

# *Lord of the Flies (LotF)* by William Golding

An overview – Copy text that is  
highlighted in red



William Golding

# William Golding

- Born in Cornwall 1911
- His mother was a strong supporter of the suffragette movement
- His father, Alec, was a school teacher who was a believer of the philosophy of rationalism
- Rationalism is the idea that humans are capable of perfection

# Continued

- During his early years, William believed his father's theories.
- His father's theories would influence his writing, including *Lord of the Flies*.
- Golding attended Brasenose College at Oxford in 1930, studying science.
- He switched to literature in 1933 and graduated in 1935 with a B.A in English and a diploma in education

# Continued

- During his Oxford days Golding began to disregard his father's philosophy. This can be seen in a series of his early poems.
- Golding cited Greek tragedies and Shakespeare as his literary influences.
- In 1939 began teaching at Bishop Wordsworth's School. He taught English and philosophy.
- That same year he married Ann Brookfield, with whom he had 2 children.

# Continued

- Golding spent 5 years in the Royal Navy during WWII.
- Golding saw German submarines, ships and aircraft destroyed during his time in the navy, which also influenced his writing.
- Golding was involved in D-Day operations.
- He retired from the navy as a Lieutenant Commander.
- He died in Cornwall in 1993.

# Notable Works

- Poems published in MacMillan's *Contemporary Poets* series published between 1933-1935.
- *Lord of the Flies* published 1954
- *The Inheritors* published 1955
- *Pincher Martin* published 1956
- *The Pyramid* published 1967
- *The Scorpion God* published 1971

# Themes

- A number of themes run through the majority of Golding's works. The primary themes of *Lord of the Flies* are:
- Imperialism, human nature, the conflict between good and evil, civilisation, savagery, spirituality, identity, loss of innocence, evil, fear, leadership, warfare, nature.

# *Lord of the Flies*



- Set on an unknown Pacific island during a nuclear world war.
- A group of boys try to survive by themselves, without the help of adults.



# Symbolism...

- *Lord of the Flies* is full of symbolism and allegory
- Symbolism is 'the use of symbols (images/writing) to represent an idea or qualities'.

E.g. A cross represents Jesus dying for peoples sins.

- Symbolism in LotF's includes physical objects, the title of the novel, and the characters themselves.

# Characters

- Ralph – the elected leader (protagonist)
- Jack – leader of the hunters (antagonist)
- Piggy – Ralph's advisor
- Simon – a choir boy
- Sam and Eric – identical twins
- Roger – Loyal to Jack
- Percival Wemys Madison – one of the smallest boys



**Ralph**



**Piggy**



**Jack**

# **The Main Trio**