English novelist. He achieved fame with his allegorical debut novel, *Lord of the Flies* (1954). Other novels include *The Spire* (1964) and the trilogy *The Ends of the Earth* (1991), which incorporates the Booker Prize-winning *Rites of Passage* (1980). He received the 1983 Nobel Prize in literature.

Golding was born in St Columb Minor, Cornwall, England. He was educated at Oxford University from 1932–35. While still an undergraduate, he published *Poems* (1934). After Oxford, he worked for a few years as actor, writer, and director for a number of small theatre companies, and in 1939 became a schoolteacher in Salisbury. He spent the war years 1940–5 in the Royal Navy, as an officer in charge of a rocket ship and instructor of naval cadets. He learnt ancient Greek during World War II and his study of the Greek myths, Homer, and the tragedians was an important influence on his work. He returned to his teaching post after the war, resigning in 1961 when the success of *Lord of the Flies* made it possible for him to write full time.


**quotations**

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