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Identity on the Inside

Have you ever tried to compare two sides of a coin? Characters display different values that sound the same, but just not quite. Ralph and Piggy's identities present similarities. The only differences lie in motives and attitudes.

Motives are one of the best ways to see identity. Ralph and Piggy display different motives, but you might find some similarities. First, Ralph wants to save everyone at all times. He expresses this through the signal fire. When Ralph returns from the mountain top with Simon and Jack, he said that the fire will help the Navy to see them. Once he finalized the idea, he never lost focus towards it. Ralph's identity says that he wants to save everything, some more than others. In addition, Piggy also wants the fire to stay lit. Piggy wears the one thing they use to make fire, his glasses. On the other hand, Piggy wants to provide for the littluns. He sought to learn their names so they could stay organized. He demonstrated this in the beginning when Ralph called everyone with the conch. Piggy learned Johnny's name, but when he told Ralph he showed no interest. "Piggy muttered the name to himself and shouted it to Ralph, who was not interested..." (pg. 18). Piggy shows that he cares for others, but can't extend his caring to others. Ralph shows some care towards the littluns. Everytime Ralph suggests they help the littluns, Jack shuts him down. He never pushes his suggestions far enough. When looking for the beast, Ralph wants to help them, but Jack shouts that they don't matter.

Furthermore, attitudes also work great with finding Identity. First, let's start with Piggy and what his attitude displays. Piggy, in the beginning, acts annoying and talks about his auntie. Before all the boys gathered, Piggy continued talking about his auntie and what he could and couldn't do. This causes him to sound irritating and repetitive. In addition to annoying, Piggy also acts as the victim. He can't express his thoughts because Jack shuts him up before he can. When Ralph doubted he could stay leader, Piggy told him that if Jack became the leader, he would suffer. Piggy can't stand up for himself, and that part of his identity can't change. On the other hand, Ralph can stand up for himself. He argues against Jack many times. When Jack breaks the rules, Ralph fights back and says that's all they have. Ralph stays a decent leader because of this. He's not great because he's closed-minded. It took him 5 chapters to realize that he can't reason like Piggy. He focuses on one task and doesn't take the time to see other problems. Piggy tries to fix the other problems but can't find people to assist. Ralph acts simple-minded sometimes, but he just needs time to figure things out. Identity for Ralph sounds similar to a kid. They don't understand everything right away and need time to learn.

To sum everything up, Piggy and Ralph act very differently. Their Identities can end up on the same side. In addition, they can end up disagreeing and end up apart. Ralph focuses on the fire and rescuing everyone. Piggy cares for the littluns and wants them to survive. They both want to save people, so it's almost the same. Very close, but not quite the same. Almost like two sides of a coin.