



John Tolkien Graduate Award Information

"A single dream is more powerful than a thousand realities."

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was an author, most famous for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. Born in South Africa he was home schooled by his mother and by the age of four he could read and write fluently. Tolkien wrote at least 39 books and learnt 20 languages (English, Dutch, Danish, French, German, Gothic Greek, Italian, Latin, Lombardic, Middle and Old English, Old Norse, Norwegian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Welsh and Old Welsh). He also made his own language called Naffarin at a little over 13 years old. Language invention had always been connected to the mythology that Tolkien developed in his books and the characters he wrote about spoke many languages.

Born 3rd January 1892

Died 2nd September 1973

While many other authors had published works of fantasy before Tolkien, the great success of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* led directly to a popular resurgence of the fantasy genre. This has caused Tolkien to be popularly identified as the "father" of modern fantasy literature. In 2008, *The Times* ranked him sixth on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".

Famous works

The Hobbit

A young Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, is unexpectedly visited by the wizard Gandalf the Grey and twelve homeless dwarfs led by their former king Thorin to vanquish Smaug the dragon and recover their treasure. Bilbo joins the company in an unexpected journey through dangerous lands of the Middle-Earth where they have to fight against Trolls, Orcs and other magic creatures. Bilbo also meets the Gollum and finds his lost magic ring.

The Lord of the Rings

From quiet beginnings in the Shire, a hobbit land not unlike the English countryside, the story ranges across Middle-earth, following the course of the War of the Ring through the eyes of its characters, most notably the hobbits Frodo Baggins, Sam, Merry and Pippin. Familiar characters from the *Hobbit* like Gandalf and Gollum also feature in the stories.

Interesting fact

Tolkien arrived in East Yorkshire in 1917 to convalesce (get better) after the first World War.

Famous quotes

“Not all those who wander are lost.”

— J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.”

— J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

“I have found that it is the small everyday deed of ordinary folks that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.”

- J. R. R. Tolkein, *The Hobbit*