

ENGLISH 10 NOVEL STUDY
LETTER ESSAY #1 SAMPLE

Dear Mrs. Mahoney,

I chose the novel Lord of the Flies to read because my brother said it was good. I know it's a long novel so I hope I made the right choice.

There are 3 characters that I have read about so far. The one I really like is Ralph because he's so calm and cool, like when he doesn't care that there are no adults on the island. I am thinking he will be a good leader. The only thing that bothered me about Ralph was that he snitched on Piggy about his nickname. That was mean. Speaking of Piggy, what's with that guy? He's got asthma, is almost blind without his glasses and he is so needy. He wouldn't leave Ralph alone and followed him all over the island. I know he's smart (He came up with the idea of gathering the boys and holding a meeting) but I wish he would quit whining "I got the conch" and being so annoying. The character I don't think I'm going to like is Jack. He is ugly inside and out. He's a power-mad freak who is a bully and I think he's going to be trouble.

So far I have read 3 chapters and I think the most important quote at this point is when Simon says "Maybe it's just us" when they're discussing if there's a real beast in the jungle. It shows he's really mature and knows there is no real beast other than their fear. The way he says it seems strange to the rest of them so they think he's crazy, which maybe he is. My best guess is that this quote is some sort of foreshadowing for the later part of the novel.

When it comes to theme, I think that Golding is trying to get at something about leadership. Each of the 3 main characters have some leadership skill. Piggy is smart, Jack is forceful and Ralph is strong and charismatic. Perhaps Golding's theme will be that it takes all sorts of skills to be a good leader. I don't agree that Jack's mean spiritedness is a skill most leaders should have but he isn't afraid to use threats to get things done, which is what leaders need to do at times.

The hardest part about this novel is that it uses really hard vocabulary like the word 'declivities' and strange British phrases like "wizard and wacco". This makes reading a bit slow and tedious and when it comes to weird British phrases, it makes them sound lame. The best part of the novel is how each chapter has a symbol which is in the title and helps me understand the rest of the chapter.

I really don't think I would recommend this novel to any girls I know because they would probably be disgusted or annoyed with a bunch of little boys acting wild. I guess it's a bit of a guy's novel, cause we can relate to the fighting for power between the characters and the laughing at things like farting. My only recommendation for the author would be to change the vocabulary to something from this century so the story is easier and quicker to read.

Until next time...

Joe Student