

Example Dialectical Journal Entry Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Passage

1. “He...gazed at the green and black mask before him, trying to remember what Jack looked like.”

Response

1. Jack has become a new creature of the island in a very short amount of time. Some would say that it has now become a total battle between the forces of good and evil. Ralph is perplexed at the new face and aspects of Jack. Leadership has truly gone to Jack's head. As the saying goes absolute power corrupts absolutely. Jack has not quite attained absolute power and the twins, Ralph, and Piggy stand before him in defiance. They are actually the only ones who are making any real sense that would make progress in their situation. Jack's mask is still in full effect. Ralph is mesmerized and terrified of it and him. He's seen what they have done to people in the case of the murder of Simon especially. It has become an almost spiritual thing for Jack. He has become the man behind his mask fully. He has become the symbol for savagery and corruption on the island. At the beginning it is true that his intentions for hunting were good. Now he's used it to win over all the other children and turned them into a makeshift army. On looking back a reader can see Jack's metamorphosis from a choir-singing boy to cold-blooded killer. It began after his first killing. He is not even open to Ralph and Piggy's speeches about reason and rescue. The strength that he portrays with his mask has made him a kind of invincible being of the island who is trusted because he provides for them. I as a reader had a bad feeling about Jack from the beginning of the book as he and the choir strode in still clothed in their full school uniforms no matter how hot it got. Being the choir leader was Jack's first visage. Then he quickly became the fearless hunter. Finally, he rose into power as the tribe leader. Though on the outside it seems like a rise to power it really is a descent into a much more sinister place. (339 words). S.O. Class of 2010