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ELA 12

Lord of the Flies Read On Summary

Lord of the Flies

William Golding

Fiction

Summary: A group of boys get stranded on an island after their plane crashes. They decide it's a good idea to pick a leader, but two boys fight about who the real leader is over and over again. Eventually, the underdog, Jack, took over the leadership position and was trying to kill the other, Ralph, but they got rescued before it could happen.

Where does the story take place? Why is this setting important to the story?

The story takes place on an island. There were no adults around, so the boys had to come up with their own hierarchy and system of rules. The whole story focused on whether the boys should make a home on the island by having fun and going on hunts or whether they should keep up a signal fire in an attempt to get rescued. Some tried to work towards rescue, but one boy said, "All day I've been working with Simon. No one else. They're off bathing, or eating, or playing," (50). On the island, it wasn't possible for every child to have constant supervision. When it came down to it, the island gave the children the escape from reality that they all had dreamed of, but some realized that it couldn't last forever. Still, they were the ones to die first. The island made the boys savages that they couldn't have become anywhere else.

What is this story saying about humanity or about the world?

As time went on, Ralph realized that the others were turning into animals. He even saw that he couldn't help himself from becoming the same thing. After they killed Simon, he said, "I'm frightened. Of us. I want to go home. Oh God, I want to go home," (157). This says that given the right situation, even children can become savage, but that doesn't mean that they can't eventually realize what they've become. Although it took a little longer for the rest, they too

cried when they knew they were saved. They stopped their hunt were glad to be able to go home, just like Ralph was. This story says that people can get terrible, but there's always the chance that they'll come back from it.