

## **WILLIAM GOLDING**

**Born in Cornwall, England 1911**

- ... later stages of Victorian Era**
- ... was a child during WWI**
- ... witnessed the Depression Era**

**Other occupations: actor, musician, lecturer, teacher, sailor**

**Was brought up to be a scientist, but as he was obsessed with literature**

- ... borrowed housemaid's romance magazines so he could read the stories**
- ... read constantly, especially adventure novels**
- ... favourite adventure novel was The Coral Island by Robert Michael Ballantyne, which inspired Lord of the Flies: similar situation, same names, but not the same 'unrealistic' happy ending**

**Married in 1939 and accepted a teaching position in Salisbury**

**Joined the Royal Navy in 1940 (WWII)**

- ... saw action against battleships, submarines and aircrafts**
- ... took part in sinking of famous *Bismarck* and D-day invasion of Normandy...**
- ... finished the war as Lieutenant in command of a rocket ship**

**Won Nobel Prize for literature in 1983**

**Knighted in 1988**

**Died 1993**

## **NOVEL BACKGROUND**

**Twenty-one publishers rejected the novel before it was published in 1954 and became instant success**

**Influenced by:**

- ... WWII and the aftermath**
- ... strong paranoia concerning the atomic bomb**
- ... extreme horror at the realities of the Holocaust and what humans are capable of**

**“The theme is an attempt to trace the defects of society back to the defects of human nature. The moral is that the shape of society must depend on the ethical nature of the individual and not on any political system...**

**The whole book is symbolic in nature...”**

**(from “Notes” to Lord of the Flies by E.I. Epstein, Capricorn Books, 1959)**