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# *Lord of the Flies*

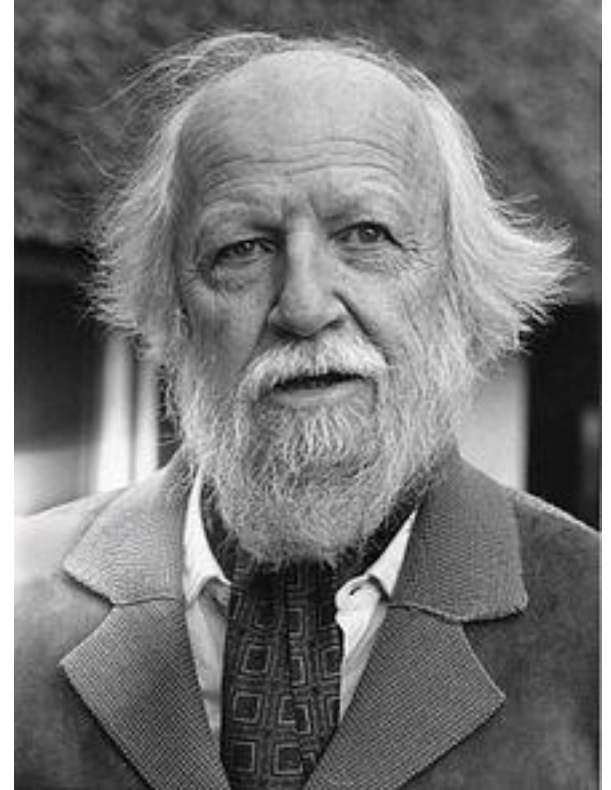
— William Golding —

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# William Golding

- Born in 1911 -- Southwestern England
- Attended Oxford University to study natural sciences, but he switched his degree to English Literature
- Fought in World War II in the Royal Navy
- Became cynical from experience in the war and believed every human had a certain level of evil in them.



# Golding

- Golding published twelve novels
- He was a “loving but tormented” father
- Daughter of Golding stated how “at times, he could be unkind”
- *Lord of the Flies* was published in 1954.

# What was going on in the 1950's? Discuss with Groups

# 1950's

- Cold War - USA -- USSR
- Many authoritarian rules had just ended
- Holocaust had just ended
- WWII had just ended
- Great Depression had just ended

# Lord of the Flies

- LotF was Golding's first novel, and was turned down 7 times before finally being published.

# Reception of *LotF*

- Inspired by a tale called “Coral Island” which was about how a bunch of boys lived on an island together and got along great.
- Golding went on another path with this idea.
- *New York Times* called *LotF* a “strange and deeply disturbing novel.” It later expressed disappointment that Golding’s “tidy allegory” had a “total absence of civilization.”
- Golding won a Nobel Prize and Literature after this book’s publication

# Book Context

- Without any adults, the boys survive a plane crash and have to live on an island alone
- While this seems like an adventure novel on the surface, the book is a major **allegory**. Through symbolism, the novel uses the boys to discuss the depths of human nature, and what happens when there is no law or society.
- The book exposes the inner savagery of all humans.

**Allegory - a piece that may be a symbol for a much bigger meaning (usually a moral or political message/critique)**