

Lord of the Flies

William Golding

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A plane full of schoolboys crashes on an island and two boys, Ralph and bespectacled Piggy, land near each other and find a conch. Ralph blows into the conch and soon enough all the other boys on the island gather together at as a horn to bring all the survivors to one area. Ralph is elected the leader of the boys, much to the dismay of Jack, the choir leader who considers himself to be a more fit leader. Ralph stresses that the boys have to build shelter, gather food, and maintain a fire on top of an island as a signal to any passing planes or ships. Jack is declared the leader of the hunters while Ralph, Jack, and another boy named Simon become the leaders of the boys. After some time, the younger boys begin to say that they are seeing a monster that they call the “Beastie”, and the society that Ralph was attempting to create begins to break. At one point Jack and the hunters fanatically chase after a pig, letting the signal fire burn out *just as* a ship passes by the island. With threats of the beastie growing (a dead parachutist is discovered and claimed to be the beastie as well), Jack and Ralph split up into two tribes, Jack claiming his tribe to be the fun one with food and shelter. Jack’s tribe begins to wear paint on their faces and start doing ritualistic dances similar to that of ancient cavemen. More and more boys join Jack’s tribe up till a point where they begin to harass Ralph’s tribe. Simon, in an attempt to escape, leaves into the island and realizes that there is no real beastie but, in the attempt to tell the other boys of his revelation, Jack’s tribe kills him during a ritual. Jack’s tribe then steals Piggy’s glasses and, after a brief scuffle, Roger drops a boulder down the rock that kills Piggy. Jack orders his tribe to hunt down Ralph until an English naval captain arrives and rescues the boys.

This book progresses slowly down its plotline, revealing a lot of hidden meanings and symbolism. This book is taught in almost every classroom throughout America as it highlights and utilizes nearly every form of rhetorical devices possible. Though personally I didn’t like the book very much, for any student or person that involves thinking about the books he is reading and loves to analyze plotlines, this would be a great book.

Recommended Titles:

Night by Elie Wiesel

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Animal Farm by George Orwell