

MV

Mrs. Fargo

L&L

November 8, 2019

### Motives and Identities

The novel *Lord of the Flies*, authored by William Golding, revealed many ideas of motives and identities to me, and if you haven't already, I highly suggest reading this splendidly cunning novel. One of the main things I took away from this novel was that Jack's primary motivation, needing to take control, changes his identity from a normal person into a savage primitive overlord throughout the novel. Motivations directly affect everyone's decisions in this novel, but especially with Jack Merridew. And his motivation for meat and hunting makes him the only "beast" on the island.

The primitive nature in Jack was always present because he was always motivated by "meat". But it grew uncontrollable and violent by the end of the novel. Perhaps the first time Jack's primitive nature was revealed is at the start of chapter three "Huts on the Beach". The author describes Jack on pages 48 and 49 while hunting as "dog-like, uncomfortably on all fours..." and "ape-like among the tangle of trees.". But just because his primitive behavior shows early on doesn't mean he was ready to spill blood, and on page 69 the author displays this "I cut the pig's throat" said Jack, proudly, and yet he twitched as he said it.". You can never be prepared to spill blood, and in my opinion, this was one of the big moments in Jack turning primitive and becoming desensitized to violence.

Whether he tries to or not, Jack always seems to disrupt democracy. Like on page 101 when he exclaimed “‘Conch! Conch!’ shouted Jack. ‘We don't need the conch anymore’”. Jack dislikes the rules set in place by Ralph. After all, he is the only one who breaks the rules. And as the conch represents the rules, Jack feels that there is no need for the conch. He wasn't full-on breaking the rules straight away, he bent them slowly over time, to increase Ralph's tolerance of him breaking the rules; like on the bottom of page 108. But breaking the rules (and splitting off of democracy) eventually led to the conch and democracy being metaphorically, and literally shattered. And when Jack “rage quit” from Ralph's group, intentionally or not, he set himself up to gain power with persuasion. On page 127 Jack persuades some of Ralph's group with the hunt and meat while angrily yelling “I'm going off by myself. He can catch his own pigs. Anyone who wants to hunt when I do can come too.”. After persuading, and gaining power over Ralph's tribe the boys are split and the majority are captivated by Jack's talk of ‘meat and protection’; but in truth, Jack does no work to make this change and abuses his power instead, as displayed on page 159 “[Jack] He is going to beat Wilfred’ ‘What for?’ Robert shook his head doubtfully. ‘I don't know. He didn't say. He got angry and made us tie Wilfred up...’”.

Drawing from what I have written shows how Jack changes into this savage leader that wants power and blood over everything. It was a gradual change, but everything could be predicted before it happened because of the heavy foreshadowing used in the novel. And of course, looking on it from the outside makes it blatantly obvious that Jack is in the wrong, but to the boys on the island, it isn't as easy to tell. Overall, I enjoyed reading *Lord of the Flies*, and I think I'm most impressed with how the author could fit so much meaning into the text, it seems that everything is connected to something else that happened. Before I end, a word of advice. If

you ever find yourself stranded on an island, stick to set rules and democracy, and for the love of everything good, DON'T BECOME A VIOLENT SAVAGE.