The three main characters in the novel, *Lord of the Flies*, embody the different aspects of the human psyche. The three aspects of the human psyche consist of the Id, the part of the mind that is only concerned with making oneself happy, no matter the consequences; the Superego, the part that tries to control the Id and focuses on having a little responsibility; and the Ego, which is the part that tries to balance both the Id and the Superego. The three main characters in this novel, Jack, Piggy, and Ralph, each represent one specific aspect of this psyche, and this is expressed through their choices, opinions, and actions.

One of the main characters, Jack, represents the Id of the story. Jack is only concerned with pleasing himself, and he wants to be leader of the group of boys. When Jack fails to be elected leader he is furious and decides to make his own group and become “hunters.” This new group of boys is only concerned with one thing - satisfying their lust for blood. The boys run all over the island trying to kill the elusive wild pig, and do nothing to help the rest of the group. Soon, almost all the boys join Jack’s band, but they aren’t concerned with reason and responsibility, all they want is to please themselves. With Jack as their leader, the boys accept bloodlust and violence, and would rather please themselves than be rescued from the island. Jack ignores reason, and his action of defying Ralph’s leadership and doing what he wants, make him the Id of the story.

Also in the book, one of the main characters, Piggy, can be described as the Superego of the story. Piggy is the voice of reason throughout the whole story, he only wants what is best for the entire group. Piggy’s intellectualism, and his strife towards the constant betterment of the group, can be described in this one quote, “Piggy, for all his ludicrous body, had brains” (71). Piggy is not concerned with pleasing himself, he does not like what Jack is doing, he thinks that it is barbaric and pointless, all Piggy is concerned with is trying to get off the island. Piggy is dedicated to the idea of civilization, and he constantly reprimands the other boys for acting like savages. The clashes with the other boys in the group ultimately come to a climax when another boy, Simon, drops a rock on him, killing him. Piggy’s intellectualism and dedication to keeping civilized make him the Superego of this story.

Finally, Ralph can be described as the Ego of the story. Ralph is in constant internal conflict with himself; should he join Jack, and accept barbarism and violence, or should he stay with Piggy, and have a little sense of morality. This internal conflict gnaws at Ralph throughout the entire book, and it ultimately comes to a climax when Jack decides that Ralph should be hunted down and killed. When Ralph is running away, he suddenly stumbled upon the beach, where he is surprised to see that a naval officer is staring back at him. Ralph bursts into tears, not because they are finally been rescued, but because he realizes that everyone has a sense of barbarism in them. Because of Ralph’s constant internal struggle between morality and barbarism, he is the Ego of the story.

Jack, Piggy, and Ralph all have major roles in the story, and all can be analyzed psychoanalytically. Through their choices, opinions, and actions, all three main characters represent different psyches on the psychoanalytic spectrum.