Reading and writing exercise

Read the two passages below. The first is from William Golding’s WWII diary, written in 1941 while he was on lookout on the cruiser *Galatea* in the Denmark Strait. The second is from chapter four of *Lord of the Flies*. When you have finished, write 300-400 words comparing the two passages.

We were hunting and being hunted through a seascape of colours I had never seen before – every shade of blue and white and green, ice, green and white and blue, scattered over the sea that was flat as stretched shot silk. It was the long summer – daylight all the time and yet so strange, with the kind of remoteness that comes from viewing with eyes accustomed to lack of sleep and a mind so habituated to danger that it ceased to be anything but a continual, only semiconscious worry like a too heavy bill that will have to be paid.

Strange things happened at midday. The glittering sea rose up, moved apart in planes of blatant impossibility; the coral reef and the few, stunted palms that clung to the more elevated parts would float up into the sky, would quiver, be plucked apart, run like rain-drops on a wire or be repeated as in an odd succession of mirrors. Sometimes land loomed where there was no land and flicked out like a bubble as the children watched. Piggy discounted all this learnedly as a ‘mirage’; and since no boy could reach even the reef over the stretch of water where the snapping sharks waited, they grew accustomed to these mysteries and ignored them, just as they ignored the miraculous throbbing stars. At midday the illusions merged into the sky and there the sun gazed down like an angry eye. Then, at the end of the afternoon, the mirage subsided and the horizon became level and blue and clipped as the sun declined. That was another time of comparative coolness but menaced by the coming of the dark. When the sun sank, darkness dropped on the island like an extinguisher and soon the shelters were full of restlessness, under the remote stars.