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EN30SL

Ms. Smith

Jack's Mask

In *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, Jack Merridew, a young choir leader, quickly started to show his dark side to the other boys. Jack was eager to shed his current child-like self and by doing so he created an anger filled, power hungry version of himself. His new personality was rage induced and short tempered, forming an uncontrollable Jack Merridew. On this version of Jack's mask there are drawings of a volcano, blood, a crown and many other symbols, along with jagged, sharp lines and the colours red, dark green and dark blue.

Jagged lines can often represent someone who is harsh and uncontrollable. Along with the certain lines, there is a crack in Jack's mask to show how he is splitting away from his civilized self. Jack is becoming uncontrollable and doesn't follow the rules, especially when he lashes out at Piggy, "You would, would you? Fatty!" Ralph made a step forward and Jack smacked Piggy's head." (71) Jack doesn't really care what the other boys think about his actions. Similarly, there are certain colours which represent Jack's several emotions.

On this certain mask the main colours are red, dark green, and dark blue. These colours represent three of Jack's newer, more prominent traits. Red represents anger, dark green shows jealousy, and dark blue shows power. Jack is very power hungry, "I cut the pig's throat," said Jack, proudly, and yet twitched as he said it." (69) The killing of the pig might've let Jack feel power to a certain degree, giving him the desire for more. In addition to colours, there are different symbols on the mask.

Many of the Symbols represent the different characteristics of Jack. The main piece of this specific mask is the erupting, fuming volcano. Like the volcano, Jack's anger is

*I like
the volcano
idea!*

uncontrollable, "Jack was powerless and raged without knowing why." (73) Along with the volcano, a crown is featured on the forehead of the mask. The crown represents power, which is a desire of Jack's since he often feels powerless. Jack claims power by leaving the group led by Ralph, "I'm not going to be a part of Ralph's lot-" (127) which was a declaration of his independence. The symbols are the main items which represent the person who Jack transformed into. ✓

Jack's new personality is shown by the use of jagged lines, different colours and different symbols or objects. Jack used a mask when hunting but is now continuously that person under the mask. The use of the mask shows how much a person may change over time and under circumstances. Along with change, it shows how easily one can hide their true self in order to fit in or be liked, and how much one's true self can differ from their masked self. ✓