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The Aggression of a Twelve Year Old

In William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, a group of young boys from England got stranded on an island after surviving a plane crash. After discovering and collecting everyone together, the boys hold an election for who would be chief to take place since there is an absence of an adult figure. Eventually issues rose about who held power on the island, causing two different groups to be formed with leader Jack scaring the others to join him so elected leader Ralph would lose power. Ralph was more "civil" than Jack and wasn't bloodthirsty for danger like him, either. This turn of events is not unique to only the characters in the book, it also is relevant to how the presidential election went this year. Those who manipulate others are determined to find any source of a threat, causing promises to be made that could attract a buildup of followers that then generates aggression towards the target.

Towards the middle of the book, the group of boys were unable to capture a pig to eat, so Jack decided to have a ritual instead of being embarrassed that he couldn't complete the task. Robert volunteered to act as the pig, and the main point of the action was for them all to reenact the hunting of a pig. "Make a ring!" The circle moved in and around. Robert squealed in mock terror, then in real pain." (114) There had been a very clear goal in mind for Jack, and that was to create a group of hunters so they could find pigs. Food was a guaranteed part of joining his tribe, causing mostly everyone to follow behind him later on in the novel. Robert became so

committed to Jack that he volunteered to act as the pig in their ritual, but actually ended up getting hurt since all of the boys took it too far. His behavior showed how followers go to certain extremes for who they are most loyal to. The act of “mocking” the pig symbolizes how far the power of a group of people can go, especially since it was a target for everyone in Jack’s tribe. He had the qualities of being a leader, always keeping his ground and setting goals and promises that got completed by the entire group since they felt that they could rely on him more than Ralph.

With strong political events that happened this year, people were set on voting for their favored candidate. To be more specific, Donald Trump has a surprisingly large amount of followers that helped him win the presidential election that shocked not only America, but others around the world as well. His arguments contained statements that tried to convince voters that immigrants and Muslims are a threat to the nation, and now there are some people with a solid mindset that all terrorists are Muslim. According to the UK edition of the Huffington Post, they claimed that there are citizens who now regret their choice of voting our current president into office. The article explains how this is popular among social media, a twitter account named “Trump Regrets” involves comments from those who now do not follow along with the decisions that are being made. One person tweeted, “I’m pissed. I voted for you but once again the poor and sick get screwed. You are no better than Obama. Screw the government.” This connects to the novel because of how there eventually became two separate rulers, and Ralph became a threat to the tribe Jack had formed even after he rose to full power of everyone.

In chapter twelve, the twins Sam and Eric had been forced to join Jack’s tribe which left Ralph to be on his own since Piggy had been killed. They were on watch duty, and did not

follow Jack's orders to alarm him that there was someone trying to pass by. "The twins had grabbed each other and were gibbering... Memory of their new and shameful loyalty came to them. Eric was silent but Sam tried to do his duty." (187) The impact of this event is that both of the boys stayed loyal to their original chief, even though they were obviously scared and had no choice but to stay with Jack and his tribe. Ralph was a threat towards the rest of the boys on the island, and that was made very clear since no one except three people had been following his rules. The others were doing very unordinary tasks for being around the age of twelve, killing people being an obvious one.

Another example of manipulation by a ruler is brought up by Yahoo News. As mentioned in the article, it talks about how those who support and voted for Trump believe that he is sticking with the promises he told the country and keeping himself on track with having them be set in place. Executive vice president Margie Omero from PBS Research said, "If he was trying to reach out to Democrats, he wouldn't be doing the Muslim ban, rolling back climate change efforts, or making up accusations against Obama. He'd be focused on infrastructure funding, or meeting with CEOs, and he'd throw away his phone. He's done very little to extend an olive branch to the people who didn't vote for him, or to try to heal our country's partisan divisions." Trump had obvious intentions and beliefs that attracted a large following of people who agreed on the same points. Some of those points are building a wall, and keeping immigrants out of America. This fueled threats and targets throughout the country, which happened to be people who are Muslim and those who are undocumented.

In conclusion, people are influenced throughout their lives to believe in something that is brought up through their family and environment that they had grown up in. This could be

religion, values, and expectations. With these beliefs, it leads into having different desires or ideas that may cater to only a certain group of people when it comes to making political decisions and choosing who you are to follow in life. No matter how extreme others may think a leader is acting, there will always be an amount of followers supporting and targeting what that person wants to do the most.

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