(Rousseau’s theory > Golding’s theory)

Society corrupts people and teaches them evil. **Golding is wrong, Rousseau is right - humans are naturally good**. To prove Rousseau’s theory, *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding is a book about a group of boys who are stranded on an island with no adults. This book shows how a corrupt society can influence people to becoming savage. *42* by Brian Helgeland is a movie focused on racism and is a perfect example of how society teaches people evil, and lastly, a study on *Psychology Today* written by Paul J. Zak digs deep to find the scientific proof that humans are born good. The study uses babies and proves that they are faster to compassion than cruelty.

The book *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding is based on events that took place during World War II. A plane full of boys fleeing from the war in Europe crashed upon a deserted island. The environment that the boys were put in resembled society and changed the boys over the course of the book. Golding tries to prove that the boys were born evil through many symbols and themes, but he still added Simon into the group even though he was a kind-hearted boy with moral integrity. Golding’s views were also influenced by his contribution in world war II and how brutal humans were to each other. This combined the powers of good and evil together in the group (Good being Simon, bad being Jack). Rousseau’s view was that humans were born good and it was society that changed people to make them bad. Simon is a key example of good in the book showing that he is helpful to the group and also tries proving that the beast was a myth. Simon helps the littl’uns by grabbing fruit for them from the tall trees and also helped with the shelters, so they had somewhere to stay during the cold nights. Golding proves himself wrong by adding Simon into the book. Overall, Golding’s view is not as supported as he implies, proving Rousseau’s view to be more supportive.

Secondly, In the movie *42* by Brian Helgeland, Jackie Robinson, an African American baseball player is moved from an all colored league to an all-white league. During this time period (early 1900s) people were discriminated against for their race. Jackie, a small-town colored baseball player with lots of potential, is asked to join the MLB. Throughout the movie he was targeted by other players and opposing teams would call out racial insults. Even though he was targeted, he played through it, “Maybe tomorrow, we’ll all wear 42, so no one can tell us apart” (Helgeland). This was said by one of Jackie’s teammates defending him from the insults. This shows that people are not born evil and helps prove Rousseau’s theory. Racism is a perfect example of the evil within people but is only brought out because of society. Although this movie shows views from both Golding’s and Rousseau’s side, it has more hard evidence that people are born good due to the idea that humans are not born racist and it is society that teaches the racial border.

Lastly, on a study written by Paul J. Zak on *Psychology Today,* and an article on *BBC News* by Tom Stafford,the science behind proving Rousseau’s theory. The study contains multiple experiments with babies and how they are quicker to compassion than cruelty, “Humans are highly social creatures. Because of this we are intensely interested in what others are doing, and why. We need to know who is good and bad and therefore we want to avoid certain people and tolerate others” (Zak). Studies done at Yale University in the US show that babies will be quicker to something that they want, faster than something that surprises them. The babies tend to stare at things that surprise them and take a longer time to process the information. This proves Rousseau’s theory that humans are born good. Human minds are very intelligent and even at the youngest stages in the mind’s development humans have a sense of right and wrong and furthermore, have an instinct to prefer good over evil.

In conclusion, Golding is wrong, Rousseau is right – humans are naturally good. This is backed up by Simon being kind hearted and having a moral integrity in *Lord of the Flies,* Brian Helgeland showing how society is what changes people in the movie *42,* and finally Paul J. Zak in the article on *Psychology Today* shows the science behind being good vs evil. Jean Jacques Rousseau’s theory of humans being naturally good is backed up by the scientific evidence and experiments, proving Golding is wrong about his theory.

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