Lord of the Flies Chapter 7
Psychoanalytic

Emily Braby
Summary

The chapter starts off with the all of the boys starting their hunt for the beast, except Piggy who stays with the “littluns”. Ralph begins to notice the filth and overall dirty state everyone is now in and must accept this as normal and he begins to fantasize about being saved. On the way up the mountain Jack organizes a pig hunt where Ralph gets to hunt for the first time. As the boys go further up the mountain the tension between Jack and Ralph rises as Jack tries to overpower Ralph for control. Then the boys see a ape like figure up on the mountain that appears like the description of the beast which causes a lot of fear among the group.
"The filmy enchantments of the mirage could not endure the cold ocean water and the horizon was hard, clipped blue...on the other side of the island, swathed at midday with mirage, defended by the shield of the quiet lagoon, one might dream of rescue..’You’ll get back to where you came from’. Simon nodded as he spoke,”(Golding 110-111).
Archetypes

- Blue color archetype represents morality

Why do you think the author chose to use the archetype of morality in this passage?
Cognitive message

The description of the blue ocean that Ralph is looking at in the passage while daydreaming about being saved, symbolizes the last piece of clear morality that Ralph is hanging onto amongst the chaos on the island. Being saved is the only thing Ralph knows to be clearly what is best for everyone and that is the only decision left he is completely sure about. Later in the passage Simon the superego also says to Ralph, ’You’ll get back to where you came from’, as if he is assuring him like a rational parent would so the blue ocean archetype could also be used to show the morality of the superego.
“Now that his physical voice was silent, the inner voice of reason, and other voices too, made themselves heard. Piggy was calling him a kid. Another voice told him not to be a fool...behind them, on the horizon, was a patch of lighter sky where in a moment the moon would rise. The wind roared once in the forest and pushed their rags against them.” (122)
Archetypes

- Inner voice symbolizes the rational side of the ego
- Wind symbolizes spiritual discovery or truth.

How does the wind archetype further explain why Ralph can hear Piggy's voice in his thoughts?
Cognitive message

Ralph hearing Piggy's voice in his head symbolizes the affect the superego has on the ego by trying to rationalize the ego’s actions and motivate the ego to do the right thing. The wind archetype is also present in this passage and wind can represent the discovery of truth. Ralph hearing Piggy's voice of rational thought in his head is like Ralph realizing the truth behind Piggy's way of thinking and that Piggy is right for wanting to make rational decisions that benefit the future of everyone and Ralph will have to make more rational decisions for the group in order to be a better leader.
“Before them, something like a great ape was sitting asleep with its head between its knees. Then the wind roared in the forest, there was confusion in the darkness, and the creature lifted its head, holding toward them the ruin of a face. Ralph found himself taking giant strides among the ashes, he and the other creatures crying out and leaping, and dared the impossible on the dark slope; presently the mountain was deserted, save for the three abandoned sticks and the thing that bowed’,(123)
Archetypes

- Ashes symbolizes the remains of something destroyed.
- Wind symbolizes spiritual discovery or truth.
- Animal imagery

How can the wind and the ashes describe primitive behavior in the passage?
Cognitive message

Ashes are mentioned four times in the chapter and are symbolizing the rebirth of the more primitive nature coming out in the boys and the death of society. This primitive nature is also shown through animal imagery in the passage when the boys are described as, “creatures crying out and leaping” which shows the presence of their primitive behaviour and how the Id is becoming more powerful in all of them. Also wind roaring represents the upcoming discovery of the truth behind the beast and that the real beast is primitive nature of humanity.
“So they proceeded after that as if they were climbing a dangerous mountain, until the rocks became an uncompromising cliff, overhung with impossible jungle and falling sea... Ralph sighed, sensing the rising antagonism, understanding that this was how Jack felt as soon as he ceased to lead.” (117-118)
Archetypes

- Climbing the mountain symbolizes the rising of tension between the boys.
- Jack the Id trying to take power from Ralph the ego

What is the significance of the mountain in this passage?
Cognitive message

The climbing of the mountain represents building tension mostly between Ralph the ego and the growing savage behaviour in Jack the Id. The higher the boys get on the mountain the more tension and conflict arises. Jack fighting for power and constantly challenging Ralph shows his primitive nature and how that nature is starting to become more present and more challenging to suppress with rational thought. Ralph has to try to regain control and any civilization remaining and his leadership as the ego is being repeatedly tested.
In *The Lord of the Flies* William Golding uses symbolism in Chapter seven to demonstrate the power struggle the superego and increasingly savage Id try to have over the ego during a traumatic event.