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Language and Literature

9 November 2019

### *Anarchy in Lord of the Flies*

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding displays true human nature, and what happens without laws, order, civility, and authority. It demonstrates that we are nothing without them, and in *The Lord of the Flies*, they are the enemy. Society constantly attacks the authority, and it demonstrates that no matter what, society will rebel against authority, and distorts the identity of those in power.

When the boys are first let loose upon the island, they are ecstatic. This is their first time without authority. Quickly, however, they set up a government to keep themselves in check. Upon finding a conch shell, they adopt it as a symbol of civility, of rules, and order. They hold an election, two people step up. Jack, the leader of the choir boys, and Ralph, a nobody. A single person on the island knew him, but for some bizarre reason, everyone votes for Ralph. The only people who didn't vote for Ralph were the choir boys, and even then, they were reluctant. This relates to his identity. Ralph bears an air of confidence, and is willing to step up to face a challenge. People are braver in a group than as an individual, so when Ralph ran, people rallied behind him. Instantly, some begin to resent the laws in place. Jack and his hunters disdain to use the laws, Jack even outright disowning them in a meeting. When he leaves the community, he quickly forms a tribe and wins over the majority of the island. This shows their willingness to

rebel against authority, and their need to be part of something. Despite their resentment, no one dared to leave the group, until Jack stepped up.

Jack led by example, giving people the mindset that you wouldn't be alone. Society dares to tread where the individual couldn't. Later, Jack's tribe shatters the Conch in their revolution, and Jack's tribe eliminates the authority. However, by shattering the conch, Jack becomes authority. He realizes that he cannot truly get rid of authority, without losing their humanity. With this final step, he becomes a revolutionary. He sees the problems from the authorities' point of view. To quote, "Revolutions have never lightened the burden of tyranny: they have only shifted it to another shoulder," - Bernard Shaw. This book describes the French Revolution. Upset with the current authority, the common people revolts. They think that they can run the country better, but in reality, they couldn't. They left the throne open to Napoleon(Jack). At this point, Jack cracks, pointing the blame at everyone but himself. He blames Wilfred even though he(Wilfred) did nothing wrong. He blames the beast, even though they already 'killed it'. The boys slowly start to resent this authority, and some even go so far as to help Ralph, the previous authority. Jack feeds off of authority, framing Ralph and the Conch. He even manipulates a common enemy, the beast, framing it as an authority, offering the pig's head as a sacrifice to the beast. With this simple action, he sets up the beast as a higher power He then gives the boys a way out, with the ritual, and the murder of Simon. Jack manipulates society's innate desire to rebel against the authority to seize a place of power. Jack pleases people, and he understands their desires. He manipulates the desires of the people around him in his favor and people rally behind him. He becomes so powerful nearing the end of the book because of this.

Without authority, humans regress back to a primal state. We are nothing without rules, yet we yearn for freedom. We assume that civilization holds us back when we are nothing without it, and the people who lead these revolts realize the truth. The inescapable truth that anarchy comes without civilization.