

# William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*: Corrupted Children as Mirrors of the Corrupted Society

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## Abstract

This paper deals with societal issues in literature. Starting with creation of world upto now, society faces lot of issues. Those issues reflected in literature through different author. People in society are flawed because of the corruption exist in the people's mind, lack of guidance from matured elders, lack of parental care for the kids and isolation. These issues clearly portrayed in William Golding's "Lord of The Flies". In this novel, there is a group of kids they behave like barbarians because of the society they grown up. Therefore, the children reflect the society they grown up.

**Keywords:** William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*, Uncivilization - savage - Isolation - lack of parental care - lack of guidance

## Introduction

This paper analyzes the corrupted children in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* mirrors the corrupted society. "People says children are the image of God", but Golding portrayed children as an uncivilized, savage. Because those children grown up in a corrupted, evil society. Therefore, these children imitate that society and so that children behave like a barbaric manner. Not only that, those children were uneducated ones. So, they do not know about world and civilization. Because of illiteration, children are do not know how to lead a good life. Therefore, without guidance from the elders and lack of love and affection, that also leads that children turn as a barbarians. Society is a group of people joined and lived in one area. In a society group of people that have children, elders, youngsters, leaders, flora and fauna. Society does not exist with a single person. When group of people joined together automatically there has be a problem, arise, because of the evilness within the individual. Every individual there has evilness with them that evilness may be a jealousy, anger and so on. We cannot find a person without anger, anger in not bad but it goes in an extreme level that is a very big issue. Likewise, the person goes beyond the control, there comes the evilness. That creates issues within him and that affects the society.

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In William Golding's "Lord of the Flies", we find the group of children, with maximum age level 12 and minimum age level 6, they are called littluns. They are all immature boys. They dropped in an isolated island, because of the Plane crash. Those boys are only 12 years old, so they do not know about the world and civilization. Therefore, they face a lot of problems and they do not know how to solve those problems that come as a major flaw in their life, then no adults there to guide them in a proper way. While they entered in the isolated island, they want to escape from that island therefore; they plan to create the fire signal with the help of Piggy's glass. Up to their level of maturity, they think it was a good idea to escape from the island but that has been flawed because they do not have a proper knowledge about the fire signal and trap the travelling ships. Moreover Jack who was irresponsible to maintain that fire signal, and concentrate in hunting, then another two responsible kids Sam and Eric they slept while the ship crossing that island. This indicates that the children's illiteracy and no adults there in the island to guide the kids to how to escape from the island. Likewise, people in our society, when they trap into the certain problem they are not easily find a solution because of illiteracy and lack of guidance to solve the problem and main issues is the irresponsibility of the leader's. Therefore, they try to escape from the problem but they did not find a solution. Then a fat boy who was called Piggy by the choirboys, but he hates that name he is the one who wear the glass. He is not happy with the company of boy's expert Ralph because everyone ridiculed him. Even though Jack ridicules Piggy he wants Piggy's glass to create fire but he does not want him. Likewise, people want somebody's property but they do not want a relationship with them. Though world would be civilized people behave in an uncivilized manner. Civilization was not come by the one single day, world civilization grows day by day, and it comes through a lot of experiences. Likewise, the children they grown up in a civilized society, but they are not mature enough to understand the civilization, while they grown up and having a lot of experience then only they came to civilization or the proper education will lead a civilized life. God gifted the beautiful island for the tribe, but they burned the island at last because they did not know the value of nature. Naturally, people did not mind nature they destroy it with their own evilness like Jack.

Then the children in that island are in isolation, they are far away from their parents. Parents play a vital role in everyone's life. When children commit mistake parents are teach them what is right and wrong, but children in this novel there are no parents and no adults with them to teach good things. Therefore, that children do whatever they wish without anyone's control, so they do not know what happens next and what problem will arise. Therefore, that freedom also comes a great flaw in the island. Because of the isolation, the boys turned into uncivilized barbarians. When Simon he was in isolation, he enjoys nature with the pleasant atmosphere. He feels that island has no beast that beast within everyone's heart because nature gives him such kind of affection. In addition, those children fears about the beast, that fear takes major role in the island kids. Jack the evil natured leader uses that fear to rule them. When children are in the

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care of the parents, they will give hope that they are with them, so do not fear about anything. However, those kids they do not have the parents with them, so no one is there to console them. So, that they fear for the beast. Fear was a highly powerful one, when the fear goes the extreme level it will take the person to be a mad. Fear can do everything, may be it will kill somebody. Children in the island also fearing for the beast, which they did not find they search for it, but it is only a hallucination, because it was the parachute with the dead body it flows in the wind.

However, the boys misunderstand it because they are kids. Kids usually fear for very big animal. That fear takes the power to kill Simon, the innocent boy. Everyone thinks Simon is a beast, unknowingly Ralph and Piggy stoned Simon because of the fear. These all happens because there are no adults and no parents in the island to console them. Likewise, in our society because of fear people used to kill, snake but snake did not do any evil thing to them but even they kill it because of fear they have. Then the children do not know the way of behaviourance, parents are the one who teach everyone how to behave but those children in island they painted their face with black mark, then they fight each other, then they dance in front of the head of the Sow. In the island no parents to teach them how to behave. At first, the novel begins they are enter the island with some goodness with innocence, neatly dressed and have a good friendly relationship with them and they are in one team to do their work. However, later they are separated and fight each other, their appearance was changed to arrogant, their heart is filled with arrogance, and they kill their fellow friends without any reason.

In addition, they kill pigs, they eat, and they kill human as well. When we analyze the evilness of the kids those children born at a time of war, main idea of war was killing one another. Those children grown up in that society, therefore they might be think that, killing human is not a bad one so they kill the littluns without having a sense of humanity. Naturally, children are the imitator of the parents and adults. Parents are role model for the kids. However, in those kids they do not have a good role model to guide them. When the kids born, they saw the war, hide them from bomb, and saw how the adults behave in that society and how the leader led the society. Then the leader fights for the sake of the kingdom, therefore, the children losses their originality. Maybe they think this is the right way of life, to rule the littluns like weak people. They imitate what the parents do in their society. People corrupted in generation to generation, but some leads a good life because of the proper guidance and fearing of God. Children in the island has no fear about God, fear of God may lead kid to be good sole. However, the kids they kill their own friends without any reason. Elders are the one who save and console younger's but in the island elder, boy Jack says they will kill littluns, if they did not find any pigs. Some people say killing insect is sin. However, the boys say they will kill the littluns instead of pigs because their mind is fully corrupted. While they are in their own society, they saw lot of bloodsheds and in the war people used to kill humans without any sense of humanity. Many people will afraid to kill even animals, but in a war field, everyone kill humans like the

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animals. So the children have a mindset that killing one another is not a sin, they do not have a maturity understand about the value of human soul. Human soul is more precious than the world. Value of the soul and humanity is understand by the boy, Simon the one of the elder boy he comes to know about the value of humanity so that he helps littluns and he saw the sow's head around the flies are the lord of the flies. That is evil is ruling the children and later Simon understand that the beast was not the evil who rule the children but the evil like beast is in everyone and that evil rule their self. Then the children have leadership at the beginning of the novel, at first all voted for Ralph that they be in one team joined together and work together to escape from the island. They create fire signal and they search for food Ralph appoint Jack and the choir boys are the hunters to hut pigs for food and to maintain the fire signal. However, Jack was not satisfied with the appointment because he wants to become the leader of the tribe. At first, he did not burst out in front of all, but the jealousy overrules him. In spite of the issue, he joined to work with the tribe. When one time Jack concentrates in hunting pigs and he forget to maintain fire signal so on that time a ship crossed the island, but they missed the chance to escape from the island. At that time Ralph was in much of anger about the irresponsibility of Jack, that time both came to quarrel each other and their relationship also break down then they separate two groups. However, Jack wants a full control of the tribe. So, he said to Ralph's tribe to come and join with him, because Jack wants to be more powerful. This also a reflection of their native society, because of the power and leadership people used to fight within them. Good leader will lead a good society; bad leader is the best example Jack. Because when they came in the island, that island looks like a paradise that is full of peace and silence. When Ralph rules the tribe littluns are happy with him. No crisis arise with them, but when Jack rule the tribe he kill littluns, they changed like an uncivilized barbaric manner at lost he burned the paradise like island. People do not give importance to nature, so children imitate them and they also did not give any importance to nature.

## Conclusion

Societal issues were a major theme in literature, most of the genre deals with the crisis in society. Without society, literature can ever exit, because the author came from the society. Every society facing some short of problems. When crisis arises in the society, people are joined together to face that problem. Some find a good solution but some did not find a solution so they suffered a lot. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, society faces lot of issues. People are in society had different ideas and opinions to overcome the issues. Everyone wants to live a peaceful and good life some wants an adventurous life with a pleasure. Totally, no one wants to be with adversity. If there is a problem, there must be a solution. People will find a good solution through lot of experience. Experience makes the man perfect. Experience teach a lesson for everyone, how to face a problem. In a society, if everyone joined together to find a solution then he or she will find a proper solution. Issues must be grown up until the end of the society, because the human's

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evilness will also grow. People had a pride, ambitious, lust, envy and so on that all will lead issues in society. Through those issues, some are suppressed and some are having an advantage to suppress other. Like Jack, suppress the littluns in the lord of the flies and had a fun with them. Fun grows the extreme level that has issues to everyone. Everyone do the certain work for happiness. May be that will torture others but it will not mind them. They had only fun and entertainment. We should have fun and entertainment in our life but it should not harm others. That fun will entertain everyone in our life too. Due to selfish nature, society will destroy. Society will be a group, not a single man. So being one with the group will give more and more happiness. In William Goldings “Lord of the flies”, if they will enjoy with nature and enjoy with their innocence, they will be happy to return from the island. However, their evilness leads them in a saddest path. Evilness always leads a person to be barbarian. Civilization and happiness was being with the good-natured people. Without goodness happiness does not exist in a society, there must be a problem arises in a society until the end of the human beings.

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