

Write about Jack and how he is presented throughout the novel.

In the beginning of *Lord of the Flies*, Golding presents Jack as a civilised public school boy, formally referred to as 'Merridew.' He is initially concerned with seeking out an adult when he questions 'where is the man with the trumpet?' However realising they are alone, he demonstrates an air of superiority demanding that he should be chief for the irrelevant reason that he can sing a 'C sharp.' It is clear to readers that Jack is used to being a leader, having led the choir to the platform. It is notable that the choir is referred to using the nouns 'shadow' and 'creature' on their approach to potentially foreshadow the instrumental role Jack has in the developing savagery, loss of order on the island and the power of 'the beast'. This is because these nouns have negative connotations and could link to the fear the boys experience later in the text, maybe implying that Jack is the ultimate cause of the fear of the 'darkness of man's heart' that Golding is warning his readers to be wary of.

Within the extract, Jack's character starts to develop and the readers get their first insight to Jack shaking off his civilised manner when it mentions how violent he is becoming. The phrase 'Jack drew his knife again with a flourish' indicates Jack's excitement over the thrill of a kill the boys need to survive. It is also particularly interesting that Jack already has a weapon which highlights how there is an evilness within all mankind and the potential for us to cause harm. But at this point there are still elements of weakness and innocence within Jack when 'unbearable blood' is used to explain his hesitation over making that first kill, suggesting that he is too vulnerable and naïve to be exposed to such violence. This is further exemplified through the repetition of 'enormity' signifying the dramatic impact becoming a hunter, or more specifically a killer, will have on the boys' personalities and morals.

However, there is a desperation in Jack to prove his power, strength and leadership, despite his 'bony arm,' the violent verbs of 'slammed' 'snatched' and 'daring' signify his determination to take control and gain respect from the other boys through the only way he knows how: physical and mental prowess. This is something that at the time would have very stereotypically been expected of boys at Jack's age, especially in a time where men were expected to fight and defend their country's honour. It could be argued that Jack is trying to defend his own reputation after not being selected as the civilised leader he expected to be. Instead he promises 'no mercy' which is a stubborn defiance that continues throughout the rest of the novel.

Later on we see Jack transform further into a savage 'chief;' a term that reinforces the power he was desperate to obtain from the start. He purposefully create a rivalry with Ralph and as a result embodies the savagery on the island, whilst Ralph symbolises the civilisation – a boy desperate for rescue and to return to a society with law and order firmly in place. But from this point on, Jack spirals out of control after his first kill, moving on from using a 'knife' to a 'stick sharpened at both ends.' This could indicate how his violent attitude has grown to become more acceptable as well as the fact a stick is a far more primitive tool that represents his savagery. The fact it is sharpened at 'both ends' could symbolise his willingness to commit more than one murder. Once he's used one part of the stick he is still able to continue with his murderous quest to establish total control, however chaotic it seems. He almost become a dictator and this is supported during the final scene when he claims, in an authoritative tone, 'I meant that' after Piggy's death. This is despite the fact Roger was actually the one to commit the crime. He takes ownership, just like he does with the pig meat. Then as soon as the allegorical 'conch' is shattered, he directly attacked Ralph with the spear demonstrating that savagery is dominate within him and on the island too.

Overall, Jack is a complex character who makes a complete transformation from civilised choir boy to deadly savage all due to the lack of adult, moral control and his desire to kill that Golding argues is