

FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A FEMALE TEACHER stands in front of the class of anxious prep school STUDENTS. The boys in their plaid ties, the girls in their black polyester skirts.

Each student has a SHEET OF PAPER on their desk. "Lord of the Flies Quiz" is written on the blackboard.

TEACHER

When I tell you to, you can flip over the page. You'll have exactly twenty minutes to complete the essay.

A GIRL in the front row grips her pencil so tightly it nearly snaps.

TEACHER

Are there any questions?

Blank stares.

TEACHER

Begin.

The students flip over their pages. Each writes with the fury of God pouring through their hands.

Except for ONE BOY in the last row, back-right corner, who hasn't even flipped over his page.

This is...

TEACHER

Max. Do you have a problem?

MAX ANDERS (13) takes his sweet time before looking at the essay. The Teacher rolls her eyes and pulls out a magazine.

CLOSE ON - ESSAY QUESTION: "After reading LORD OF THE FLIES, please explain in your own words the cause of Piggy's death."

Max looks around, scanning the crowd.

The Girl in the front row writes...

FRONT ROW GIRL (V.O.)

"The central theme is a direct correlation to the conflicting views of animalistic behavior that exists within us. We are, in our essence, animals. William Golding is stating that..."

An ATHLETIC BOY in the third row, center...

THIRD ROW BOY (V.O.)

"... Piggy was not given the proper nurturing to survive. His parents should have encouraged him to play sports, which would have given him training to defend himself..."

The Teacher reads from her magazine...

TEACHER (V.O.)

"... and Botox Cosmetic is a prescription medicine that is injected into muscles to temporarily treat moderate to severe frown lines between..."

Max picks up his pencil and WRITES.

Shortly after starting, he heads for the door.

TEACHER

Where are you going?

MAX

Bathroom.

TEACHER

You have to ask.

MAX

Can I go to the bathroom?

Students snicker.

TEACHER

Take the pass. And hurry back.

Max grabs a LARGE RULER from the wall and exits.

CLOSE ON - MAX'S ESSAY ANSWER - "Piggy was a fat fuck."

EXT. HALLWAY - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Max walks down the hallway. A BANNER reads: "BUFFALO MIDDLE SCHOOL." It's a gloomy winter day in upstate New York.

Max looks over the second-floor balcony to the parking lot to see a CAR drive toward the building. Max leans over the balcony as the car parks in a spot marked "PRINCIPAL."

The PRINCIPAL exits his car. He notices a smudge on the windshield and cleans it. Then looks up at Max.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Anders. Do you have a bathroom pass?

Max lifts the ruler into view.

PRINCIPAL

Well, tuck in your shirt. Be presentable.

The Principal turns to a passing teacher.

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Tyler. May I have a word?

The Principal walks out of Max's view. Max notices a TRASH CAN outside the bathroom.

EXT. HALLWAY - FIRST FLOOR - DAY

The Principal speaks with the teacher when...

CRASH! The trash can CRACKS through the Principal's windshield.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Max is seated in the back of a police car in the school parking lot.

Max scans the crowd of students who stand nearby. They point and stare at him.

He smiles at the Girl from the front row. She shakes her head at him and walks back toward the classroom. For a moment, his smile fades. But just for a moment.

The Policeman enters the driver's seat while the Principal sits in the front. Max grins at the students as the car drives off.