

RS

Ms. Fargo

L&L

11/10/19

### Jack & Ralph: The Pseudo-Saviors

In the book *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, Jack and Ralph were both fake leaders. Although it is more noticeable in Jack, it does not mean Ralph did not have flaws as a leader as well. Jack and Ralph were both imitations of saviors in their own right. Jack was a counterfeit savior who believed he was benefiting the boys on the island with his hunting. For example, on page 149, Jack says, "Has everybody eaten as much as they want?"...Jack spoke again, impatiently. 'Has everybody eaten as much as they want?' His tone conveyed a warning, given out of the pride of ownership, and the boys ate faster while there was still time." This quote shows Jack's true identity as a leader; it states that he impatiently asked if everyone had eaten. The following quote indicates that he wants to believe that he benefited others and that he did not do it for his own sake. Jack unlike Ralph, does not mind speaking his mind and attacking others, many events prove this for example, on page 82 when he told all the boys the littluns are useless cry-babies "Anyway, you don't hunt or build or help-you're a lot of cry-babies and sissies.". As a hunter, Jack had the potential to be the savior on the island, but as we see throughout the book, Jack is more concerned about proving he is a hunter which leads to an obsession over hunting. What started as a way to get food eventually led to killing for fun, which ultimately led to the death of Simon "Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!".

Unlike Jack, Ralph's identity as a leader was nearly perfect, but similarly to Jack, Ralph also had an obsession, pleasing others. Throughout the book, we see him trying to satisfy all the boys on the island. For example, on page 36, Ralph decides to ignore a littlun who says he saw the beast because he did not want to take on the responsibility that comes with being a leader, "'Did you hear that? Says he saw the thing in the dark-' 'He still says he saw the beastie. It came and went away again an' came back and wanted to eat him-' 'He was dreaming.' Laughing, Ralph looked for confirmation round the ring of faces.'" Later in the book, on page 156, Ralph finally realizes that Jack is going mad and that they have committed murder, but at that point, it was too late.

"' Piggy.'

'Uh?'

'That was Simon.'

'you said that before.'

'Piggy.'

'Uh?'

'That was murder.'"

Ralph's behavior matches that of a politician; he always tries to get the majority vote.

When comparing Ralph and Jack, it is clear that both boys had the potential to become great leaders. Jack and Ralph both had the necessary qualities needed to become a leader, with Jack's hunting and Ralph's ideas the two boys could have kept each other on the right track and worked together to ensure the safety of all the boys on the island, if they had used this system

since they landed on the island they could have potentially avoided Simon's death and changed the outcome of the entire book.