

Lord of the Flies Argument Essay

In the book Lord of the Flies, by William Golding, man's true nature shows. Every society needs a good leader who knows how to maintain order and law. Without strong leaders the societies that we know today would not exist. Ralph proves throughout the book that he is a natural born leader. Ralph makes a better leader than Jack due to his greater level of maturity, communication and organization.

Ralph's high level of maturity is one of the main reasons he is the better leader. In a meeting that Ralph held with the group, he proposed, "We need an assembly. Not for fun. Not for laughing and falling off the log... not for making jokes, or for... for cleverness. Not for these things. But to put things straight." He realizes that they are in a situation that they need to become serious about and there is no room for acting childish anymore. Later on during the meeting Ralph demands, "We've got to talk about this fear and decide there's nothing in it. I'm frightened myself, sometimes; only that's nonsense!" He is trying to rationalize the beast and is mature enough to admit that even though he is a little scared, the group should not let their naive fears control their judgement and actions. In the middle of the same meeting, "Jack started to chip a piece of wood with his knife

and whispered something to Robert...". Jack isn't realizing how serious the situation is and his immaturity is showing through because of it. He is being rude and disrespectful, especially of the rules that Ralph has set. Ralph proves that he is mature enough to lead and is taking their situation more seriously than Jack. With a further developed level of maturity comes a greater capacity for communication.

Another strength that makes Ralph the better leader is his communication skills. Ralph created the concept of using the Conch to give people the right to speak without interruption. Ralph says as he makes it known that, "We can't have everybody talking at once... I'll give the conch to the next person to speak. He can hold it when he's speaking... and he won't be interrupted." Ralph manifests that he understands how to effectively communicate, and that a substantial part of communication is listening to others. In many conditions, a person may be listening but not understanding. Ralph had learned, "as a practical business that fundamental statements like this had to be said at least twice before everyone understood them." One of the many essentials in communicating is making sure people comprehend what you are saying as you listen. Jack has very poor communication skills. He does not listen, and Piggy confirms, "You said Ralph was chief and you don't give him the time to think. Then when he says something you rush off...". Jack is never attentive to others opinions if they go against what he believes. Through the use of the Conch shell and repeating himself when speaking

about important matters, he clearly demonstrates his knowledge of effective communication. The last skill that Ralph obtains is his organizational skills.

Organization is a quality that every good leader holds. Ralph demonstrates this when he finds a Conch shell on shore and says, "We can use this to call the others. Have a meeting. They'll come when they hear us." Ralph takes the initiative to address the need for organization within the group. He also addresses what's most important by saying, "You hunters! You can laugh! But I tell you smoke is more important than the pig, however often you kill one. Do all of you see?" "We've got to make smoke up there - or die." He is setting goals for the safety of others and has organized his own priorities for what is most important for the group. To get off the island. The last example of Ralph's organization is when Merridew asked Ralph "Aren't there any grownups?... No." Piggy then says, "That's why Ralph made a meeting. So as we can decide what to do." Making meetings to assess the situation not only shows organizational skills, but also communication and maturity. Ralph clearly demonstrates his organizational skills through meetings, and the priorities that he has set for the group.

When it comes to Ralph and Jack, Ralph is clearly demonstrates that he is the greater leader through his higher level of maturity, communication and organizational skills. Ralph shows that he understands how serious their situation

needs to be taken and tries to stay rational about their problems. He also demonstrates his understanding of communication being not only speaking and making sure people understand, but listening to others. Lastly he validates his organizational skills by setting priorities and methods to effectively communicate through meetings. While Jack may show his eagerness to lead the group, he lacks the maturity, communication and organizational skills that Ralph has.