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Lord of The Flies

Imagine being crash landing in plane and being stranded on island with other survivors. How would you organize a society? What rules would you set in place? What would you do to survive? In Lord of The Flies by William Golding, a plane has crashed landed leaving behind kids between the ages of 6-13 years old. Ralph finds a conch and uses it to call all the other survivors and he is appointed leader over Jack. Jack is jealous of Ralph and in order to please Jack, Ralph appoints Jack as the leader of the hunter. Ralph, the leader of the new society, runs things very smoothly, until there is talk about a beast that lurks in the island. Trying to prove Ralph and Jack lead a hunt for the beast. As they enclose on the area of where the beast is at, they claim to see it and quickly run away. Jack blows the conch and says he saw the beast. Ralph was trying to keep peace however, Jack leaves the groups and takes some hunter to start a new society because he thinks Ralph cannot kill the beast. Jack’s new hunter society thrives quickly because they kill pigs. They make a peace offering with the beast by leaving a pig’s head on a pike. It is named the Lord of The Flies. Simon, a hunter, hallucinates and talks to the pig's head. The pig tells them their is no monster and the monster is violent nature. He rushes to Ralph’s camp. Simon was killed by Ralph and his crew in a frenzy because they confused him with the beast. Piggy a has glasses that start fires and is Ralph’s friend. Jack steals the Piggy’s glasses, Ralph chases after him. He fights with Jack and the fight the conch falls and shatters; Piggy falls of the cliff. Ralph outnumbered runs to shore away from the hunters, reaching the other side of the island, Ralph falls to his knees when he sees a naval officer. The naval officer is shocked at the violence and rescues the kids from the island.

This book has to do heavily with the fall of social order and civilization. The conch is a symbol for peace and unity. Ralph blows it when they have civilized meetings and uses it to give permission others to speak without being interrupted. Piggy while the least physically gifted, he is the smartest in the group and represents the group's logic and rational side. Jack’s intentions from the start are to survive. In the beginning of the book he takes away Piggy’s glasses in order to make a fire, Jack does not listen to rational nor moral reasoning, he does what he needs to survive. The book heavily conflicts with falling, for example the Piggy fell to his death and the conch fell and shattered. Both Piggy and the conch represent civilization and rationality, Jack shatters the conch and makes Piggy fall of the cliff to his death. This represent how civilizations fall due to the violent nature of human beings.

The Lord of The Flies is an intriguing book although it is difficult to understand at times because it heavily relies on symbols. However, it is very rewarding when you understand the context and symbols.