the group fulfills Jack's orders. Even if Jack is full of dictates and will give them punishment if they do not want to do what he asks, Jack supplies the group with better food than what Ralph provides for them to eat. That is why the group prefers to follow Jack than Ralph. The story is related to human life. People oftentimes become so greedy of things. They accept anything they think they deserve, without considering whether it is good or bad.

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Lord of the Flies isn't your average book, I have to say. Being a reader who loves to dig into books of adventure and mystery genres, upon picking up this book I thought it would be a normal adventure book; the blurb certainly seemed to suggest this. A predictable setting for a story: a deserted island suddenly inhabited by a group of reckless school boys. Every chapter leaves you hungry for more. I think the thing that makes Lord of the Flies so successful is the way William Golding manages to drop subtle hints in the story, straight from the beginning, and they become more apparent as the book progresses, and actions turn from worse, to what could only be described as barbaric and bloody. I also appreciate how the development of Ralph is made evident to the reader.

Book: Lord of the Flies. Author: William Golding. Rating: 4/5. A bunch of boys get stranded on an uninhabited island sans any adult. "Lord of the Flies" begins its story from here. Boys of all age groups, toddlers and adolescents, assemble on the sound of a blowing conch from Ralph. They elect Ralph as leader because "the being that had blown that (conch), had sat waiting for them on the platform with the delicate thing balanced on this knees, was set apart."

William Golding's writing style is quite intense. He uses the third person form to convey a sense of immediacy, tension and drama in his story. Golding is very convincing while forming the speech patterns of the children in his story. Piggy, who is a nervous child, speaks in half sentences and in uncertain short bursts. A biography of William Golding, whose first novel "Lord of the Flies" began as a blessing to its 42-year-old author, but came to seem like a curse overshadowing his other work. A blessing and then a curse of some sort "though by the time the book finally appeared in 1954, Golding wouldn't have cared about any downside. He was a 42-year-old provincial schoolteacher, desperate merely to have a novel published (it was the fourth book he had written, incidentally); renown and wealth were not even remotely considered. In fact, even "Lord of the Flies" was rejected by many publishers before an alert junior editor at Faber & Faber, Charles Monteith, saw its potential and encouraged Golding to make changes. By 1980, sales in the United States alone had reached seven million.

Cover Page of "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding. "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding is a young adult classic that released in 1954. This novel is a survival and psychological thriller that has fascinated and thrilled readers for many years. The writing style was fluid and easy to read which helped me connect better with the characters and the story. The story was very realistic to me as the kids acted just as I would have imagined kids would behave in that sort of situation. The psychological stages that the kids go through happen very quickly but in a way that makes sense and fits the story-line.

Book Blogger! I review books and post fun bookish stuff! You can always catch me with my nose in a book! More From Medium. Excavating Ometl. Nathan Smith in Interfaith Now. Review. "Lord of the Flies is one of my favorite books. I still read it every couple of years." "Suzanne Collins, author of The Hunger Games trilogy.

William Golding was born in Cornwall, England, in 1911 and educated at Oxford University. His first book, Poems, was published in 1935. Following a stint in the Royal Navy during World War II, Golding wrote Lord of the Flies while teaching school. It was the first of several works, including the novels Pincher Martin, Free Fall, and The Inheritors and a play, The Brass Butterfly, which led to his being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983. Lois Lowry is the two-time Newbery Award-winning author of Number the Stars, The Giver Quartet, and numerous other books for young adults.