

LORD OF THE FLIES



An Introduction to the Novel

About the author

- ❑ William Golding was born in Cornwall, England in 1911 and died in 1993
- ❑ He was educated at Marlborough Grammar school and at Brasenose College in Oxford
- ❑ Aside from writing, his past occupations included being a schoolmaster, a lecturer, an actor, a sailor and a musician.



More about the author



- ❑ William joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and was stationed off the French coast during the D-Day invasion (the largest sea invasion of all time – 175 000 soldiers and 7000 ships involved).
- ❑ After the war, he returned to teaching and began to write again.
- ❑ *Lord of the Flies*, his first novel, was published in 1954.

Where did he get such an idea?

- "...finally getting the idea for Lord of the Flies after reading a bedtime boys adventure story [*The Coral Island* (1857) by R.M. Ballantyne] to his small children. Golding wondered out loud to his wife whether it would be a good idea to write such a story but to let the characters "behave as they really would." His wife thought that would be a "first class idea." With that encouragement, Golding found that writing the story, the ideas for which had been germinating in his mind for some time, was simply a matter of getting it down on paper."
- <http://www.monmouth.com/~literature/LOTF/student/Bio.htm>

Things to think about



- As you read the novel, think about how his experiences with education and war play a role in what he writes about.

Setting

Time: ~1950s, after some sort of atomic warfare has taken place



Place: A tiny, previously uninhabited coral island in the South Pacific. The children have crash-landed here after their plane was shot down while they were on some sort of trip with their schools.



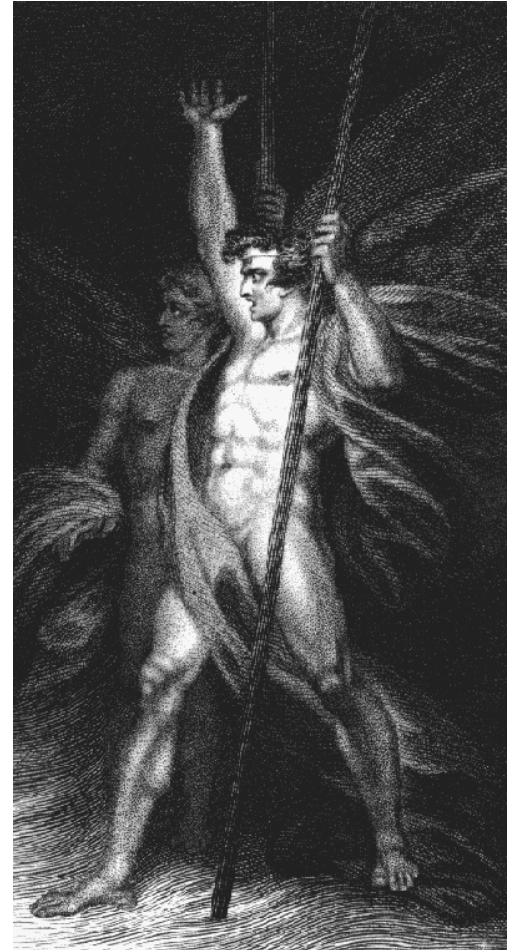
Major Characters

- Ralph
- Piggy
- Jack
- Simon
- Sam and Eric
(sometimes written
as *Samneric*)
- Roger



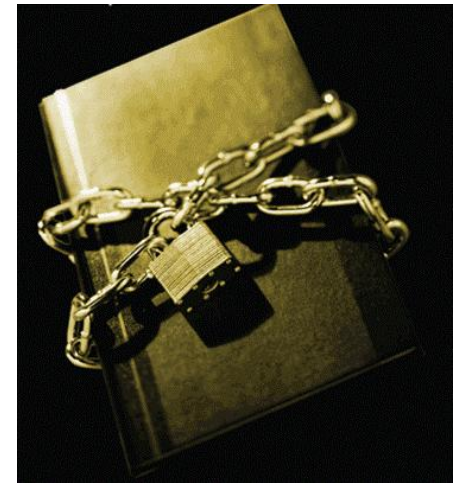
Meaning of the title

- ❑ The title is a reference to the Hebrew name *Beelzebub* (, Baal-zvuv, "god of the fly" or "host of the fly"), a name sometimes used as a synonym for Satan.
- ❑ The reason why William Golding selected this for his book's title will be discussed later (I don't want to give anything away!).



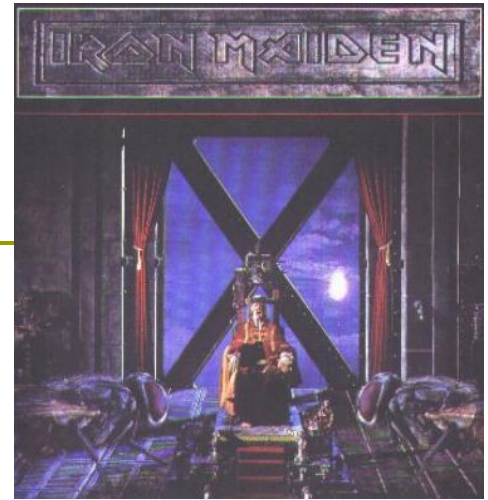
Did You Know?

- ❑ Published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* was William Golding's first novel. Although it was not a great success at the time—selling fewer than 3,000 copies in the United States during 1955 before going out of print—it soon went on to become a bestseller and by the early 1960s was required reading in many schools and colleges.
- ❑ It was adapted to film in 1963 by Peter Brook and again in 1990 by Harry Hook.
- ❑ It holds position #70 on the American Library Association's list of the 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990–2000 due to its controversial content.

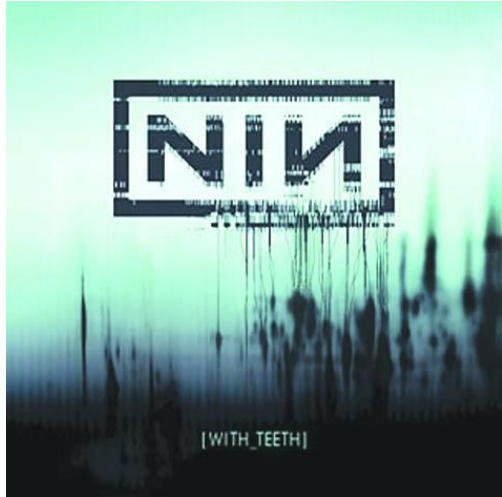


LOTF in Popular Culture

- ❑ English heavy metal band Iron Maiden composed a song about the novel. The song "Lord of The Flies" can be found on *The X Factor* (1995).
- ❑ *Lord of the Flies* served as the inspiration for Sunrise Animation's classic anime series *Infinite Ryvius*.
- ❑ It is claimed that Mark Burnett's *Survivor* reality TV series was inspired by the novel.



LOTF in Popular Culture



- ❑ It has been speculated that the Nine Inch Nails song "Piggy" is Trent Reznor's vision of a conversation from chapter 8 in the novel.
- ❑ People have found many similarities between *Lord of the Flies* and the television show *Lost*, and characters Sawyer and Charlie make references to *Lord of the Flies*.



LOF in Popular Culture

- Stephen King has stated that the Castle Rock in *Lord of the Flies* was the inspiration for the town of the same name that has appeared in a number of his novels. The book itself also appears prominently in his novels, *Hearts In Atlantis* and *Cujo*.
- An episode of *The Simpsons* titled "Das Bus" was a parody of *Lord of the Flies*, mirroring it in many ways.



A Well-Loved Book

- Noted author Stephen King has said that *Lord of the Flies* is one of his all-time favorite books.
- It has been ranked #41 by the board at the Modern Library in their List of Best Novels.
- It was ranked #4 by Time Magazine in their list of the 100 Best Novels.



So, what are you waiting for?

Get reading!

