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### William Golding

Sir William Golding once said, "Look out; the evil is in us all" (qtd. in Lambert). Nobel Prize winner and best-selling author Golding has written modern classics like *The Lord of the Flies* and *Rite of Passage* among other novels and publications, all of which are attributed great acclaim and criticism. Golding's work and tone was heavily influenced by the events he had witnessed in his life. Golding's dark and morose view of society and human nature, and his brilliant creativity helped to make him one of the stand-out writers of the modern era.

William Golding's dark disposition helped to form the bleak views of human nature in his writing that contributed to Golding being chosen for the Nobel Prize in literature. Golding was witness to the darkness and evil in humanity when he fought in World War Two. He served for the British Royal Navy, and watched the storming of Normandy Beach, on D-Day, as he was on duty giving naval support from the ship he was stationed on (Loveday). As Golding once recalled, "World War II was the turning point for me. I began to see what people were capable of doing. Anyone who moved through those years without understanding that man produces evil as a bee produces honey, must have blind or wrong in the head (Lambert)." It is hard not to believe that anyone who had to witness, let alone participate in the horrible event that is D-Day, would have a dark and pessimistic view of humanity. And this pessimism and dreary outlook is apparent in much of his work. Bruce Lambert of the New York Times writes, "He [Golding] was best known for his themes of the struggle between good and evil and for symbolism that invited interpretations on many levels." This struggle can be found in Golding's most famous and first

published work, *Lord of the Flies*, where a group of British school boys are in a plane crash and stranded on an island. The group reverts into acting in the primal behaviors and tribal rivalry, with one tribe representing the good and diplomatic side of human behavior and the other tribe representing the cruel, evil, hate filled side. When starting to write this book, Golding had imagine two still pictures in his mind, one of an excited boy happy to be on the island, and another boy being hunted down by the tribal savages the boys had become. Golding had to use his brilliant creativity to link the two pictures and produce the compelling story that is *Lord of the Flies* (Carey 149).

Golding's remarkable creativity, though often criticized and misunderstood, was at a level that few could match, and combined with Golding's theatrical and dramatic style, helped to secure his nomination from the Nobel Foundation. Golding was a master of metaphor, which shows up in almost every one of his creative works and novels. Golding's magnum opus, *Lord of the Flies*, is very prevalent with such metaphors. The first paragraph can't even escape Golding's favorite tool. For example, Golding writes, "He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry; and this cry was echoed by another (Golding 7)." This is one of Golding's more transparent metaphors, as it describes the explosion of a crashed plane that lay deep in the jungle. Though this example was relatively easy to understand, many of his other metaphors are more difficult to comprehend, and often take some serious contemplation. For this reason, Golding has taken some serious criticism. But this criticism only goes to prove that people believe his novels are very important, and deserve to be talked about and criticized to keep them alive, and to keep them from being forgotten through time (Gray). Golding's later work was also influenced by his years teaching at a small drama theater in Bath, England. As James Baker writes, "...the idea of theater as a metaphor is very much a part of Pincher Martin as well. We have the man on a rock, a sort of poor actor in his own theater of the mind." This theatrical style helps to lead the novels down a path, and create a sense of

direction in his works, which make them much more appealing and gives them that unique edge from other writers of his time, which the Nobel Foundation was sure to recognize.

There is much debate about whether William Golding should have been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1983, but the Nobel Foundation press release states that his creative use of his dark view of society made it possible to "...illuminate the human condition in the world of today." Golding has had a life that not many have experienced, and witness many dark events during his life and the time in the war, and all of these have contributed to his writing. When this dark mentality is combined with his theatrical and brilliant creativity, it is easy to see that Golding is a top notch writer that lends a perspective of life that is compelling and influential. The Nobel Foundation recognized this and in 1983, made Sir William Golding an official Nobel Laureate for his important contributions to the world and to literature.

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