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L&L

11 / 8 / 19

Identity's Effect on Leadership and Influence on Power

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.” A leader’s identity affects how they lead and what they do with their power. A large part of Jack’s identity involves his fear of someone taking his leadership, so he rules with an iron hand. Unlike Ralph, who follows a more democratic and orderly form of leadership. The individual identities of Jack and Ralph, created from previous events made by the author, alter the author’s development of the path of their leadership.

“ . . . Ralph leaped to his feet.

‘Jack! Jack! You haven’t got the conch! Let him speak.’ Jack’s face swam near him.

‘And you shut up!... You can’t hunt, you can’t sing-’

‘I’m chief. I was chosen.’

‘Why should choosing make any difference? Just giving orders that don’t make any sense-’ . . .

‘The rules! Shouted Ralph. ‘You’re breaking the rules!’

‘Who cares?’

Ralph summoned his wits.

‘Because the rules are the only thing we’ve got!’

But Jack was shouting against him.

‘Bollocks to the rules! We’re strong - we hunt! If there’s a beast, we’ll hunt it down! We’ll close in and beat and beat and beat-’ ”

In this quote, the opposites that are Ralph and Jack’s identities, clash with each other and contrast their differences. While the boys argue, Ralph tries to prove a point, whereas, Jack almost bullies Ralph. Jack doesn’t have a solid argument against Ralph, so instead, he plays into the mob mentality of the boys, by being incredibly rude and relentless. In addition, Jack feels like he has to hide his fear behind a barrage of insults and aggressive comments. All this comes at Ralph and he manages to stay relatively calm, whilst defending the best interests of the tribe. Ralph appears to be an organized and thoughtful leader, but, because of the rough resistance from Jack, Ralph’s virtues are eroded and diminished. This can be seen on the last page of the book when the author writes, “For a moment he had a fleeting picture of the strange glamour that had once invested the beaches. But the island was scorched up like dead wood - Simon was dead - and Jack had . . . the tears began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, shuddering spasms of grief that seemed to wrench his whole body. . .”

A leader’s identity directly affects how they react in certain situations. For example, whenever a problem would arise, Ralph would try to keep peace and order. Evidence for this can be seen on page seven when Ralph is referred to as “The Fair Boy”. This, at first, may lead you to believe that he is white, but later in the book, you will discover that this means his personality is fair and orderly. Then, Jack uses crisis’ to his advantage playing the story out so that he turns into the hero. Jack also shapes the boy’s fear into something that makes them want to follow

him. The individual identities of Jack and Ralph, created from previous events made by the author, alter the author's development of the path of their leadership.