

You guys don't get my real name

Or the day I wrote this

Or my teacher's name

Or the class name

Joy and Patience

People will always prefer the easy path, regardless of whether or not it leads to the best outcome. William Golding, in his novel *Lord of the Flies*, demonstrates this idea through his characters and their actions. Ralph and Piggy, who put all their focus into leaving the island, wound up in a war of ideologies with Jack, a boy focused purely on joy instead of the futures of him and the others. Through Jack, the fire, and a final battle of ideals, *Lord of the Flies* demonstrates humanity's aversion towards effort in favor of instant gratification.

Jack, who makes impulsive decisions based on his own enjoyment, is a clear example of humanity's disdain for hard work. When Jack leaves the fire to hunt, leading to everyone potentially missing a boat to leave, Ralph says, "You and your blood, Jack Merridew! You and your hunting! We might have gone home--" Ralph pushed Piggy to one side. "I was chief, and you were going to do what I said. You talk. But you can't even build huts--then you go off hunting and let out the fire--" (37). Jack, in his lust for enjoyment, had decided his own immediate satisfaction was more important than the future of everyone on the island. "I dunno, Ralph. I expect it's him.' 'Jack?' 'Jack.' A taboo was evolving round that word too" (77). As Jack becomes more and more of a savage, Ralph and Piggy, the people have been working hard to get off the island, start to treat Jack as if he was uncivilized. At his core, Jack is uncivilized, unlike some of the others, who can understand the implications and value of their actions.

The fire can act as a beacon of hope, but the boys need to go to great lengths to maintain it. After Jack's mistake with the fire, Ralph yells, "'There was a ship. Out there. You said you'd keep the fire going and you let it out!' He took a step toward Jack, who turned and faced him. 'They might have seen us. We might have gone home—'" (37). Ralph's rage towards Jack for his mistake shows how important the fire is, as well as showing the other kids that the fire going out could easily mean much more time spent on the island. Additionally, when Jack tries to steal Piggy's glasses for a fire, Ralph again yells, "'You could have had fire whenever you wanted. But you didn't. You came sneaking up like a thief and stole Piggy's glasses!'" (100). Ralph tries to show Jack that the importance of the fire stands above any immediate enjoyment, and that his rash decision to steal the fire was completely unnecessary, a sentiment that does not reach him. The fire is one of the most important things for the boys, not only as a tool, but as a lens into the characters. Those who live only for the present, like Jack, treat the fire with little respect, but those who can look towards the future, like Ralph, see the fire for its true necessity.

The final meeting before Ralph and Jack split into different tribes shows the difference in what they find important. During the argument, after Ralph calls Jack's hunters cowards, he says "'He's like Piggy. He says things like Piggy. He isn't a proper chief.' Jack clutched the conch to him. 'He's a coward himself.' For a moment he paused and then went on. 'On top, when Roger and me went on--he stayed back.' 'I went too!' 'After.' The two boys glared at each other through screens of hair. 'I went on too,' said Ralph, 'then I ran away. So did you'" (70). In this scene, Jack refers to Ralph as a coward who cannot do the same things he can, in a spur of the moment decision. This reflects his nature to do things on impulse, rather than with thought behind it. After the fight, Ralph says "'They always been making trouble, haven't they?' The voice came near his shoulder and sounded anxious. 'We can do without 'em. We'll be happier now, won't

we?’ Ralph sat. The twins came, dragging a great log and grinning in their triumph. They dumped the log among the embers so that sparks flew. ‘We can do all right on our own, can’t we?’” (73). After Ralph has finally left behind the more useless children, him and the few left with him have much less to worry about, and they are able to focus on finding help all on their own. This final argument shows the flaws behind living in the moment, with no regard to your future, and how much doing so will pull people behind.