INTRO

Human behavior can bear dangerous results when an incongruity between impulse and foresight occurs. William Golding suggests that human behavior is a dangerous series of manifestations that will result in full destruction not only for others but for the self as well. Humans throughout history have organized themselves in manners that protected them from their most base impulses, keeping them secure from behavior that would be damaging to the good of the whole. Thus, behavior like theft, violence, and murder were outlawed, not to curtail freedom but rather to keep all members of society safe. In all society, safety mechanism are in place to secure safety and to ensure social progress can occur. If suddenly these safety mechanisms were to be removed, human behavior in general might not have the self-restraint to keep itself safe. In *Lord of the Flies,* Golding suggests through characterization, setting, and contrast how a people will destroy themselves without a coercive set of rules to force safety.

BODY #1

When the boys find themselves on a deserted island, this new reality holds both promise and the prospect of danger. Ralph recognizes immediately that all the boys must unite to organize and meet their basic needs such as gathering food and securing shelter. When the boys initially gather together, Ralph says they will need to use “hands like at school” ( ). Through Ralph’s maturity Golding is suggesting that Ralph has the clarity of foresight to recognize that without recreating a sense of order and structure, they will not achieve basic means of survival. The boys follow this idea and quickly agree to elect Ralph as chief when Ralph references the structure of their former world. Jack, the choir leader, is displeased about this because he wants to be in charge. Golding though characterizes Jack as impulsive by presenting him as not having any vision for the group beyond wanting to be in charge. By contrast, Ralph is characterized as having a vision for the group: to be rescued. Jack, then, appears to be attracted to what he associates with leadership—force, which characterizes him as shortsighted, dangerous, and impulsive.

When Jack is not elected leader, he is displeased and antagonistic, but he does comply with Ralph’s election. Soon, the boys agree to use a conch shell for speaking order, and Golding establishes this shell as a symbol of law and social order on the island. Jack then says the conch doesn’t count in certain places and that begins the social breakdown. This means that Jack represents unleashed impulses and suggests the end for the boys.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, human nature as a whole requires mechanisms to force it not resort to its most base impulses to ensure its survival and forward momentum. Golding suggests in this novel that only a minority, perhaps, possesses the foresight, self-control and will power to curtail their impulses for the good of the whole. Even fewer, perhaps possess a keen intellect and the capacity for abstract thought that will reveal the sense for overriding the impulse to have fun and do what one wants only for the sake of a more secure future. This is the reason for laws and general social agreements: If members of a society act only as they want, the survival of the society will be doomed. The book serves as a warning in many regards, suggesting that human nature is a threat to not only others but to itself.