

# How Age Plays a Part in *Lord of the Flies*

In the novel *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, the basis of the story is how youth affects boys' actions. If the story were instead with a group of adults, it would effect almost every outcome in the book. Even minor actions, such as voting in a chief or delegating roles would change. This change would ultimately defeat the entire purpose of this story.

As a key theme in this book is the absence of adult guidance, this would change the motives of the boys if they were older. In *Lord of the Flies*, Jack and Ralph have an almost constant alternation of power. They both desire to be put in the place as the "adult" of the tribe, something they've likely never been given the chance to do. For Jack, this desire to be in control takes over every part of him. With adults this urge to take control would still persist, but in a very different way. I think that this desire would be apparent in decision making. As adults are more conditioned by society, I don't think that there would be so little respect for each other as in *Lord of the Flies*. The boys did not see reason in respecting everyone, and instead took out their efforts to put others, such as Piggy, down.

Another important factor to consider is that a large quantity of Jack's power is reliant on The Beast. This beast is a feared entity because to children, it isn't clear whether it's possible or not. With a group of adults, they would know that it is at most just an animal in the jungle. The Beast, or rather the fear surrounding it, is what led the boys to savagery. Adults would not let this childish fear affect their survival.

Adults are also more likely to reorganize their own society. They have more knowledge on how the world works, and higher education than boys who are still learning to understand the world around them. Adults are also able to differentiate their real lives from that of a game, which is something taken out of control by the boys. This is especially apparent once the boys have been rescued by the naval officer. When he says, "Fun and games," and then later "What have you been doing? Having a war or something?", it is shown how this adult doesn't take the roles that the boys have taken on as anything more than a childish game. This causes the boys to realize how out of hand their "game" has become, as it is now all that they know.

Overall, if this novel was adjusted from kids to adults, it would affect the very basis of the story. However, it would not make the themes within obsolete. They would just happen in different ways.