



Lord of the Flies –Classwork and Homework for 5/20 & 5/23

JOURNAL ON FRIDAY -- TYPED in-class journal: Take about 30-40 minutes to plan, draft, and edit this journal, which responds to the following prompt:

What would life be like if humans were given complete liberty?

Imagine that you woke up this morning and all governmental laws and law enforcement had been abolished. This means that you could rob steal, murder, and cheat with no legal consequences, but of course, any individual that you harm (or his friends or family) also has the complete freedom to seek revenge *upon you* for any injury suffered. Thus, you have the freedom to commit a crime; your victim also has the freedom to try to avenge the crime. *So how would people in general react? How would you react? Would the average person embark on a crime spree? Would you?*

Thomas Hobbes, a philosopher, argued that if we did not have laws, we would revert to a brutal, selfish, savage state. He maintained that the natural condition of humans is a state of perpetual competition and war of all against all, where no morality exists and everyone lives in constant fear. According to Hobbes, it is the law and its penalties that protect us from descending into this state.

On the other hand, another philosopher, **Jean Rousseau**, stated that laws could be like chains, and that man in his natural state (without government) is noble and naturally good. He argued that the law can bring out the worst in us because it is an opportunity for those in power to protect their own interests at the expense of others. Someone with this viewpoint would believe that a society with governmental laws allows those in power to become more arrogant and selfish, and it often makes those who are out of power act irrationally and immaturely as they rebel against the inequality created by the laws and power structure.

What is your view of human nature? Do we need laws and fear of punishment to protect ourselves against the evil nature of man, or do laws crush individual freedom and really oppress the many for the benefit of the few who are given power under those laws? How do you respond to laws? How do most people?

In your response try to consider this question and think about what makes people moral. Is it fear of punishment or something else? Remember, as with all journals, **DO NOT JUST STATE ASSERTIONS; BACK UP YOUR BELIEFS with logical support, clear examples and illustrations, and many connections (to books, news stories, etc.)**

- Aim to fill at least a page.
- Go back and edit and proofread.
- Print out your work and give it to the sub. You don't need a full MLA heading, just your name.

📌 THIS JOURNAL WILL BE GRADED AND IS WORTH 10 POINTS.

HW: DUE Tuesday, 5/24 – Read to end of Ch. 6 and answer all the Study Guide questions for those chapters. Answers to the Study Guide must be typed. You should expect a reading check on Tuesday. Be good for the sub, and write down all questions that you have about the reading.