

The Constant Control of Power

Power is a constant part of our lives, whether we notice or not. It runs life smoothly in order to keep structure in the world. Within tribes in our lives, power can typically be traced to a singular individual or small collect. This progression of control allows for decisions to be made simpler and for directions to be followed. When there isn't a common source of power within a tribe, disorganization can occur. In some extreme instances, such as in *Lord of the Flies*, savagery can even incur. When a tribe is unable to unanimously agree on a leader, members will be displeased. This can lead to rebellion and control being lost.

Power can be used in a wide range of systems. Control can be a positive trait in most situations, such as within community groups or governments. Using governments as an example, without a hierarchy of power, there would be no reason for any sort of system of rules or mandates. The separation of power from common individuals to leaders allows the weight of decisions to not remain on an entire population. However, as an opposition to that, this divided decision making can harm a population. If a leader that is not commonly agreed upon, such as a dictator or a president that doesn't win the popular vote, disagreements will ensue. The decisions made by the powers in charge will not be favourable among the entire group, and this may lead to protests or revolts. Control is needed in order to keep our lives running smoothly, but it isn't always a fair system to everyone.

In *Lord of the Flies*, power is an important theme. Golding's writing of separations and conflict reflects the way that individuals disagree. While there have been disagreements within the first half of the book, the boys have still ultimately

followed orders of the leaders of their tribe. However, now that the boys have separated into either Ralph or Jack's tribe, the boys have the illusion of choice and free will. Either follow behind Ralph, who represents civilized survival and reason, or Jack, who represents giving in to savagery and impulse. This has led the boys to believe that they have power and control over themselves, when in reality this will lead the, further into chaos. This minor decision is the first chance that many of the boys have to control their own lives, leading them to believe that their voices will be heard. Instead this leads the tribe into a free for all, which will ultimately affect the chances of the boys' overall survival.