

AP

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A Million Possibilities

In William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, if certain characteristics of Piggy were removed from his identity, the entire plot and theme of the book would change dramatically. Piggy gave Ralph his leadership. He knew what the conch could do, encouraged Ralph not to give up, and what kept them from losing their sanity instantly.

For example, if Piggy could see without his glass, then simply lighting a fire becomes much more difficult. They would be cold and dark at night, and that would lead to fear. Fear leads to chaos, and Jack would be crazy about making a fire. Since the only way to cook the pig is fire, and all Jack thinks about is pig, one of his main concerns would be fire. Another consequence of Piggy having good eye-sight would be Ralph and his obsession with fire. If Ralph's obsession with fire only was flared because access to fire was easy, then he would not at all be interested. Even the thought of a rescue fire would be ridiculous to the others, like his idea of getting a message to his dad. So he would give up the idea like his other out of that island ideas.

Another example is if Piggy didn't remember the strange and random things he hears and notices. The conch would just be a symbol of the beauty of the island. Jack would be leader, since the conch is what gave Ralph his superiority and power. By the fourth chapter of the book, there would be a few groups of children that managed to find each other. Once there is only two

groups, each one would have some sort of a supremacy system, with each group having one person as chief. Once they meet, they might get excited, but eventually they will have a discussion about who will be chief. Most people would vote for Jack, since the only thing that made Ralph leader was his looks, and the conch - which is now gone. Jack is direct, decisive, and unlike Ralph, is very sure of himself. Those characteristics are the reason why the savages eventually followed Jack.

The list of removed or added characteristics could go on forever. The way the author gave and created characters is perfect, and how he added the smallest but very important details is amazing. For example, if someone closely read when Ralph first blows the conch after reading the book, they could see that the author included 'something squealed and ran into the underbrush. This is a clue of pigs living on the island from the very beginning, giving the book an extra cool quirk. There are a million ways that the author could have written this book, but the way he wrote it is the most brilliant of them