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Language and literature

### Good & Evil: The Conch and the Lord of the Flies

Thesis: Good and evil reveal themselves in every story. The Conch symbolizes good and order within the story while the Pig's head or Lord of flies exemplifies evil on the island.

- I. Introduction
- II. Pig Head/Lord of flies
  - A. evil
  - B. barbarism
- III. Conch
  - A. good
  - B. civilization
- IV. Conclusion

In the Lord of the Flies, a group of schoolboys are stranded on an island with no adults. Throughout the book, objects represent different essential symbols. Good and evil reveal themselves in every story. The Conch symbolizes good and order within the

story while the Pig's head or Lord of flies exemplifies evil on the island. The evil lasts to the end while the good ends.

In the Lord of the Flies good and evil both show themselves within objects and actions. The lord of the flies resides as the evil besides Jack on the island. The Lord of Flies first appears when Simon walks through the jungle dehydrated. " and in front of Simon, the Lord of the Flies hung on his stick and grinned."(p.138). This quote shows how the Lord of the Flies is hallucinated from Simon's mind from dehydration in the jungle. Later on, Simon speaks with the Pigs head " You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you?...I'm the reason why it's no go?"(p.143). In the quote, Simons mind works out the problem on the island of how the Pigs head and the beast are both evils which exist only in the children's minds. This thought of evil as something tangible led the hunters to chaos and Simons murder.

Not only did the Pig's head lead the hunters to chaos but it also led them to barbarism. The creation of the pigs head starts off with a spear stabbed into the ground as an offering to a figment of their imagination. " 'This head is for the beast. It's a gift.' "(p.137). This shows how they believe they turned their back on normal thinking and went back to archaic thinking. After the murder of Simon, the hunters go by different names " savages murmured again... the chief "(p.161). These new nicknames they're called by alter the meaning of what they were before they were hunters.

The opposite of the Pig heads evil in the book is the conch. The conch represented the good on the island and at some points was all they had. " If I blow the conch and they don't come back; then we've had it."(p.92). Ralph in this quote, talk

about how the conch is the strand of good tying their side of the island to order. Later on in the book, the conch is destroyed along with Piggy. “the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist.”(p.181). Jack knew that the conch was the only thing retaining the good on the island so immediately after he says, I’m chief.

The conch brings good to the island as well as the civilization that builds the groundwork for Ralph’s group. At the beginning of the story, Ralph and Piggy see the conch in the water and Piggy knows they can use it. “We can use this to call the others. Have a meeting.”(p.16). They thought of using it as a sort of phone to call the others just as they might do back at their homes in civilization. A key part of a civilization found with the conch was power. ‘He can hold it when he’s speaking...And he won't be interrupted.’ (p.33). This quote shows how the conch gives whoever holds it the right to speak out in an assembly because of the link to the civilized nature of a classroom. After Jack removes himself from the rest of the group to make his own tribe, Ralph thinks about not blowing the conch, but Piggy explains why he should. “ If you don’t blow, we’ll soon be animals anyway.”(p.92). The conch was the symbol for civilization and a normal life. If Ralph blew the conch it would have lost its power and meant nothing.

The conch and the Lord of the Flies both represented their own symbolism well. The conch, the good shown in an object was gone, while the bad in the Lord of the Flies lasted to the end of the story. In stories, good and evil reveal themselves in different ways whether it is in characters or objects.