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### Ralph's Self Conflict

"We've got to have special people for looking after the fire. Any day there may be a ship out there and if we have a signal going, they will come and take us off. And another thing. We ought to have more rules. Where the conch is, that is a meeting. The same up here as down there." (p.42) Although most would take this quote as worthless, it possesses power and predicts what is going on in our book. It remains one of the first signs of leadership from Ralph.

Immaturity and power alter a character's identity. Although Ralph showed many signs of leadership, his immaturity held him back in many ways. He attempts to balance his popularity and leadership, which his father probably had to do in wartime as a naval officer in Britain. Although Ralph shows some significant signs of a leader that was in action for the kids on the island, he lets Jack's deception and thievery break him down and lose all hope. At a point in the book, he questions his leadership role, going to Simon and Piggy to see if he should drop the position he has on the island. Of course, they both voted no because the next person who would take Ralph's role would be Jack, and by just looking at his hunters/the choir group, anyone can tell that he rules like a tyrant. All of page 93 has Piggy, Simon, and Ralph going back and forth about whether Ralph should continue his role, yet in that conversation, they point out multiple times how manipulative Jack will eventually take over the whole island leading them all to death.

Although Jack's hunting wasn't a priority and was his obsession, was Ralph getting attracted to it? While hunting, Ralph grazed a large boar and felt the exhilaration of it. Thrilled about his "marksmanship," he began to boast to the others.

"I hit him! The spear stuck in--"

"I hit him," said Ralph again "and the spear stuck in a bit."

"He felt the need for a witness."

Feeling the need for a witness must have made him seem overlooked for his marksmanship skills. The hypocrisy gives us a piece of detailed evidence supporting the claim. Ralph's childish actions and feelings setbacks from the leader he can indeed be.

Although Jack has his addiction to hunting, which Ralph seemed to be hinting at as well in the times of Chapter 7, Ralph's real obsession is the fire. Every chapter, Ralph seems to be referring to the fire, which seems to be very important and eventually got them saved. The thought of a successful fire being their escape most likely was passed down to him from his father. However, his obsession with the fire might be a more personal thing than an idea that's going to save them all. Even Jack had to tell him he was going crazy about the fire when they abandoned it to hunt a pig.

Ralph said, "There's no signal now. Nothing to show."

Jack replied, "You're nuts on signal" (p.107). Jack pointing something like that out means it was surreal.

Understanding how William Golding created all the characters and where the background of the whole book came from is a delicate and intricate process. Each of the characters are special, and the one that stood out most in the book was Ralph. Although he carried all the traits

for the ideal child, it was as if the island sparked a piece of immaturity in him, which could not be stopped and almost led him to his death. “Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.”(p. 290) By far, Ralph's the most sophisticated character in the book, and his complexity really sparked this paper and caught my eye and attention.