

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien

3 January 1892 – 2 September 1973



John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was a major scholar of the English language, specialising in Old and Middle English. Twice Professor of Anglo-Saxon (Old English) at the University of Oxford, he also wrote a number of stories, including most famously *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of the Rings* (1954-1955), which are set in a pre-historic era in an invented version of our world which he called by the Middle English name of Middle-earth.



On January 3, 1892, John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Tolkien settled near Birmingham, England.

He later studied English language and literature at Oxford where he received a B.A. in 1915 and M.A. in 1919.



“All that is gold
does not glitter;
not all those
that wander
are lost.”

J.R.R.
Tolkien



Tolkien married his long time love, Edith Bratt in 1916. He served in the army briefly during World War I as a second lieutenant.

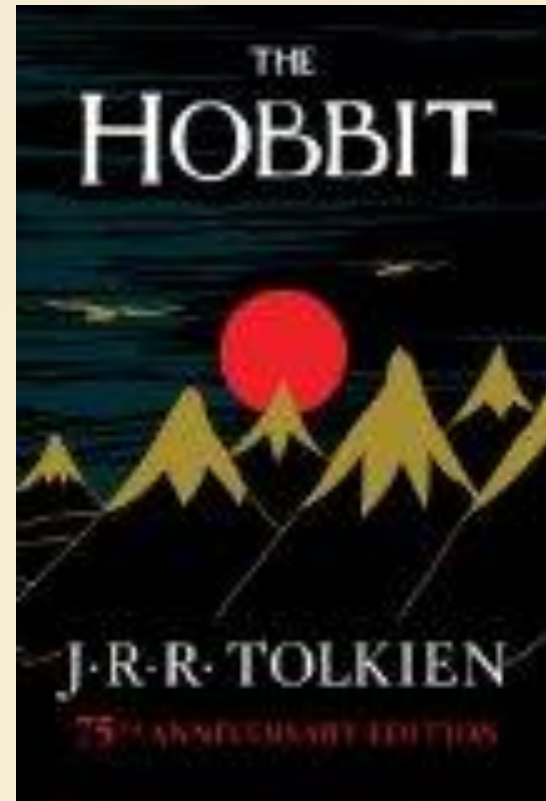


After the War, Tolkien's first civilian job was at The New English Dictionary better known as Oxford English Dictionary today where he worked on the history of words of Germanic origin.

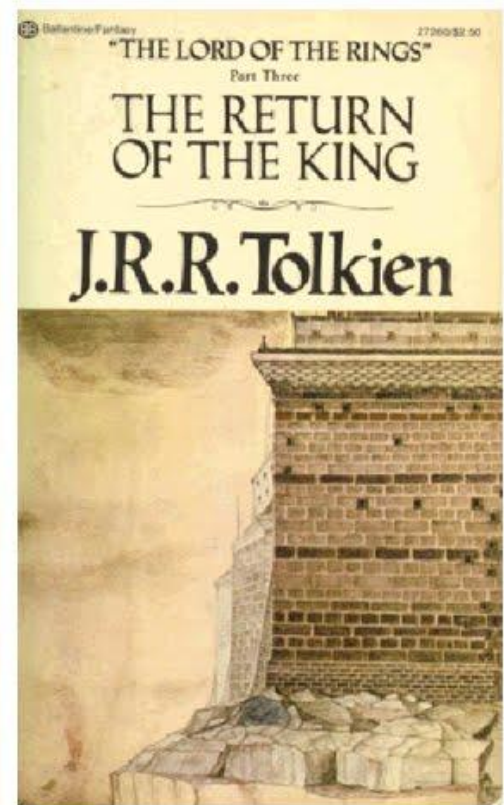
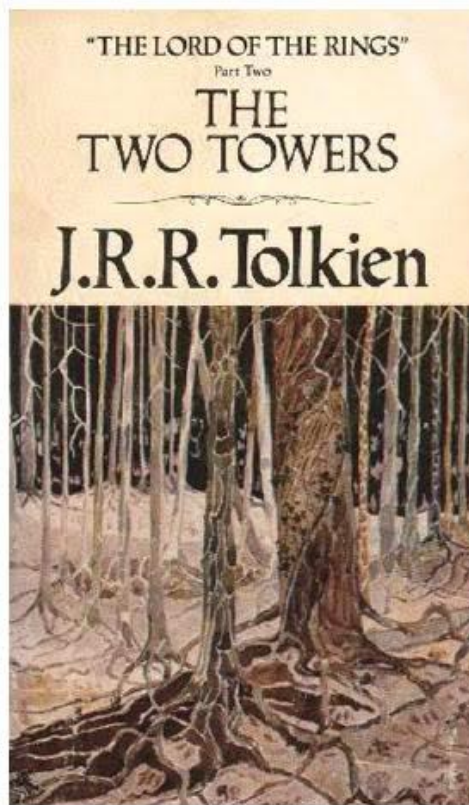
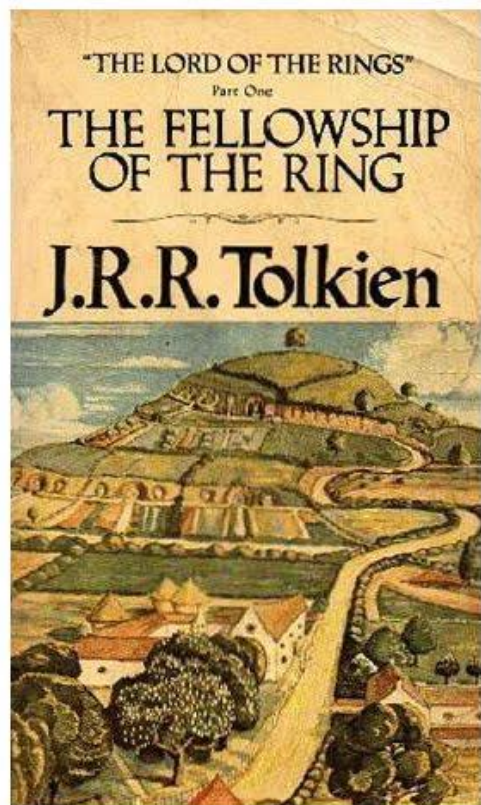
A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature reads "J.R.R. Tolkien." with a long horizontal flourish underneath. The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first three letters "J.R.R." being more compact and the last name "Tolkien" being more spread out.

Inspired by mythologies and legends, Tolkien spent a lot of time writing ingenious fantasy stories. He invented his own languages to be spoken by the elfish characters in his tales.

The Hobbit (1937), which Tolkien originally wrote for his children, narrates the story of a Hobbit, a small man like creature who set out on a quest for treasure. Gaining immense popularity, the book was published again with pictures drawn by Tolkien.



The publisher convinced Tolkien to write a sequel which came 17 years later in the form of The Lord of the Rings (1954-1955). Although Tolkien intended to target it towards children as a sequel to The Hobbit, instead it turned out to be more serious and attracted a grown up readership.



Some more of Tolkien's further noted works include Farmer Giles of Ham (1949), The Adventures of Tom Bombadil and Other Verses from the Red Book (1962), Tree and Leaf (1964), Smith of Wootton Major (1967). Some of Tolkien's incomplete work finished by his son Christopher after his death includes The Silmarillion, the "prequel" to The Lord of the Rings, Unfinished Tales of Nmenor and Middle-earth (1980) and Children of Hrin.