

Throughout humanity, incompetent individuals habitually degrade fellow citizens through diatribes and impediments; as a result, the despondent is filled with arrogance and false gratification from their deeds. Lord of the Flies, "Most Dangerous Game", and "Harrison Bergeron" exemplify the common human nature to envy others, and, in turn, corrupt and demean them. The world is full of such characters, which vary from the everyday bully, to the extreme of fanatic murderers. However, as time progresses, one can only hope that the situation of jealousy improves by means of appropriate teachings and influence. Peers must learn to acknowledge their differences and the reality that everyone has strengths, but that the seemingly strong have weaknesses as well. Envious individuals do not merit the right to result to violent or unconstitutional acts as an unleashing of bottled up fury and resentment; they must change their ways *today* if we are to progress in society.

#2

All three of these authors expose the shortcomings of human nature that allow us to fall victim to the primitive drive for control. The fact is, that residing within every person, along with cooperation and goodwill and values, is a darker, more instinctive side that involves the craving to dominate in some way or another. Says Geoffrey Cowley, a human behavioral scientist, "We're the same animals we were eight hundred years ago. Which is to say we are status seekers... Status seeking is not just a habit or a cultural tradition. It's a design feature of the psyche— a biological drive that is rooted in the nervous system and regulated by hormones and brain chemicals." This is not to say society is transforming into a dog-eat-dog dystopia, much like these novels infer. Striving for domination, however primitive and irrepressible, is very much a vital and valuable survival instinct. By looking into the more sinister aspects of human nature, society will be able to bridle this force into a constructive means of living and progressing.

#3

These stories display the idea that an unthinkable change occurs in one's life once the transitory solitude from one's utopia deteriorates. In life, all children have a happy place that they think about when they are distressed, yet as they grow, the security offered by that place lacks the same effect. One can only wonder if this is because of a loss of innocence or just because the child's creative mind has fabricated a place that is only an illusion, like in the case of Alice in Wonderland. Contrasting people view hideaways differently; some say the place is something one holds onto forever, others say it is rather a place that comes to one when the circumstances are favorable and leaves just the same way; the perception of these things is subjective.