

## Exemplification Essay Sample 1

### Instinct of the Power-Hungry

Painted and festooned, Jack Merridew sits on a log, waited upon and served the recent kill by his newfound tribe as if he were a god. Seeing the approaching boys, he stands up and waves a spear, commanding his tribe to, "Take them some meat" (138). In William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, a group of stranded young boys discover and face their inner darkness no longer hidden by the rules of society. Surrounded by the growing fear of the beast, Jack uses his instinct to manipulate and oppress the other boys as he fights to gain dominance.

The pursuit of pleasure, one of Jack's strongest drives, sways many boys to name him their chief. While in the care of Ralph, the boys find themselves constantly nagged with rules and responsibilities, such as building shelters and keeping a fire going for rescue. After leaving Ralph's group, Jack comes back to tempt the remaining boys to join his lifestyle of, "hunt[ing] and feast[ing] and have[ing] fun" (130). The promise of meat and a living devoid of tedious jobs entices the boys to join Jack, as does his groups' native and uncivilized behavior. The boys, instead of being forced to grow up and act as adults, are allowed and encouraged to give over to the animal within themselves. Jack realizes that, in offering the boys this enjoyable and easy alternative, he earns himself followers and takes away from Ralph's authority.

On an island with no adults, Jack also offers protection from the beast, directing the boys' focus to himself and the security he provides. In an island meeting, a small boy reports of a beast from the water, and fear plants itself in the hearts of boys both young and old. In the midst of chaos, Jack shouts, "If there's a beast, we'll hunt it down! We'll close in and beat and

beat and beat-" (84). In providing this appealing solution, the end of fear and nightmares, Jack gains the approval and dependence of the boys. In this false sense of security, Jack starts to convert fear into allegiance and loyalty to him and his cause. As the boys begin to feed Jack their trust, he in turn, begins to bind them with it.

Although Jack uses much cleverness and wit, he relies heavily on physical means to attain power. Coming back from the first fruitful pig hunt, Jack finds himself the cause of much anger for letting the fire go out when a ship had passed. Unable to save himself from this blame, Jack resorts to physical violence, "[sticking] his fist into Piggy's stomach," (65). In showing them his capacity for aggression, Piggy, as well as the other watching boys, learns to fear and respect Jack. This fear, combined with that of the beast, causes many boys to side with Jack and do as he wishes in order to avoid getting hurt.

Throughout Jack's quest for control, he hurts, even kills other people, manipulates their fears, and brings out their inner beast through his own. Just as Jack acting as a god among the islanders, the universal race for power yields results just as ugly. Innocent lives are taken in wars, and dictators continually abuse and oppress their country's people, like Jack demanding tribute and utter commitment to his every command. Despite the devastating effects, a thirst for power still grows, and just as Jack Merridew, those who seek it become beasts themselves.