The leaders of the island in *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding are Jack and Ralph. Both of the leaders rule with unwavering authority but have extremely different styles of leading.

Ralph led the island with a focus on rescue and order but Jack robbed Ralph of his followers and led with force and control. The two leaders in *Lord of the Flies* represent the good and evil in human nature.

With leadership in his hands, Ralph decides that rescue and order are of utmost importance and sets out to establish both. To do so, he called the island to an assembly. “‘We’ll have rules!’ he cried excitedly. ‘Lots of rules!’”(33). Even in the very first assemblies, Ralph conveys his own understanding that remaining civil and orderly will help them be rescued. And through their rules and standards, they manage to keep a signal fire going. A while after the boys’ society forms, Jack takes the people tending the fire to help him hunt, and the fire dies. “‘There was a ship. Out there. You said you’d keep the fire going and you let it out!’”(70). Ralph exhibited the most important trait of a leader: giving punishment. Although the boys had a successful hunt and were astonishingly happy, Ralph remained fastened to their mistake and shamed the boys for allowing the fire to be extinguished. Soon the newly found society ran into even more problems and Ralph called for another assembly to address the pressing issues. “Someone called out. ‘Too many things.’ There came a mutter of agreement. Ralph overrode
them. ‘And another thing’”(81). Ralph wanted the island to be a good, functioning society, but the other boys were tired of all the work and rules that were placed onto them. The only boys who still truly understood the importance of the rules were not able to convince the rest to agree. This marks the downfall of Ralph’s orderly and clean society. Ralph displays the positive side of human nature with his realistic planning and firm leading.

Eventually, Jack’s thirst to hunt and rule drives him to steal to the occupants of the island away from Ralph to gain power. The first attempt that Jack makes at overthrowing Ralph is at one of the assemblies. “‘Hands up.’ Said Jack strongly, ‘Whoever wants Ralph to not be chief?’”(127). Jack’s desire to become chief was first publicly shown with this attempt against Ralph leadership. His desire for Ralph to not be chief is due to the fact that Ralph discourages Jack’s bloodthirstiness and considers his hunting to be trivial. Further into Jack’s campaign, he successfully alters the loyalty of a few boys. “Far off along the beach, Jack was standing before a small group of boys. He was looking brilliantly happy”(133). Now, Jack has his own followers and the start of a power shift begins. His excitement of finally becoming a leader, even with only a few followers, strengthened his will to overthrow Ralph and his means of doing it become less humane. “‘Who’ll join my tribe?’ ‘I will.’ ‘Me.’ ‘I will’”(151). At last, Jack’s wish becomes reality and everyone but Samneric, Piggy, and Ralph are in his tribe. Through repetitive revolting, Jack was able to secure power on the island from Ralph.

Now with most everyone on his side, Jack’s tyrannical rule begins. “No one moved. Jack shouted angrily. ‘I said ‘grab them!’”(178). As an aggressive leader, Jack shouts at his underlings to do things that they obviously do not want to do. He is mean and torturous. “‘He’s going to beat Wilfred’”(159). Even with the entirety of the island in Jack’s command and rule,
he finds the cruel need to express his strength by tying a seemingly innocent boy and beating him to tears. “‘I’m Chief!’ Viciously, with full intention, he hurled his spear at Ralph” (181). Jack has completely transformed from an innocent hunter, to the savage beast that disregards human life. Jack portrays the pinnacle of tyranny and evil in a leader.

Representing good and evil, the leaders of the island in *Lord of the Flies* rule. Ralph exemplifies the good nature of humans while Jack depicts all the evil and savagery in us. With law and focus, societies can avoid losing control and remain civil. If laws do not keep their authority, savages will arise from the lack of structure and terror will ensue. The contrast in *Lord of the Flies* accentuates these two ideas and allows us to see who truly is “good” and “evil” based on their actions and feelings.

**Conclusion:**
- Summarizes main ideas
- Emphasizes importance
- Connection to theme