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### Morality and Mortality in Lord of the Flies

The identities in Lord of the Flies by William Golding both contain the themes of morality and mortality and these themes affect the decisions that they made on the island. Each choice made by the character further decides if their identities become more morally based, or the opposite. The loss of morality and innocence down spirals the characters identities to slaughter and death, which leads to the death of two boys.

When the boys first land on the island, they quickly establish rules, jobs and a leader. In the beginning, they value morals by following their rules and obeying Ralph and the jobs they obtained. The boys morals in the beginning such as obedience, and determination helps complete the tasks in order to leave the island such as, keeping the fire lit, so ships will see the smoke and rescue them. At beginning of the book the boys became more excited about establishing rules then hunting for pigs. “‘ We’ll have rules!’ he cried excitedly. ‘Lot’s of rules!’” (pg.33). Jack, who speaks in the quote becomes one of the first boys to abide and become excited about the rules. However, it quickly dissipates and he becomes the first to leave and turn away from the group. In the first few days on the island the majority of the boys become thrilled by the rules on the island. This further displays that, towards the end of the book, the boys morals of peace, order, and leadership overruled their strive to experience fun and hunting.

Subsequently, the job that was supposed to assist with their rescue, led to their spark of mortality. Jack chose to take his choir boys hunting rather than watch over the fire this led to a ship passing the island without the hint of smoke signifying presence there. This event creates the boy's first conflict: fire vs hunting. In choosing hunting pigs over the fire it sparks their love of mortality and the death of an innocent animal. " " Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood." (p.g 69) The first time Jack attempted to kill a pig for food, in the beginning he could not bring himself to kill her. This shows that the boys still possessed the influence of adults and they still cared about their morals so they became more willing to help Ralph. Early on, the boys still wanted to obey their leader, listen to orders, and do their jobs. However, as they spent more time on the island, that adult influence wore away and they finally brought themselves to kill the pig. Their morals changed by favoring killing and death over rescue. The boys become more drawn to Jack because he begins to take the hunting to an extreme by painting their faces, chanting, and dancing. After this conflict, order falls apart and no one listens anymore.

As Jack and the boys became obsessed with killing, the other side of the island tries to become more serious about their rescue. Ralph really steps into his leadership role and his morals adapt to fit the recent events on the island, he becomes more empathetic, and he develops a more clear plan on how to get rescued. He wanted to bring the two sides together. But, as much as Ralph tries he becomes unable to control them and make them listen to him, even when it becomes most important. "Assembly after assembly had broken up in laughter when someone had leaned too far back and the log had whipped and thrown half a dozen boys backwards into the grass. Yet now, he saw, no one had the wit-not himself nor Jack, nor Piggy-to bring a stone and wedge the thing." (pg. 77) This shows that over time, their once common goal of rescue

wore away leaving boys who just wanted to have fun, and Ralph could not bring them together in order to be rescued. And even though Ralph acquires all these leadership skills, he will never be able to get the boys to listen to him the way Jack does. Without the influence of adults their morals changed and they couldn't acknowledge the most important task, keeping the fire going. Instead they believe that hunting should be their main priority, yes the meat sustains the boys more than fruit, but fruit didn't feed their love of death. Because the boys are so young their brains can be easier to manipulate and they do not possess an adult to help steer them in the right path. They fall into a love with hunting and turn away from the morals they once took pride in.

One of the biggest factors of mortality in this book was the boy's loss of innocence. These boys had to grow up very quickly and started to kill because they believed that it was the fun thing to do and they believed that the meat would sustain their hunger more than fruit. At first they became satisfied with killing pigs and they enjoyed the thrill. However, that enjoyment of mortality and the death of an innocent creature eventually spread to their own kind. They began killing each other. They hunted each other like pigs and killed two boys as their childhood innocence noticeably was replaced their lust for killing. The death of these two characters bothered the boys who most of the time did not participate in hunting, they felt guilty for how the first one died Simon. He was beaten to death by the boys in mistake for their greatest fear, the beast. Which meant that they didn't understand death because they never went hunting and didn't know what to expect from the kill. The hunters on the other hand were bothered, but not for long they soon brushed it off like nothing and continued hunting proving that they valued mortality over morality. Instead, after the first death, which they claimed as an "accidental" kill, they deliberately kill Piggy, the second victim. Jack's take over of power and thrill for the kill

changed his morals so that he would not care to complete the tasks to be rescued. These mortality based decisions affected everyone and led them to their inevitable end, chaos.

In conclusion, the identities of Lord of the Flies both contain the themes of morality and mortality and these themes affect the decisions they make on the island. In the end the boys morals change to death and killing by the lack of supervision, the gain power and loss of innocence. Their time on the island showed how the loss of innocence and the value of death over order can break apart a community trying to survive.