

For my supplementary books I read *Lord of the Flies* and *Last December*. While these books share almost nothing in common, they both still reveal core ideas to identity and motives. In both books the characters Piggy and Steven try to hide their true identities. Steven, who just moved to a new school and has been struggling with suicidal thoughts, doesn't want people to know that he is a science fanatic to avoid getting bullied. And at the start of the book, Piggy tries to avoid people figuring out his name is Piggy to avoid getting bullied, but that does not work. This showed me that a person can hide their true identity, and first appearances (even in literature) can be super deceiving. Writing about it I realize that Steven (the main character of *Last December*) was trying to escape his past identity, and change entirely how he is perceived. He was severely bullied for being interested in science, so when he changed schools he knew he had to change the way his interest appeared away from science. On the topic of comparing identity, the skinheads and Jack's tribe have some things in common. Both are very violent and won't take responsibility, also they slowly push the rules to their breaking points. But since the skinheads aren't talked about much identity wise it's hard to draw any more similarities.

It was a challenging thing to grasp, but Steven's interest in life (if he felt like things were happening, so his literal interest in living) made a huge impact on his identity. All of his decisions, paranoia levels, and motives changed along with his interest in life, especially when he was worried about getting assaulted, which eventually happened. The weirdest part of the book is that near the end it is revealed that Sam (Steven's newest younger sibling) is actually a girl. Which not only comes full circle to the start and shifts the point of view of things he has said in the start of the book, and it gives the reader some identity which I had never considered. Does the reader of the book have an identity? If so, is it a bestowed identity or is it not? I have

many identity questions based off of these books, especially with Last December. But overall, both of the novels are a great source for learning about identities and motives for characters and how the author creates them.