

### Lord of the Flies Essay Prompt 3

Morals are abandoned when there is no order in society. In *Lord of the Flies*, one of the main characters, Jack, starts out on the island as a normal kid with morals and strong leadership skills. Throughout the book this character strays away from society and his good qualities making harmful decisions that push him farther and farther away from who he once was. Jack progressively gets farther away from the line that represents society, violating Thomas Hobbes social contract theory.

When people are put in a position where there is no form of society they tend to stray away from their morals and begin to undergo change. When the boys landed on this island they knew things needed to get done. The boys put together a government and assigned jobs. Jack volunteered himself and a few others to be the hunters for all the boys on the island. When the hunters finally found a pig: "The three boys rushed forward and Jack drew his knife again with a flourish. He raised his arm in the air. There came a pause a hiatus, the pig continued to scream and the creepers to jerk, and the blade continued to flash at the end of a boys arm. The pause was only long enough for them to understand what an enormity the downstroke would be" (31). Not killing the pig when they had a perfect chance to shows how jack was not ready to take another life and couldn't get himself to do it. Showing how he still cares for life and has morals. Jack and Ralph agree with each other on how there needs to order in their society they have created: "I agree with Ralph we've got to have rules and obey them. After all we're not savages. We're english and the english are the best at everything. So we got to do the right thing"(42). This informs the reader how jack knows that in order to have a good and morally correct society there needs to be rules again showing how jack is a good person and cares about not only himself but the people around him and is willing to do the right thing for the good of the people. Jack starts

to tell Ralph about how he almost killed the piglets: "I went on. I let them go. I had to go on I-I went on. I thought by myself-. I thought i might kill"(51). This conveys to the reader how Jack could not bring himself to kill another living thing because he is a good person who cares about life. All these quotes show how Jack at the beginning of the book had morals, good intentions, cared about the well being of all the boys on the island, and wanted to create a society where doing the right thing was necessary for survival.

Jack in the middle of the book starts to further into the darkness losing his morals forgetting who he was and changing his ways slowly going on the other side of Thomas Hobbes line that represents society. Jack used the resources around to paint his face and made a masc for himself: "He looked at himself in astonishment, no longer himself but at an awesome stranger. He split the water and leapt to his feet laughing excitedly"(63). This masc was the start of a new person for Jack. He now believes that when he has this masc on he is not himself therefore losing his morals: "He began to dance and his laughter became a bloodthirsty snarling. He capered toward bill, ad the masc was a thing of its own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness. The rest are making a line come on! Il creep up and stab- "The mask compelled them"(64). Here is where the reader realizes how jack is gone and the masc has taken him over. He is becoming crazy with it on and uses it to hide who he truly is. He now is ready to kill and the masc is giving him the ability to do it at least that's what he believes. In the article by Melissa Ditman on "Why good people do bad things" the article reads" people aggression can also increase when they feel anonymous- for example if they wear a uniform,hood, or masc, Zimbardo said, you minimize social responsibility. He explained, Nobody knows who you are therefore you are not individually liable. There's also a group effect when all of you are masked. It provides fear in other people because they can't see you and you lose your humanity. This

article provides a perfect example in why Jack is wearing the mask. He feels he can do anything with it on and that's why he encourages others to do the same so, they can feel anonymous together and commit acts that they wouldn't think of if they were not wearing a mask. The mask symbolizes an evil and it's a foreshadowing of what is to come when Jack uses it for harm later in the book.

Towards the end of the book is when Jack completely loses his touch with humanity, lost all his morals he had before, and doesn't think about his actions he does whatever feels right in the moment having no regard for others. A glimpse of this is when Ralph is talking about the rules and how everyone needs to follow them Jack's response was; Bollocks to the rules! We're strong-we hunt! If there's a beast we'll hunt it down! We'll close in and beat and beat and beat-!"(Pg 91) Jack is now ready to kill he does not think at all reasonably. Jack's only thoughts to problems are to kill it to make it go away. Jack now has created his tribe leaving Piggy, Ralph, Simon, and a few others on their own. While Piggy and Ralph was with Jack's tribe he started to command his tribe to get in a circle to kill the beast: "Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood. "this chant continued throughout this event." A thing was crawling out of the forest. It came darkly, uncertainly, the shrill screaming that rose before the beast was like a pain. At once the crowd surged after it, poured down the rock, leapt on the beast, screamed, struck, bit, tore. There were no words, and no movements but the tearing of teeth and claws". The tribe had just killed Simon who Jack thought was the beast and had no regard to his life. Jack's tribe even Piggy and Ralph were all in on this event. Jack had become so powerful everyone was so scared and brainwashed that they didn't think twice and did whatever he said. In the article "The madness of humanity part 3: Tribalism by Marcelo Gleiser he talks about tribalism." Only the most extreme would adopt the those-who-don't-belong-are-enemies value system and only the most aggressive



within these will opt to destroy opponents. Those who are not part of my group, that don't share my values are a threat. They are the enemy. If we don't destroy them, they will destroy us. We thus, must convert others to our value system by any means available, Or, if that fails, destroy them by any means available." This article relates to Jack and explains how he thinks. Jack is the most extreme and the most aggressive according to Marcelo Geiser who is willing to do whatever needs to be done to be on the top and to destroy his enemies. Jack is completely gone now the mask has changed him in ways never thought possible. He created a tribe that did whatever he said because of how crazy he is they are scared and he then brainwashes them becoming the leader of his own tribe kicking Ralph to the curb.

When Jack first began on the island he had good morals and was a genuine good person who could not kill an animal. However, throughout the book he goes past Thomas Hobbes line that represents society. He loses his touch with humanity completely changing as a person not caring for others and doing whatever it takes to be the leader.

# Common Core All-Subject Writing Rubric

Writing Type(circle one):      Argumentative      Informative/Explanatory      Narrative (ELA only)

CONTENT X4	The writing has a sharp focus and clarity of purpose. The ideas are developed with examples and specific details including textual evidence and are thoroughly elaborated. All elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a clear central idea and a clear focus. Ideas are developed with textual evidence, even though the development may be uneven. Information is relevant. Most elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a vague central idea; there are shifts in focus or digressions. Ideas are listed, information may be incomplete or irrelevant, textual evidence may be lacking, and there is little development. Some elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	The writing has unclear or confusing ideas. The ideas are missing relevant information, there is not enough information, or there is little or no development, and little textual evidence. Significant elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	X4
	ORGANIZATION	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with strong transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and there is a sense of completion about the writing.	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with simple transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and the writing may have a weak ending.	There is a weak beginning, middle, and end with gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in random order, there may be significant repetition, and the writing may have no ending.	
	SPELLING & GRAMMAR (Conventions)	The writing exhibits superior control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits proper control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be a part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits weak control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors minimally affect the meaning of the writing.	
				The writing exhibits little to no control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors greatly affect the meaning of the writing.	
Teacher Feedback:      {{Student Reflection on Back}}				Total Points Earned	
				Score	

Rationale for 10<sup>th</sup> grade essay: *Lord of the Flies*

Low

This essay received an overall score of 2. While the writer does establish a clear claim, it is not supported enough throughout the essay. There are many errors in the text that divert the reader's attention from the point the writer is making. Often the writer has used informal language and obvious commentary to support his evidence. While the writer does use supplemental material in his essay – which the prompt asks for – this material is not blended seamlessly into the ideas. It often appears choppy and placed in the essay almost as an afterthought. Another significant problem with this essay is that it does not cover the entire story to reveal Jack's character. There are important details missing from the analysis. The writer's conclusion falls short in its development.