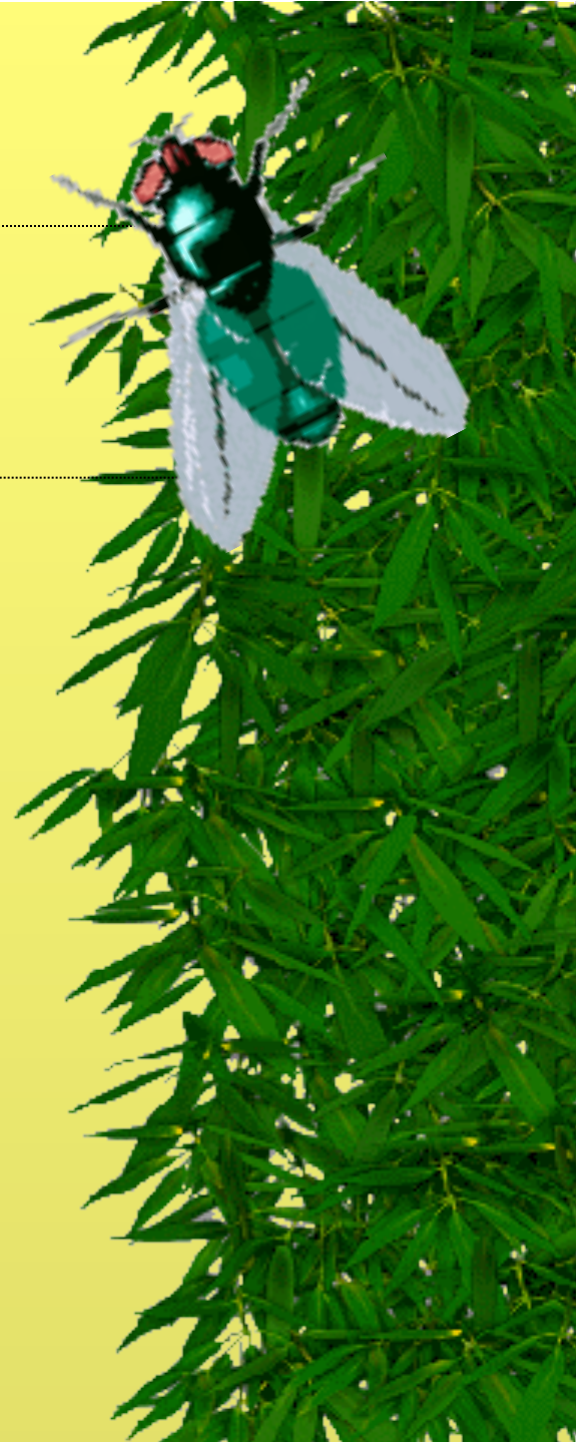
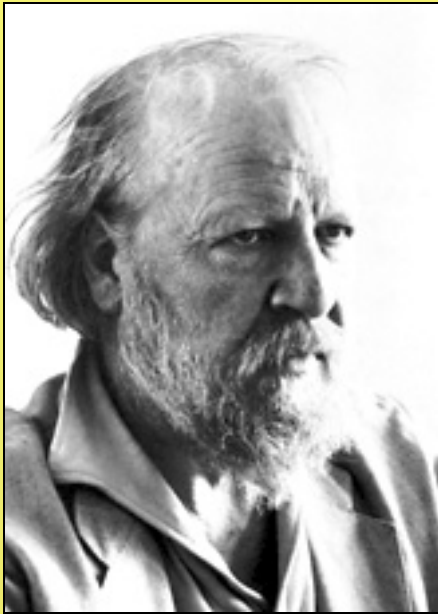


Lord of the Flies

Introduction



William Golding (1911-1993)



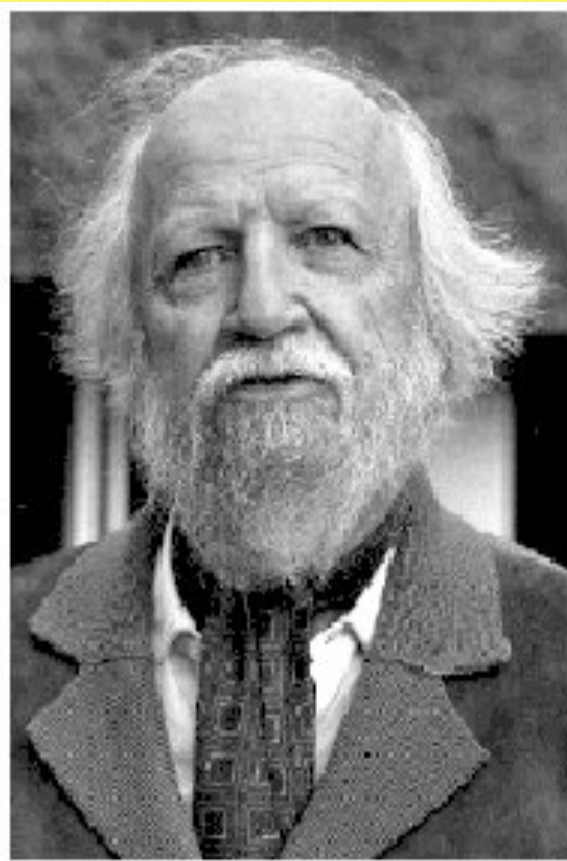
- ★ British novelist
- ★ Fought in Royal Navy during WWII
- ★ 1944 – Participated in invasion of Normandy on D-Day
- ★ At war's end, returned to teaching and writing
- ★ 1983 – Winner of the Nobel Prize in literature

William Golding

- ★ Golding's first and most successful novel, *Lord of the Flies*, was published in England in 1954.
 - Did not become popular until five years later when it appeared in paperback



William Golding



- ★ Followed by a series of other novels, each concerned in one way or another with the idea of man's capacity for evil
 - *The Inheritors*
 - *Free Fall*
 - *The Brass Butterfly*

The World Golding Knew

- ★ WWII: 1939- 1945
- ★ France fell to Nazi Germany in 1940.
- ★ Britain feared an invasion and evacuated children to other countries.
- ★ 1940: A German U-Boat torpedoed a British ship carrying children killing the boys, thus suspending the overseas evacuation program.
- ★ 1945 – The US dropped two atomic weapons on Japan to end WW II.



About the Novel

- ★ Set in the early 1950s during a fictional atomic war
- ★ A plane carrying British school boys is mistaken for a military craft and shot down.
- ★ Only the boys survive the crash and try to form a society and govern themselves



William Golding on the Novel

- * “It was simply what seemed sensible for me to write after the war when everyone was thanking God they weren’t Nazis. I’d seen enough to realize that every single one of us could be Nazis.”



Philosophical Influence

★ Thomas Hobbes

– English Philosopher:

- ★ Man is by nature selfishly individualistic
- ★ Man constantly at war with other men
- ★ Fear of violent death is sole motivation to create civilizations
- ★ Men need to be controlled to avoid savage behavior



Essential Questions

1. What does it mean to be civilized?
2. What is an individual's responsibility to a community?
3. How do society's views and stereotypes affect a person?
4. When is the restriction of freedom a good thing?



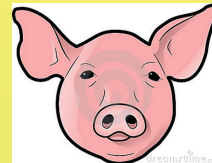
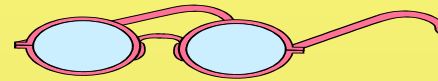
Themes Developed in *Lord of the Flies*

1. Humans are inherently evil and need the structure of civilization (law and order) to control them.
2. The capacity for human nature is to be both good and evil.
3. Defects in society can be traced to defects in human nature.
4. A society can often be judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable citizens.



Symbols in the Novel

1. The Conch Shell
2. The Beast
3. Piggy's Glasses
4. The Lord of the Flies
5. Signal Fire



Motifs (Patterns) in the Novel

- ★ Biblical parallels (book criticized for re-telling episodes in the Bible)
- ★ Pristine/innocent places corrupted by evil
- ★ Beel'zebub- Hebrew translation for lord of the flies; later on, Christians translated Beel'zebub to mean the Devil



Modern Day Allusions

- ★ **Allusion-** (n.) an indirect reference to something
- ★ There are many, many modern day allusions to *Lord of the Flies* in popular culture.

For example....



ABC's *Lost* (2004-2010)

- ★ Revolves around a group of people who are stranded on a Pacific island after surviving a plane crash.



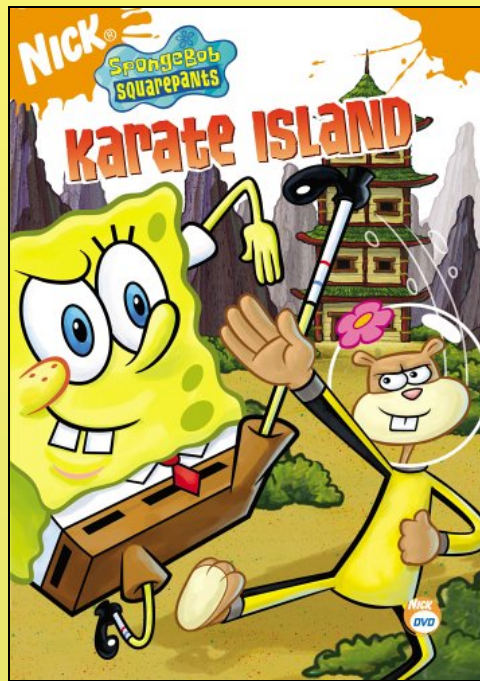
- ★ *The Simpsons* episode “Das Bus” is a parody of *Lord of the Flies*.



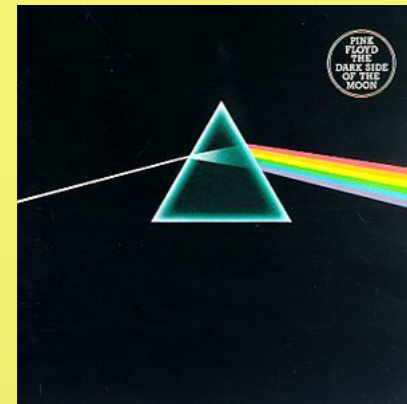
★ Mark Burnett's *Survivor* is said to have been inspired by *LOTF*.



- ★ The episode “Club Spongebob” is a spoof of *LOTF*.



- ★ Bands such as Taking Back Sunday, Nine Inch Nails, AFI, and Pink Floyd have written songs about or have alluded to *LOTF* in their music.



The Island



Assignment 1

- ★ You and a partner will:
 1. Review the definition of a literary symbol.
 2. Take each of the symbols listed for *LOF* and:
 1. Identify two instances in which each symbolic item appears in the novel.
 2. Determine what each symbolizes within the novel as a whole.
 1. Explain.
 3. You will address the class with your findings and then submit your typed paragraph for a grade.



Assignment 2

- ★ You and a partner will be assigned to one theme in the novel.
 1. Find a textual example from each third of the novel that shows this theme's development. Be sure to note the pages where each is found.
 1. Explain the context of each textual example.
 2. Determine whether each example is related to conflict, characterization, symbolism, or a combination in the novel.
 1. Explain each.
 3. You will address the class with your findings and then submit your typed paragraph for a grade.

