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17 December 2018

Identity of Ralph v.s Identity of Jack

Ralph and Jack are two divergent personalities, with differing priorities. So, how are they similar? How are they opposite? With personalities such as those on the island, they were bound to clash at some point. This quote on pages 81-82 sums up that idea well: "Jack stood up,.. and held out his hands. "I haven't finished yet." "But you've talked and talked!" "I've got the conch." Jack sat down, grumbling." Jack and Ralph quarreled over who got to speak. Little conflicts like that led to bigger conflict, and eventually, the destruction of order on the island. These proceedings pitted Ralph and Jack against each other in the final battle for supremacy over the island and those remaining.

To commence, Jack is someone who should not be messed with. He was arrogant and cold at the best of times, and a murderer at his worst. Before the island, he was probably a kid who was tough to discipline. He assumed that he would automatically become the leader. There is a sentence on page 22 that captures this idea quite well: "I ought to be chief... because I'm chapter chorister and head boy. I can sing C sharp." Jack was demonstrating his arrogance while stating this. He thinks he can saunter in and claim the leadership. However, Ralph had better qualities for the job.

Moreover, Ralph was a fair minded leader, trying to get them rescued. He saw the importance of the fire, and the role it would play in saving them. He did not like to be challenged, so he did not like Jack. Before the island, he was presumably a kid who went with the flow of things. He started out as rather a jerk, to Piggy and others. Eventually, he learned to like these boys and trust them. He liked being their leader. Ralph could not hold on to the leadership, however. He could not do things. He said things and came up with the ideas, but could not put them into action. That power lay with Jack.

In some ways, Ralph and Jack are quite similar. They are both ambitious. They both wanted to be leader. On page 23, after Jack lost the election: "...the freckles on Jack's face disappeared under a blush of mortification." He was mortally embarrassed that he didn't win. Ralph, anyhow, did let Jack decide what the choir became. And after Jack told the choir they were to be hunters: "Jack and Ralph smiled at each other with shy liking." They liked each other once. Later, however, they were enemies.

During the better part of the novel, Ralph and Jack were often butting heads and squabbling. This later turned more serious when Jack left the group. "I'm not going to play any longer. Not with you." This quote can be found on page 127. Jack was so aggravated and jaded with everything that he lost it and ran away. Ralph tried to rebuild the tribe and restore order. However much he tried, people were bound to follow Jack, the one who could get things done.

In conclusion, Ralph and Jack can be compared in many ways. They are also quite different. They, at one point, had similar views and priorities. Those similarities became

harder to find as the book wore on. They got into a war because of their differences. The boys on the island were forced to pick sides, and that could only end in disaster. Piggy died because of Jack and his minions. Ralph could never forgive him for that because Piggy had become like his best friend on that island, like his most trusted advisor. Ralph and Jack were not able to get along, and in the end, they destroyed the island.