

Lord of the Flies Quotation Analysis

QUOTE 2

Quote 2 shows how the power dynamic of Jack and the rest of the boy has shifted since their arrival on the island. This is a relevant piece of the storyline for multiple reasons.

First, the first line of the quote is spoke by Jack, reading “Who thinks Ralph oughtn’t be chief?”. This line shows that Jack’s action to feed the whole tribe was just another way to gain power. This quote takes place right after Jack and his choir hunted and somewhat cooked a pig. Jack made an effort to feed the whole group, but these seemingly kind actions were merely to assert his dominance over the group.

This quote shows the imbalance of control throughout the novel. Although Ralph has been in charge up to the point of this quote, Jack has been constantly fighting to gain power. Jack’s desire for control symbolizes the evils within everyone all fighting for control over ones self and civilization. When Jack realizes that he doesn’t have as much power as he thought, he is humiliated. This embarrassment leads him further into his power-thirsty state that becomes intenser as the book progresses. This quote is representative of the democratic systems of civilization that the boys have been using, but foreshadows how out of control this tribe will become.

Quote 3

In the third quote, it is apparent that the shift of power in the story has affected everyone on the island. This quote is spoken by Jack as well, but this time it is after he has gained control of most of the boys. This is a very significant part of the book that shows the way that fear has taken over.

This fear is apparent through the beast. As the beast is a “physical” representation of fear in the boys, Jack’s announcement to forget about the beast is very significant. His announcement shows that he has enough power without the element of fear leading the boys to him. It is especially clear that the evil and savagery within the boys is in full control if they can’t remember their reason for following Jack in the first place.

Jack’s standing as chief of his tribe shows the direction that the civilization of the island has gone. As Jack is representative of evil, that means the boys have given into their inner demons. In the last line of this text, “They agreed passionately out of the depths of their tormented private lives”, it is made clear the way that the boys see Jack’s leadership. They see him as a release of the civilization that’s held them under control for their entire lives. This is also shown in the description of Jack’s hunters. “Ages ago they had stood in two demure rows and their voices had been the song of angels.” Before in the book, they have been referred to as the “choir boys”, yet now they have lost that entire identity and have given into savagery.