

NB

Ms. Fargo

L&L

November 7, 2019

### The Loner and Outsider

When does the quietest, seemingly weakest character become one of the most influential people in a book? Simon, a more mature boy who suffers from fainting spells, progresses into an enlightened, courageous, and empathetic character in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.

Fueled by imagination, idealism, and empathy, he shows his attitude of civility by being concerned for others and believing in fairness. For instance, in chapter three Simon gave fruit to the littluns on page 56 "... Simon found for them the fruit they could not reach...passed them back down to the endless, outstretched hands." Simon helps Ralph in building huts in chapter three on page 54, "... 'People don't help much.' ... 'Simon. He helps.'" In chapter four Simon gave pig meat to Piggy, "Simon, sitting between the twins and Piggy, wiped his mouth and shoved his piece of meat over the rocks to Piggy, who grabbed it."

A reader might expect that Simon would be popular with the boys since he is always helping them. Instead, Simon spends time alone and meditates in a secret place on the island. William Golding uses this to show that Simon is enlightened. Simon becomes and continues to be an outsider and loner throughout the book. The boys see Simon as weak due to his

fainting spells. Simon seems to be continuously in the background of the story. As the story progresses, the boys eventually see Simon as a strong individual, or maybe a little mentally unstable. Simon, courageously, or foolishly in the eyes of the boys, seeks to confront the figure on the mountaintop whom the boys think is the Beast in chapter 8, on page 132 Ralph questioned Piggy, "... 'Where's Simon?' ... 'You don't think he's climbing the mountain?'". He also volunteers to walk alone in the dark to tell Piggy that the hunting party would not be back for a while, "... 'Someone's got to go across the island and tell Piggy we'll be back after dark.' ... Simon pushed his way to Ralph's elbow. 'I'll go if you like. I don't mind, honestly.'". As these events take place, Simon becomes more prominent in the book.

Simon progressively becomes more and more enlightened. William Golding uses Simon to foreshadow events to come. Simon, on page 111, spoke to Ralph and said, "... You'll get back all right." This foreshadows Ralph making it back home, and Simon not, notice how he said "You'll" instead of "We'll." Simon was able to climb the mountain alone because he knows the Beast does not reside there, but rather in everyone. Simon's identity becomes fully shaped when he was delusional and talked to the Lord of the Flies. At this time, Simon understood that the Beast inside them all causes the power struggles, the fear, and savagery.

William Golding paints Simon as a visionary by creating Simon as a christ-like figure; giving fruit to the kids, being fearless, meditating in the forest, being enlightened as to what the Beast was, and ultimately killed by the mob of boys, much like Jesus was crucified because the people couldn't accept his knowledge. The boys could not accept there was no

Beast outside of them, or that the Beast resided within them. Simon progresses into the most robust character in the book, revealing the true nature of humanity; that everyone is capable of evil and wrongdoing. As he grows, he progresses from a timid boy who faints to a mature, wise, and courageous boy who ends up being sacrificed.