

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

'Lord of the Flies' translates into Hebrew as 'Beelzebub' meaning the Devil's 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command!



#### AUDIENCE RECEPTION

*Lord of the Flies was not an immediate success, in fact it was rejected by the first 10 publishers Golding submitted to. It was very slow to sell but eventually found success. It has been banned in some American schools over the years for 'profanity'.*

## The Western World of 1950s

- Less than a decade after World War II, the world was in the midst of the Cold War. In Britain the fear of imminent nuclear destruction was an everyday concern.
- In 1958 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is formed to push for all countries to work towards having no nuclear weapons.
- The atrocities of the Holocaust, the horrific effects of the atomic bomb, and the threat of Soviet communism were all present in the minds of the western public and created an environment of fear!
- Unprecedented rapid growth in technology as space-aged modernity and comfort became all the rage.
- Rationing still in place until 1954 and food shortages continued after this.
- The concept of a 'teenager' was just emerging!
- London 'smog' (severe air pollution) killed 4000 people in 1952.
- Queen Elizabeth II coronated in 1953.

"Before the Second World War I believed in the perfectibility of social man.... but after the war I was unable to. I had discovered what one man could do to another..."

*I began to see what people were capable of doing [...] man produces evil as a bee produces honey.*

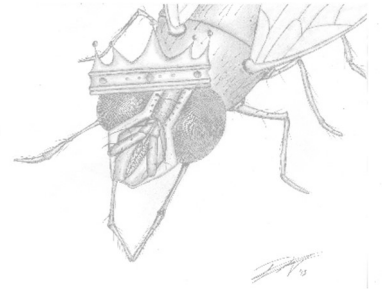
*'After the war, when everyone was thanking God they weren't Nazis, I had seen enough to realize that every single one of us could be Nazis'.*



## Who is William Golding?

- Born in 1911 in Newquay, England. Golding was educated in Marlborough and before the war was a teacher of English and Music. He had a difficult relationship with alcohol throughout his life.
- In 1940, a year after England entered World War II, Golding joined the Royal Navy.
- Golding's experience in World War II, where he participated in the invasion of Normandy, had a profound effect on his view of humanity and how everyone is capable of evil. After the war, Golding resumed teaching and started to write novels.
- In 1954, less than 10 years later, he wrote his first novel: *Lord of the Flies*.
- He went on to write a further 12 books, including *Rites of Passage* which won the Booker prize in 1980.
- In 1983 Golding received the Nobel Prize for literature.
- He died in 1993 aged 82.

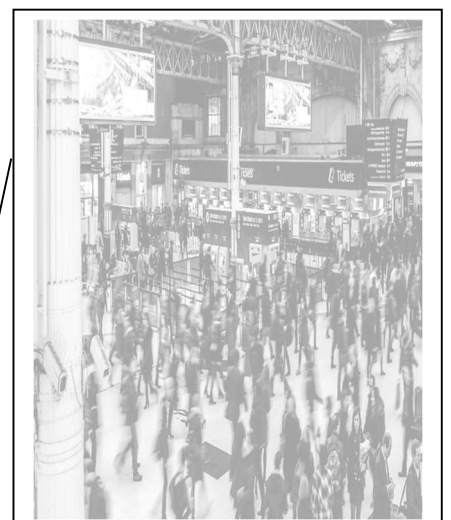
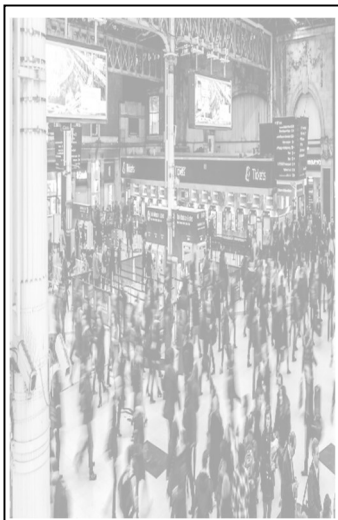
*THREE EVENTS OR ASPECTS OF SOCIETY WHICH MADE GOLDING WRITE LORD OF THE FLIES*



| LEADERSHIP | NATURE OF MAN | CIVILISATION | INNOCENCE | RELIGION |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
|            |               |              |           |          |

What do each of these characters signify Golding is saying? What from the text tells you this?

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Simon       |  |
| Ralph       |  |
| Jack        |  |
| Roger       |  |
| Sam 'n'Eric |  |



**What happens in the book which reflects Golding's opinions on society?**