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### Jack the Dictator

While many of the characters in the novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding demonstrate various identities, it is clearly shown that Jack acts solely as a dictator. Over time, he slowly turns from tough leader to a totalitarian judge, jury, and executioner (literally). Jack seems to be motivated by fear and control over his 'inferiors'. Throughout the novel, Jack's true identity reveals itself as he slowly becomes a power-hungry dictator. The harsh isolation from all order on the mainland deludes him into taking matters into his own hands.

At first, Jack seems to act like everybody else, with a sort of tough leadership demeanor. He comes into the novel already leading a group of young choir boys; the boys seem to accept that Jack is their leader and ultimately do whatever he says "[Jack] shouted at them. 'Choir! Stand still!'" Jack tries to be tough and show everybody that he is capable of surviving on the island. He attempts to kill a pig but hesitates because he doesn't want to shed blood. This falter in his step makes him seem innocent, or as he sees himself, incompetent.

Jack slowly gains modicum of power at a time -the Hitler tactic-, to ensure his future role of dictatorial ruler. This is quite easy because most of the boys portray shy personalities become too afraid to argue with him because Jack is one of the oldest of the characters. He uses the boys' wish for meat to appropriate his bloodlust and need for violence. It is obvious that Jack has a burning desire for power; when the boys refuse to impeach their ruler to implement Jack as his replacement, Jack throws a tantrum and starts his own group, where he rules with an iron fist.

Once Jack lures the naive children into joining his barbaric tribe, he rules as a monarch over the entire island, not just his group. He quickly butts heads with the opposing tribe led by the novel's protagonist, Ralph. Jack asserts his dominance over Ralph by setting up his base at the top of the island's mountain, titled Castle Rock and strips Ralph of almost every potential advantage. Jack takes a pair of glasses from a member of Ralph's civilization, and with those spectacles, their ability to create fire, warmth, and light. Furthermore, Jack beats his group into agreement with his ideas, his loyalists gradually turn from the English boys they came to the island as, to unrecognizable savages and even maul another island boy to death. All the power that Jack obtains quickly goes to his head and he even beats his own loyalists for no apparent reason. "He's 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. He's been" – he giggled excitedly – "he's been tied up for hours, waiting –" (p.159)

On the whole, Jack has shown time and time again that once his poker face has been washed away, only a monstrous authoritarian remains. While at first Jack appeared to be just a boy you didn't want to cross, he revealed he was much more than just another boy. He admits that he doesn't care for inferiors are those who couldn't help him maintain power "Sucks to the littluns' . . . 'You want a real pig. . . because you've got to kill him.' 'Use a littlun, ' . " But in the end it wasn't just Jack who turned barbaric and murderous, it was the isolation, the lawlessness of their situation, that became the real winning factor in turning innocent boys, into beastly animals.