

Good vs. Evil

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At the time William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies* was published in 1954, the world was still recovering from the destructive effects of the Cold War, the face-off between the global super powers—the United States and the Soviet Union—Democracy vs. Communism. Other nations were pressured into choosing sides based on the allies that were already formed from the previous world wars. In his novel, *Lord of the Flies*, Golding writes about a group of British schoolboys who crash land onto an uninhabited island while trying to get to safety, away from the war. There, the battle of Ralph vs. Jack, or otherwise known as Good vs. Evil, begins. After being pressured into choosing sides, the group of boys start to engage in ugly, aggressive, and violent behaviors. Some of the reasons for the boys' acts of aggression and violent behavior may be attributed to their "deindividuation," "delinquent peers," and the "pressure to conform."

One reason that the boys in *Lord of the Flies* might resort to committing acts of [violence](#) and aggression as part of a group is that they might be experiencing what psychologists refer to as "deindividuation," which is the "loss of self –awareness and evaluation apprehension" (Kuzyszyn-Jones). People who experience "deindividuation" are more likely to act without thinking about their own values. The first time we see an example of "deindividuation" is after Jack and the hunter apply paint to their faces because they

become more aggressive. After catching a sow, a mother pig, Jack goes on top of the pig and starts stabbing downward with his knife, while Roger rams his spear “right up her ass”. Jack finds the throat and the hot blood spouted over his hands. He giggles and flicks them while the boys laugh at his re...

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...imon, the most innocent, Christ-like boy, as he is thought to be the “beast.” Lastly, the “pressure to conform” compels the majority of Ralph’s group to join Jack’s tribe due to Jack’s intimidating demeanor and the enforcer, known as Roger. Clearly, the psychological factors contribute to the boy’s behavior on the island, but they also undergo the battle of Good vs. Evil, whether it is inside themselves or not.

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