

Id, Ego, Superego

Symbolism in *The Lord of the Flies*

Info: Famous neurologist Sigmund Freud (1865 – 1939) had a single most enduring and important idea, which was that the human psyche (personality) has more than one aspect. Freud saw the psyche structured into three parts, the id, ego and superego.

According to Freud's model of the psyche, the id is the primitive and instinctual part of the mind that contains sexual and aggressive drives and hidden memories, the super-ego operates as a moral conscience, and the ego is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of the id and the super-ego.

Instructions: Make a claim based on the following assumptions about which characters represent the id, ego, and superego. Back up your claim using data (a quote with citation) and a warrant (explanation).

Jack: The Id

Claim: Jack represents the id because he attempts to create chaos throughout the entire story.

Data: "All at once, Robert was screaming and struggling with the strength of the frenzy, Jack had him by the hair and brandishing his knife"(Golding 114).

Warrant: The Id is the evil of the human psyche and Jack definitely shows that evil and how he attempts to create chaos throughout the story.

Ralph: The Ego

Claim: Ralph represents the Ego because he is the medium between Jack(ID) and Piggy / Simon (superego).

Data: "We've got to talk about this fear and decide there's nothing in it. I'm frightened myself, sometimes; only that's nonsense! Like bogies. Then, when we've decided, we can start again and be careful about things like the fire."(Golding 82). "'He's not fatty,' cried Ralph 'His real name's Piggy!'" (Golding 21).

Warrant: The Ego tries to be good but inadvertently can be hurtful and make mistakes. This is like Ralph because while he tries to do good; sometimes he makes mistakes.

Piggy: The Superego

Claim: Piggy represent the Superego because he is an intelligent kid who tries to use reason to stay alive and keep positivity throughout the group.

Data: "if there's something wrong, there's someone to get it right"(Golding 84).

Warrant: The Superego of the human psyche is the light and only does good. Piggy uses his intelligence to keep people calm and peaceful like the human psyche.

Simon: The Superego

Claim: Simon uses reason as a way to keep peace throughout the group; he acts as the median throughout the group.

Data: "'Maybe there is a beast.' ... 'What I mean is... maybe it's only us.'"(Golding 89).

Warrant: The Superego is what does good in the human psyche. Simon uses reason to keep peace throughout the group. In this example he was the median who calmed people and used reason to understand what was happening.