

**A Description of the Potential for Evil in Everyone is one of the themes in the novel Lord of the Flies by William Golding.**

MRS.P.MEGALA,

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH,

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

KARUPPANNAN MARIAPPAN COLLEGE,

TIRUPUR(DT)

MUTHUR-638105.

In literature, themes help the reader understand the story's underlying message. The background of the novel "Lord of the Flies ", has many prevalent themes. Among these are civilization, rules and order, good and evil, innocence, lost mob mentality, and nature. The characters in Lord of the Flies can be interpreted as prototypes of human behavior, where Ralph represents civilization and leadership and Jack represents the savagery within the human soul. We may consider Ralph as representing "good" and Jack as representing "evil".

William Golding, the greatest English novelist of the 20th century, was born on September 19, 1911, in Cornwall, England. His father, Alec Golding, was a science master at Malborough Grammar School. In 1930, Golding went to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he studied natural science. During the Second World War, he joined the army and was an active naval officer in the Royal Navy. After the war, he took to teaching again. After some time, he gave up teaching and became a full-time writer.

Golding has written about six novels and has also published some verses. His first novel, *Lord of the Flies*, was published in 1954 as a parody of Ballantyne's *Coral Island*, a famous adventure story for boys. In this novel, Golding was awarded the Nobel Prize. His other novels are *Inheritors* (1955), *Pincher Martin* (1956), *Free Ball* (1959), and *The Spire* (1964).

Keywords: Conch Shell, Fire, Beast, Darkness

During the global war, a group of English schoolboys is marooned on a jungle island with no adults after their plane is shot down. Two of the boys, Ralph and Piggy, find a conch shell. Ralph blew into the shell like a horn, and all the boys on the island assembled. After the boys assembled, they were told of the need for a leader. Jack volunteered to be their leader, and the children voted for Ralph. So Ralph became their chief, and Jack was made the leader of the hunters. Soon after, Ralph, Jack, and another boy named Simon explore the island and discover wild pigs.

Ralph summoned another meeting and told the boys to set up rules to govern themselves. The first rule is that whoever wants to speak at an assembly must hold the conch. At the meeting, one young boy claims he saw a 'Beastie' in the jungle, but Ralph dismisses it as just the product of a nightmare. Ralph then suggests that they build a signal fire at the top of a mountain, so any passing ships will see its smoke and rescue them. As there were no matches, Piggy's spectacles were used to light fire accidentally. Set part of the forest on fire. The small boy who saw the beastie vanished during the fire and was never seen again.

Jack was interested in hunting, but he could not locate any pigs. So he became frustrated; on the other hand, Ralph was angry, as no one was ready to help him build shelters except Simon. Jack

was particular about hunting, so they complained against each other and started quarreling.

Ralph then calls for another meeting, but the meeting soon becomes chaotic as several younger boys talk about the beast. Now even the bigger boys are fearful. That night, after a distant airplane battle, a dead parachutist landed on the mountaintop next to a signal fire. The boys on duty at the fire think it's the beast. Soon, Ralph and Jack led an expedition to search the island for the beast. They spot the shadowy parachutist and think he's the beast.

The next morning, Jack's tribe painted their faces, hunted, and killed a pig. They then leave their heads as an offering to the beast. Simon comes upon the head and sees that it's the Lord of the Flies. The beast within all men While Jack invites everyone to come to a feast, Simon returns to tell everyone the truth about the "beast", However, the boys at the feast have become a frenzied mob, acting out a ritual killing of a pig. The mob thinks Simon is the beast and kills him.

Ralph and Piggy were shocked by Simon's death. Jack's tribe moves to the rock fort. They steal Piggy's glasses to make fire. So Ralph and Piggy, along with Sam and Eric, decide to meet Jack and ask for them. Ralph asks for the spectacles and calls Jack a thief, so he fights with Ralph and the other boys. Roger rolls a boulder from the fort that smashes the conch and kills Piggy. He compelled the twins to join his hang. Ralph ran from there and hid himself in the thickets.

Eventually the boys corner Ralph on the beach, the Burning Jungle has attracted a British Naval ship, and an officer is standing on the shore. The boys stop, stunned, and stare at them. He jokingly asks if the boys are playing at war. Ralph tells his story, and the officer is shocked and disappointed that English boys would act in such a manner. The officer brought a cruiser to take the children away, and thus they were all rescued.

It concludes that the characters in Lord of the Flies can be interesting as prototypes of human behavior, where Ralph represents civilization and leadership and Jack represents the savagery within the human soul. Here we made it clear that the pig's head, another name for the devil, is a symbol of the beast, which represents evil. Through the analysis of the story, the beast is not something that can be killed because it exists inside humans.

## REFERENCES

Golding, William. Lord of the Flies (text, criticism, notes, glossary) edited by Prof. R. Awasd

Golding William: A Critical Study of the Novels By Mark Kinkead-Weekes and Ian Gregor.

Linked copy

<https://ivypanda.com/essays/topic/lord-of-the-flies-essay-examples/>

[https://www.studypool.com/studyGuides/The\\_Lord\\_of\\_the\\_Flies/Chapter\\_Summaries](https://www.studypool.com/studyGuides/The_Lord_of_the_Flies/Chapter_Summaries)

<https://www.litcharts.com/lit/lord-of-the-flies/chapter-1>

<https://study.com/learn/lesson/themes-lord-of-the-flies-william-golding.html>