

Contrast between the key characters of novel 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding- 'Ralph and Jack'

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Abstract:

In Lord of the Flies by William Golding, Ralph and Jack are two strong and significant characters. Ralph makes a great leader because he is trustworthy and upholds moral principles. Jack is a selfish, destructive hunter who stands for evil. The leadership behaviours and personalities of these two primary figures might be compared.

Key Words:- Lord of the Flies, William Golding, Ralph, Jack

Introduction:

In Newquay, Cornwall, England, on September 19, 1911, William Golding was born. William Golding taught at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury, Wiltshire, from 1945 to 1961 after receiving his degree. Lord of the Flies, a book by Golding, had been under development. In the early 1950s, when he thought it was prepared for publication, he had trouble locating a publisher. It was initially flatly rejected by Faber & Faber, but after editor Charles Monteith looked over the manuscript, it was eventually released in 1954. Because Lord of the Flies was a commercial success, William Golding was able to quit his position as a teacher. He left his position in 1961 and spent the academic year as a writer-in-residence at a college in Virginia, in the United States.

Twelve novels, including the To The Ends of the Earth trilogy, were later published by William Golding, including Rites of Passage (1980), Close Quarters (1987), and Fire Down Below (1989). His untimely death left behind a draught of a book that was later released as The Double Tongue (1995). The most well-known, frequently read, and analysed work of William Golding is called Lord of the Flies. Rites of Passage, for which he received the Man Booker Prize, is another well-known book.

Brief Summary:

Lord of the Flies by William Golding portrays the struggle between good and evil. Jack represents the tyranny and usurpation practised by all of the world's dictators, whereas Ralph represents the democratic values valued by the civilised world. In actuality, Ralph's time on the island is the tale of a transition from youth to experience. A group of boys get separated on an island in the middle of the ocean in the book Lord of the Flies. The author is William Golding. Ralph and Jack are two important characters in the book, and this essay will contrast their entirely different personalities.

Review of literature

Robert C Gordon (1965)

The paper "Butterfly and Beast in Lord of the Flies" by Mr. Robert White (MFS, Summer 1964) is an intriguing exploration of Golding's original and inventive use of classical motifs. My remarks, which are motivated by my personal interest in Golding's use of Homeric and Euripidean components, aim to expand on Mr. White's observations and, in one specific case, challenge what seems to me to be an incorrect assessment of Golding's conclusion. If excellent authors steal and bad writers borrow, as TS Eliot has indicated, Golding is a very skilled thief, and Homer is one of his main victims. Golding occasionally uses almost direct references to Homeric imagery, but this is not his regular style. One instance is the conch, which Peter Green has already identified as being Homeric.

Scarlett Lu (2017)

In his Nobel Prize-winning book *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding tells the story of a group of schoolboys who struggle to build a functioning community when stranded on a lonely island. There are no true female characters in the novel. As a result, few critics focus on this problem. However, the novel subtly raises the question of femininity by having masculine characters who reject it. For instance, Ralph, the main character, recalls that he never read one of the books on his shelf since it was a book about two girls (Golding 112). Additionally, when the guys' hair lengthens as a result of their extended stay on the island, they reject tying it back because it would make them look like girls (Golding 172).

Contrast Between the key characters of 'Lord of the Flies' - 'Ralph and Jack'

Physical Appearance:

Ralph, the charismatic lead character in *Lord of the Flies*, is fair-haired, athletically built, good-looking, and from a wealthy, middle-class family. He guides and accompanies people in accordance with the reasonable, much-loved English tradition.

Jack is depicted as a nasty and unattractive kid. He has red hair, freckles, a pinched face, and is scrawny and frail. He is conceited and power-hungry, and on the island, he swiftly turns savagely savage.

Psychological/mental/Emotional Aspect:

Ralph thinks it is important to have rules and be organised.

He stands up for others who are weaker than himself and has a strong sense of "fair play." Ralph starts to reflect more and more on the developed world that has been left behind as the story goes on. The kill he saw fills him with both disgust and excitement. When Ralph is taken advantage of, he realises that he is an outcast "Cos I had some sense"—not simply common sense but also a sense of his identity as a civilised person and

a knowledge of the specific morality that had ruled the boys' society at home. Ralph says, "Cos I had some sense.

Jack from Lord of the Flies starts out the book as conceited and power-hungry, and over the course of the book, his character deteriorates into becoming ferocious, violent, and oppressive.

Attitude to the same Situation:

Ralph rushes across the jungle in the last chapters of Lord of the Flies to escape Jack and his band of wild boys as well as the fire Jack started on the mountain. A British Naval officer who has arrived on shore after watching the burning island from his ship spots Ralph as he comes onto the beach. Ironically, Jack's reckless and homicidal wildfire prompts their escape from the island, despite the fact that Ralph's primary driving force throughout the entire story has been maintaining a smoke signal. Ralph is soon joined by the other boys, who inform the officer of their adventure. As they continue speaking, numerous lads start crying as they finally realise what has happened to them. They change back into terrified humans after being homicidal savages.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, it can be seen that the key contrasts between Jack and Ralph's characters in the first and last chapters of the book are that Jack is more traditional and conformist, whilst Ralph is more laid back, a little rebellious, and constantly on the lookout for danger and adventure. Ralph, on the other hand, wants to be saved by others, whereas Jack wants to start his own "gang" and thrives under his own leadership.

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