

This diploma thesis is concerned with the use of symbolism in three selected novels by William Golding, *Pincher Martin*, *The Spire* and *The Double Tongue*. The theoretical part presents a brief biography of the writer and outlines theoretical background of literary symbolism, focusing especially on Northrop Frye's Theory of Symbols and the psychoanalytic perspective. It is concluded by listing sources of inspiration behind the selected Golding's works, taking his own experiences as well as literary influences into account. The practical part begins with characterization of Golding's use of symbols in general, including his methods, recurring topics and symbolic patterns. Its main part focuses individually on the three chosen books, in the order of their publication. Each section analyses symbolism of setting of the story and the protagonists' names, symbolic imagery, and it seeks for Christian and psychoanalytic symbols. In addition, it presents possible interpretations of other significant symbols occurring in the particular novel. The use of symbolism is put in context with outer influences to show the variety of topics and specificity of the author's style.