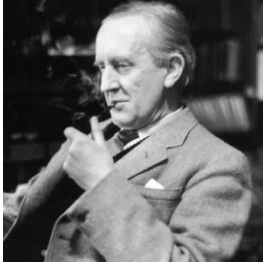


The Master Of Middle-Earth.



J.R.R Tolkien, who was an iconic South African fantasy author and war hero, is world-renowned for writing *The Hobbit* and *The Lord Of The Rings Trilogy* - two of the most acclaimed books in history. This inspiring man's books have gained many readers around the world and have influenced a great number of books since. Read on to discover more about this amazing man's life...

Childhood:

Born on the third of January, in 1892, the famous John Ronald Reuel Tolkien faced his earliest years in Bloemfontein, South Africa. His mother and father, Mabel Suffield Tolkien and Arthur Tolkien, raised John with his younger brother, Hilary. Unfortunately, his father died when Tolkien was only four from an illness called Peritonitis - this broke Tolkien's heart and was a heavy blow for his mother. As a result, the family moved and settled in Sarehole, a country hamlet in Birmingham, England. Sadly, his mother died in 1904 - This was an extremely hard time for Tolkien and his brother. In 1905, Sarehole mill was said to have inspired him as he looked out at the beautiful view. Shortly after, they were both sent to live in a boarding home, with a catholic priest assuming guardianship. In 1915, he graduated at Oxford university, which was a massive achievement for him.

Contribution to Britain.

After graduating at the university, Tolkien left to fight for the British in World War One. Then, after enduring many months at training camps, he and many many other men embarked for France in June 1916. Soon after he arrived, he fought desperately in The Battle Of Somme, which claimed two of his best friend's lives - this battle was one of the most significant in history. This enormous battle continued from July all the way to November, 2016. In addition, J.R.R married a woman named Edith Bratt in the middle of the war. This legendary man was eventually released from duty, due to an illness and lack of being fit to carry out what was expected.

Teaching to write and read.

During 1925, he became an official professor at Oxford, whose classes dealt with the roots of the English language and more too. It was during this period that J.R.R began to develop and write fantasy tales. This included him making up an entire language known as Elvish. Many characters from his books speak in this fascinating way.

Career as a writer.

In 1937, Tolkien published his first book - *The Hobbit*. *The Hobbit* was in fact written to amuse his children, although it was never intended to be a “Children’s book.” The main character (Mr Bilbo Baggins) is a small, furry-footed creature called a *Hobbit*; thus giving the book its name. This amazing book, which still manages to entertain readers throughout the world, is set in a fantasy world called Middle-Earth. Also set in Middle-Earth, is *The Lord Of The Rings Trilogy*, which was published in 1954 and 1955. Due to its length, this book is sometimes divided into three parts: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, which is the first part; *The Two Towers*, the second section, and finally the *Return Of The King*.



Legacy.

Sadly, Tolkien died on the second of September 1973, due to Pneumonia. Unfortunately, this inspiring and, in many people’s opinion, amazing man had begun to write yet another book - *The Silmarillion* - however, *he* never had time to finish it. As a result, in order to restore the fame of the brilliant book, his youngest son Christopher did and (when it was published in 1977) it achieved much success. Tolkien’s books have been transformed into much-loved films and the books will surely entertain readers for years to come.