Consider the similarities and differences in the following versions. Which one do you prefer? Why?

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| **In the Book** | **In the 1963 Movie** | **In the 1990 Movie** |
| A group of British boys are being evacuated during wartime. They are the only survivors of a plane crash. Several of the boys are part of a choir. | The plane crash is suggested by still picture at the start of the film. There is is no mention of it in the opening dialogue. | The boys are American and from a military academy. They are returning home when their plane crashes. |
| Ralph is an ordinary schoolboy and has fair hair. Jack has red hair and is as the leader of a group of choir boys he is the ‘perfect’ English schoolboy. Simon has long, coarse black hair. | Jack and Ralph have the same coloured hair – Simon had obviously blond hair. | Ralph has dark hair and is a ‘colonel’ and the most senior ranking boy. Ralph is injured and has his arm in a sling [symbolically not as strong a leader as Jack] Jack is blond and is a Cadet from the military school. Jack is a bad boy and has been in trouble with the police for stealing and driving a car. |
| The boys are alone without any adults when they crash on the island in the middle of a storm. | The boys are alone, but no storm. Piggy says they got scattered in the dark. | The pilot is with them, though delirious and injured. |
|  At the start Ralph often insults Piggy who he does not know. | Ralph does not seem to insult Piggy quite as much as in the novel. | Ralph and Piggy seemed to have a relationship from the start and he is rarely nasty to Piggy |
| A dead pilot of a jet plane parachutes onto the top of the mountain near the signal fire. The terrified boys see his body and assume he is the ‘beast.’  | Same as the book.**Ihe1963 Movie** | The pilot was with the boys when they crashed. He was delusional and runs away from the boys ‘faking his death’ for no apparent reason. He went to live in a cave and is discovered by accident. He is then believed to be the beast. He is attacked and dies in the cave and Simon eventually finds his body. |
| When the boys fail to keep the signal fire lit, a ship passes and they don't get rescued. | A jet fighter passes by the island. | It is a helicopter that passes. |
| There is a boy with a large mulberry birthmark on his face who is the first of the children to die on the island, presumably in the forest fire that is started by accident when the light the first signal fire. | He doesn't appear. When they first light the fire on the hill, the fire doesn't spread over the jungle and thus the child that died from this fire is not shown.  | He doesn't appear and the first fire only seems to burn the tree at the top of the mountain. |
| During one of his ‘fits’ Simon talks to the severed Pig's head which he sees as ‘The Lord of the Flies.’ After he recovers from the fit Simon climbs to the top of the mountain and discovers the dead pilot’s body. He then starts down to the beach to tell the other boys there is no ‘beastie.’ He is mistaken for the beast and is killed. | Simon does not actually talk to the pig head, instead staring at it for a long period of time, as the flies' buzzing grows increasingly louder.  He then starts down to the beach to tell the other boys there is no ‘beastie.’ He is mistaken for the beast and is killed. |  Simon is just seen looking at the pig’s head….then we see him in the cave with a glow-stick discovering the body of the pilot. He then starts down to the beach to tell the other boys there is no ‘beastie.’ He is mistaken for the beast and is killed. |
|  Jack attempts to get the boys to revoke Ralph’s leadership and when he fails, he leaves the group to start his own ‘tribe’. | Same as the book, but it shows the general drift of boys from Ralph to Jack. | There is no re-vote because Ralph is of a higher rank and was the leader by default. Jack simply leaves the group and starts his own tribe, taking all his hunters with him. |
| The conch is eventually shattered when Piggy is killed, his body falling into the sea. | Same as the book. | The conch is not shown being destroyed and Piggy’s body is left lying on the sand where it is killed. |
| The strongest word Ralph can think of is ‘bloody’. | Same as book | There is a lot of swearing and strong language used, especially by Jack. |
| In the Book | In the 1963 Movie | In the 1990 Movie |
| The fires used to ‘smoke’ Ralph out of hiding attract the attention of a British Warship. |  Same as book |  The US Marines land on the island when it is set on fire. |
| When the British Naval officer finds Ralph he talks to him and Ralph tells him that two boys had been killed. | Nothing is said by or to the Naval officer. | Ralph doesn't say anything to the Marine who asks “What are you guys doin’?” . |
| The novel of Lord of the flies captures the theme of the story much more effectively. William Golding’s message is that human beings possess savage impulses. In the film, there are some key components that are missing. |  | Instead of British choir boys, the director substitutes American cadets. The image of the ‘beast’ is also presented differently. Another major difference between the film and the novel is that the scene where Simon talks to the pig’s head is cut out of the movie. These weaknesses in the film dilute the impact of the William Golding’s message of man-kind’s inner evil. |
| In the book, the image of the English choir boys gives their characters a sense of purity and religion to begin with. Eventually, they commit many sins, like murder. Because of their purity, there is greater impact. In addition, the message of the theme is more effective because these well-mannered boys are the first to become savages. |  | By substituting American military cadets, the audience is given the image that they are already corrupted by the adult world. These boys are trained to use violence, and violence and war are impurities of adults. Therefore, the natural savage impulse within every human being is harder to perceive through the film. |
| The ‘beast’ in the book is also presented differently because the book is more subtle. Although both presents it as an external force, the gradual growth of this evil being in the book has a greater impact on the readers. The first encounter with the ‘beast’ is Simon wandering in the forest. Next is the dead parachutist’s shadow. The savage boys’ misunderstanding of Simon coming out of the forest is unfortunately another presentation of the ‘beast’. |  |  However, in the film, the delirious pilot is mistaken by Roger to be a monster. This is hard for the audience to perceive that ‘the beast’ is actually the inner evil within every human being, because the pilot is presented too much like a fairy tale monster. |
| The action takes place in your imagination. |  The acting seems spontaneous and natural as the film was almost entirely unscripted; the boys being told what should happen in a scene and were then left to act it out themselves. |  The acting is awkward and clumsy, as if the boys were reading their lines, not living the scene.  |