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English 9A

25 October 2019

*Lord of the Flies* Paper

As a kid, one might not enjoy doing chores or following rules; they may want to play outside or with a friend. But what if that kid had no guidance from an adult, no reason to do the chores, or not to hurt their siblings would they? That is the question William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies* explores. *Lord of the Flies* is a book about a group of boys who crash land on a deserted island. At first everything seems fine; but slowly the boys begin to lose their civility freed from the judging eyes of society. Through this one boy stands out. Jack is the driving force of savagery on the island because of his disregard for rules, his obsession with hunting and his position of power.

Jack's disregard for rules leads to the fall of civilization on the island because he is a role model. He is one of the older kids and a hunter. He brings them pig's meat and the little ones look up to him. When he is confronted by the leader, Ralph, he says in full view of everyone on the island. "Bollocks to the rules" (Jack, 91). This presents Jack's views very bluntly to everyone and the majority of them agree. They do not like having rules and, like most little kids, they think the rules are unfair. They then revolt against Ralph and join Jack's tribe where they become lawless savages. Even though they hate the rules their the only hope they have of escaping the island. Rules are essential to not falling into anarchy and when Jack's group breaks off Ralph doesn't have the ability to keep the signal fire going.

Jack's obsession with hunting leads to the deterioration of sanity on the island by giving the boys a pastime. Instead of helping Ralph make huts or keep the fire going or carry water from the stream to the beach they can have an exciting hunt where they hunt down a boar and kill it. Slowly the hunt turns from a source of food to an activity to a ritual where after killing the pig they gather into a circle and reenact the killing. The killing of the pig desensitizes them to killing. Until eventually after Ralph refuses to join their tribe he becomes the prey and they hunt him across the island "They're going to hunt you tomorrow" (Samneric, 188) and the next morning the boys hunt Ralph like a pig with the intention of killing him. "He sharpened a stick at both ends" (Samneric, 190) this holds significance because the savages use a stick sharpened on both ends to stick the head of their kill. Through hunting they lose any sense of civility they had.

Through Jack's position of power he promotes savagery on the island, by enabling violence, and lawlessness. Jack has a deep seated want for power and when he gets it he wants to keep it. By manipulating the boy's fear of the beast he is able to overthrow Ralph as chief. Once he's done that the boys listen to his command not only because they trust him, but also because what he does is fun. After Jack's tribe has moved to castle rock two of the boys have a conversation "He's going to beat up Wilfred.' 'What for?' ... 'I don't know. He didn't say.'"(Ralph & Roger,159) Jack has no reasoning to what he's doing and any impulse control has gone out the window along with his morality. He is consumed by power and does with it what he wants.

Jack's promotion of savagery leads the boys into savagery. Through his disregard for the rules that were put in place to help them escape and creating an environment where lawlessness

is encouraged. His obsession for hunting which desensitizes the boys to killing and gives them something to do other than tend the fire. Jack uses his power to promote savagery and lawlessness to the boys and lead them into the bloodthirsty madness that drives them to hunt Ralph.

#### Work Cited

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. New York, Penguin Books, 1954.