Summary of *The Coral Island*

*The Coral island* is a story about three young boys, Ralph Rover, Jack Martin, and Peterkin Gay. They are friends and the sole survivors of a shipwreck on the coral reef of an uninhabited Polynesian island. It is possible for them to live on this island as it has plenty of fruit, fish, and wild pigs. During their time on the island, they happen to meet people on three different occasions.

The first occasion is several months after the boys come ashore. They observe two large canoes which land on the beach and see two groups of people fighting. The boys decide to help and defeat the attacking party, earning the gratitude of the chief, Taroro. Then, the Polynesians leave the island.

The second one is when pirates come to the island. Ralph is taken prisoner, while Jack and Peterkin hide in the cave. On his journey, he becomes friends with one of the pirates, named Bloody Bill. On one occasion there is a conflict between the pirates and the inhabitants. Ralph successfully escapes and sails back to the Coral Island, where his friends are waiting.

The third occasion they meet people is when the three boys sail to the island of Mango, where a missionary has converted some of the inhabitants to
Christianity. They come to this island to rescue Avatea. They manage to rescue her, but the boys are taken prisoners. A month later, the arrival of another missionary sets them free. The missionary then manages to convert the rest of the inhabitants to Christianity. After these three occurrences, they set sail for home with many valuable experiences.

**Summary of Lord of the Flies**

*Lord of the Flies* is a story about a group of British boys whose plane crashes on a deserted island in the Pacific Ocean during a war. The boys are scattered at first, but finally they are able to assemble, and then they decide that they should govern themselves. They have an election and Ralph, one of the older boys, becomes “chief”. Jack, another older boy, is jealous of Ralph’s power and starts to hate him.

Later on, a dead man attached to a parachute is blown to the island, causing chaos between the boys. They mistake him for a beast. Only a boy named Simon doubts the identity of the so-called beast, and he then separates himself from the group.

As times goes on, Jack, who has different ideals, decides to separate from Ralph and invites other boys to go with him. In the end, they split into two groups: Jack and his followers; and Ralph, only with Piggy, his loyal friend.

Jack and his group become more savage. They put a pig’s head stabbed on a stick as an offering for the beast. After some time, Simon, who is not in a good condition, finally knows the truth about the beast. Ironically, as he wants to tell
the others about it, Simon is brutally killed by Jack and his group, being mistaken as the beast.

Later on, when Ralph and Piggy want to talk calmly to Jack and his group, who have turned into savages, Roger, one of Jack’s boys, pushes a huge boulder off a cliff and kills Piggy. Knowing this fact, Ralph runs for his life. The day after, Jack’s party begins to hunt for Ralph. Being hunted, Ralph runs to the shore and he stumbles across an officer of the British Navy there. In this way, the boys are eventually rescued.

**Biography of Robert Michael Ballantyne**

Robert Michael Ballantyne was born in Edinburgh, on April 24, 1825. His father, Alexander Ballantyne, was brother and junior partner of John and James Ballantyne, the printers of Sir Walter Scott’s works. His mother was Anne Randall Scott Grant. Ballantyne attended the Edinburgh Academy for some time before his father apprenticed him as a clerk in 1841 because of a financial crisis.

Ballantyne began writing when he was at Seven Islands for a few months in 1846. Several years later, the manuscript was printed. In 1848, *Hudson’s Bay; or Life in the Wilds of North America* was published by Blackwoods. It was a great success and the press praised it.

*The Young Fur-Traders* was the first storybook of Ballantyne and was published by Thomas Nelson and Sons in 1856. The book was based on his experiences in Canada. He spent the rest of his life writing similar books. He has written eighty complete stories. *The Coral Island* was an immediate success and has not been out of print since it was first published in 1857.
In 1866 Ballantyne married Miss Jack Dickson Grant, daughter of the minister of the parish of Cavers, Roxburghshire. He had three sons and three daughters. Ballantyne continued to live in Edinburgh until 1873 and settled down at Harrow-on-the-hill in 1878, where he remained until the end of his life. He died in Rome on February 8, 1894 and was buried in the English cemetery in Rome.

Source: “BALLANTYNE, ROBERT MICHAEL”

**Biography of William Gerald Golding**

William Gerald Golding was born in Cornwall, England, on September 19, 1911. His father was Alec, and his mother’s name was Mildred (Curnoe). Golding went to Brasenose College at Oxford University in 1930. In 1934, he published his first work, a book of poetry entitled *Poems*. A year later, he graduated from Oxford with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Diploma in Education.

From 1935 to 1939, Golding worked as a writer, actor, and producer with a small theater in London. In 1939, Golding began teaching English and philosophy at Bishop Wordsworth’s School in Salisbury. Golding married Ann Brookfield and they had two children, David and Judith.

Golding joined the Royal Navy and fought in World War II. He spent six years in the Navy. In 1945, the world war ended and Golding went back to teaching and writing until 1961.

Golding was best known for his work *Lord of the Flies*, which was published in 1954. His other works were, among others, *The Inheritors* (1955), *Pincher Martin* (1956), *Free Fall* (1959), and *The Spire* (1964). In 1955 Golding was given membership in the Royal Society of Literature. At the age of 73, he
was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize for Literature. Golding was mainly a novelist, but his works also include poetry, plays, essays, and short stories.

Golding spent the last few years of his life living with his wife at their house near Cornwall and died on June 19, 1993 because of a heart attack.

Source: "Sir William Golding", "William Golding - Biography"