

I.A.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding and The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Lord of the Flies and The Cay are two books with many similarities as well as their differences. These books were both written to tell an important message, and each message told a different perspective on the world around us. These stories overall teach us how the authors perceive the world.

The Cay is about a young boy named Philip who was forced to leave his home in Curaçao to Florida because of a fear of bombing in WWII. On the boat ride to the United States, a German submarine sinks the ship. Philip then finds himself on a small raft with a black man named Timothy and a cat named Stew Cat. Philip refuses to warm up to Timothy because of his color, but then soon becomes blind due to the sun's rays. They then crash on an island, and Philip learns to survive on his own while also learning to not judge people by their looks.

Now, onto the similarities in the two books. One of the most obvious similarities is that the main characters are on the island for at least several months, "hair, much too long, tangled here and there knotted around a dead leaf or twig" P.110 (Lord of the Flies), now, remember that these kids are from private schools, most likely having relatively short hair. In The Cay, we know that they spent less than a year on the island because they give relative dates in the novel which states Philip was there for less than 8 months. Both of them take place in a world war, even though in Lord of the Flies, it is not specified which one. Each book consists of a mainly male cast and, at least one of

the characters die. They also feature some sort of threat on the island, be it the people or wildlife.

With that, *Lord of the Flies* and *The Cay* have many differences as well. First, let's talk about how *Lord of the Flies* is Different. There are no adult on the island other than the dead pilot, and at the end of the book. They are also a giant group of mainly young children, other than just an old man, a kid, and a cat.

*The Cay* features Stew Cat, as a companion to give Philip comfort on the Island. *The Cay* also features more conflict from nature than from people. A monsoon hits them, forcing them to evacuate parts of the island, and rebuild after the storm passed. Philip was also attacked by seagulls in one instance and required assistance.

Now, the characters act very differently in these situations. In *Lord of the Flies*, the Kids either play it off more like an adventure or fairytale at first, and create a little tribe or, burst out crying because there are no adults to guide them. This already shows the disorder in the new society. The kids in the book have a wide variety of age and are referred to as either littluns and biguns in the novel, showing the dividing classes that formed in the beginning of the book and become a society of the oldest being in power, and mainly the younger kids being peasants "The intention of a charge was forming among them... Ralph heard the great rock before he saw it." P.180. The author uses this to drives the rest of the book to more intense emotions and actions later on in the novel as shown in the quote.

As for *The Cay*, they both take the situation seriously and Timothy teaches Philip

how to survive on the island. Philip learns as much as he could from Timothy about building, hunting/fishing and creating an S.O.S., while Stew cat helps relieve stress from the main character. The main conflict is Philip's perception on black people like Timothy but knows that he is a person that is just like him. This shows a much more civilized idea of humanity of showing kindness and working together with others, while learning important life lessons.

Each of their reactions resulted in a different ending. *Lord of the Flies*, results in Jack going insane and telling his followers to kill Piggy and Simon. Even though Jack was going to be responsible for their deaths Ralph found himself responsible for all the chaos that happened on the island. "Who's boss here? 'I am,' said Ralph loudly." P.201. Ralph realized that he was the reason that all the madness happened. Creating an unstable society that created a power hungry leader.

*The Cay* ends with Timothy dying due to a massive storm, forcing Philip to live on his own on the island. Philip gives Timothy a proper burial and continues to work on the island. He was eventually saved by a pilot and regained sight. Philip even wanted to go back to the island stating "Someday, I'll charter a schooner out of Panama and explore the Devil's Mouth. I hope to find the lonely little island where Timothy is buried." P.143-144, showing he has learned so much in that time on the island.

In conclusion, the characters' reactions in the novel from the same beginnings have different outcomes. One teaches the evil of man, while the other teaches to care for others, and not judge them by their skin. The author spread their ideas and beliefs through their novels, and clearly shows how they think the world can truly be.