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Creative Title that hints at thesis

The book *Lord of the Flies* written by William Golding in 1953 is a story about a group of boys stranded on an island. The lack of civilization on the island leads to the groups downfall as they become primal and regress into savage beings. The protagonist, Ralph, wants order and control but eventually everyone turns on him. The power Ralph has a strong effect on how the other boys view him: some of the boys envy him, some follow him blindly, and some put all their faith into him.

 In the beginning of *Lord of the Flies* Ralph uses a conch to attract all the boys on the island and calls their first assembly. A group of choir boys arrive, and they already have their own leader, Jack Merridew. Jack feels that he would be best as chief on the island but so does Ralph. The group call a vote and Ralph is elected to be the chief of the island. As chief, Ralph gives Jack power over his choir and they become the hunters. In the start Jack was satisfied with this power but as the plot progresses he becomes very primal and jealous of Ralph’s power. Jack begins disobeying Ralph’s rules. When Ralph gets mad at Jack for breaking the rules Jack responds with a heated, “Bollocks to the rules! We’re strong – we hunt! If there’s a beast, we’ll hunt it down!” (Golding 99), indicating that he feels that Ralph’s rules are pointless and he has become angry with Ralph’s power. The anger Jack feels with Ralph stems from jealousy and his ego. The imbalance of power between Jack and Ralph leads to Jack feeling he would be a better chief; “Hands up,’ said Jack strongly, ‘whoever wants Ralph not to be chief?” (139). No one voted Ralph out and the humiliation resulted in Jack leaving the group. Some of the other hunters joined Jack in his new tribe and they took back power as they were able to have feasts with pork while the other boys were only eating fruits and crab. With Jack in power, it results in two of the other boys dying and Ralph being hunted until they are rescued by a Naval officer. Jack’s jealousy and need for Ralph’s power drove him to do some cruel and savage things.

The relation between Ralph and other boys on the island is simple. Many of them are just followers and don’t often think for themselves. In the beginning of the book Ralph, is voted chief solely because he is the one to blow the conch and is seen as one of the bigger boys on the island, “Let him be chief with the trumpet-thing,” (19). Given how this is the first time the boys have all met each other it demonstrates how they all put power into the conch as they use it to speak. Due to Ralph being the one to blow the conch all the boys with the exception of Jack’s choir voted for him without even knowing him. This turns into a leader and follower dynamic with only Jack ever questioning Ralph and Piggy, who is unathletic but a very intelligent boy, advising Ralph. A lot of the time in leader and follower scenarios the followers rely on the leader for protection. This is true in Piggy. Despite being the smartest boy on the island he also has asthma, wears glasses, and is described as “shorter than the fair boy and very fat,” (1). Being fat leads to Piggy being picked on. As Piggy is often picked on he ends up being seen as lesser and relies heavily on Ralph to protect him. Especially from someone like Jack who takes out his anger towards Ralph on Piggy as he is the easier target. Piggy even realizes this which makes him fear Jack; “He can’t hurt you: but if you stand out of the way he’d hurt the next thing. And that’s me,” (101). Ralph’s power puts him into a leader position above all of the other boys, so majority of the other boys put their faith into for most of the book.

 Overall it can be said that power is one of the biggest influences on how someone views another. In *Lord of the Flies* Ralph’s power is the biggest factor in his relations with the other boys see him. It causes tension between him and Jack, many of them just become sheep to him, and Piggy relies on him heavily.

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies: a Novel By*. Faber and Faber, 2004.