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### Crucial Symbolism

Do all humans express significant personal importance through a specific object? In *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, he tells the tale of a group of boys who are abandoned on an island that struggle for survival and coping with different traumas that affect their state of mind. To help with these situations, the boys unconsciously try to have a symbol or figure to either metaphorically or physically “lead” them into a better environment, for the benefit for themselves and others. Their behavior reflects the fact that humans are dependent on icons in a time of distraught.

Towards the end of chapter four of the novel, there is a moment where Ralph sees a ship and immediately gets excited. Then, he realizes that the ship can’t see them and is going the opposite way because the fire isn’t lit. Because of this, he instantly gets mad at Jack, who was responsible for keeping the fire, and lashes out on him. During his encounter with Jack, Ralph says, “There was a ship. Out there. You said you’d keep the fire going and you let it out! ... They might have seen us. We might have gone home.” (70). At this point, Ralph is extremely upset and angry at Jack, not only for the fire dying out, but also because the ship left. It’s important to note how Ralph feels that the whole situation is irritating, as he believes he’s the

only one being responsible and cautious about surviving and being rescued. Because of this belief, he has become obsessed with the idea of leaving the island as soon as possible, which leaves Ralph to attach himself to the fire. The fire symbolizes hope and guidance for him, because he trusts that the fire will save him from his current problem of being stuck on the island. The fire basically “fuels” Ralph with aspirations and objectives. When the fire is out, he loses his faith in everything, and is upset. He demonstrates this when he continues to say “might”, hinting that the hope he had is gone.

When someone in a family dies, especially if the person has direct descendants like children, the outcome can affect a numerous amount of people in the family. In many instances, families have become distant because of the death, instead of closer together because there is no one to bind them back together. This same exact thing happened to Robin Williams’ family. Robin Williams was a comedian and actor, best known for *Popeye*, *Aladdin*, and *Jumanji*. At the age of 63, he committed suicide, and six months after his death, the family was still have disputes over his estate. As the fights progressed, it was known that the quarrels were often about money, property, and personal belongings between his widow and past wives. Normally, in scenarios like these, the feeling of constant grief and loneliness can pass onto multiple family members as well, turning the death of the family member into a burden rather than making it calm grieving experience for the family to figure out together. This effect can escalate into conflict just like the Williams family. Dispute in the family is not good, and almost all of the fights focus on money, burial arrangements, and family issues in general. The emotional strain of people can sometimes cause reminders of past problems that have occurred to rise. In one article,

it mentions, “Flare-ups are caused by heightened emotions, exhaustion and the need to make difficult decisions.” In addition to this, in a different article about Robin’s family says: “acted against his wishes by challenging the plans he so carefully made for his estate.” These both mean that families should try to fix problems as soon as they can, but sometimes possessions from the deceased show major importance to people. Also without the “glue” to hold everyone together, family problems could get worse, especially if everyone remains angry and upset. Within *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph faces this problem himself, when Roger, Jack, and Maurice all make the boys believe that Ralph is the bad leader and turns everyone against them, in a plan to hurt him.

As the book concludes, Ralph and Jack have their own separate tribes, and majority of the boys are in Jack’s tribe so they are able to hunt and eat meat. Suddenly, Jack, Roger, and Maurice all attack Ralph’s tribe as they are sleeping, capturing an object that was valuable to all beings on the island. After the assault, Piggy admits, “I know. They didn’t come for the conch. They came for something else...” and then “...He was chief now in truth; and he made stabbing motions with his spear. From his left hand dangled Piggy’s broken glasses.” (168). In this scene, it’s clear to see that the glasses mean something to Jack and his tribe, or he wouldn’t have stolen them in the first place. With the hatred Jack is holding against Ralph, it explains the raid to Ralph and his boys. It’s interesting that to obtain revenge on Ralph, Jack targets Piggy and his glasses, rather than Ralph himself, especially since the glasses are the tools used to create fire. Because of what the glasses are able to do, it shows that the specs are quite powerful, it acquires the ability to comprehend things that the other boys cannot, just like Piggy is able to do. With these spectacles, Piggy was able to “see” the importance of law and order, along with other themes like

knowing how to use the conch. When the boys take Piggy's glasses he isn't able to see anything, which leads the reader to believe that the glasses resemble discovery and intelligence. As a result, the action of stealing the specs shows that they were trying to weaken Ralph's tribe, and the only way they thought they could be successful was to take the object that strengthens the group with knowledge. This could represent how frail Jack thinks of his tribe.

The death of Michael Jackson, or the King of Pop, a singer and songwriter, affected millions of people around the world. He left a musical legacy, as he had many fans, those of whom his music has changed their lives. According to *American Psychological Association*, coping with a co-worker's death is close to the same thing as a family member. It states: "...co-workers are very much like an extended family. We spend most of our waking hours with them, forging special bonds of trust and friendship that are unlike other relationships." At times, co-workers can be defined as people who are very close with each other, maybe even grown up with their presence, just like many of Michael's grieving fans were. Radio, movies, magazines, all allow the lives of celebrities to be invaded, for which Michael was always in the spotlight. This basically is showing how much time we are with them and the effect of him dying is just as tragic to them as it would be for the family. It is proven that people can often push away when grieving, particularly because it can bring up memories and feelings that can lead to crying, irritation, and stress. Talking to TMZ, Lil Wayne said, "I personally can't believe it. But it's more unfortunate for the world of music. ... My love goes out to his family. ... A sad day in history, not [just] music.". Grief can take time, but with the help of songs sung by Michael Jackson, it could

ease the fans to become open and express their feelings that they may have been holding in, just like the boys had a hard time speaking up during the meetings in *Lord of the Flies*.

After analyzing *Lord of the Flies* and the real world different examples of family trauma and mindsets, the reader can see why having a special object to lead them in the right direction is crucial to everyone. They provide a sense of hope and comfort to those who need it. Also, they can prevent a variety of different problems that can occur in the future if these symbols weren't there. Symbols and figures are not just guides, they are the exceptional piece of the puzzle to life.

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