

# The Lord of the Rings

WORKSHEET A

*The Lord of the Rings* is the name of a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of three books written in the 1950s by the English author and professor J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973). They were turned into three extremely successful films by the director Peter Jackson between 2001 and 2003.

The story is set in 'Middle-earth', which represents our own world but in an imaginary era in the distant past. It has a human and animal population along with a variety of imaginary (2) \_\_\_\_\_. These include the 'Hobbits', one of whom, Frodo, is the main character in each of the books. Hobbits are similar to human beings but are only about one metre (3) \_\_\_\_\_, have slightly pointed ears, and often live for more than 100 years.

The elaborate tale told during the three books centres on 'the Ring', a very small object that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ gives immense magical powers to whoever (5) \_\_\_\_\_ it. Frodo inherits the Ring but the 'Dark Lord' Sauron – who could perhaps be described as a mixture of ghost and wizard, and is the main source of evil in Middle-earth – wants to capture it. Because of its destructive, corrupting powers it is decided that the Ring should be destroyed by taking it to the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of Mordor and throwing it into a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ called Mount Doom. Frodo and his companions are frequently attacked by sinister beings such as 'Orcs' and 'Ringwraiths' on their way to Mordor, while the story also contains spectacular battles between the 'free peoples of Middle-earth' and the armies of the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of evil.

Soon after *The Lord of the Rings* was (9) \_\_\_\_\_, the British newspaper *The Sunday Telegraph* said it was 'among the greatest works of imaginative (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of the 20<sup>th</sup> century'. It has since been translated into numerous languages and has sold more than 100 million copies around the world. In a 1999 survey, Amazon.com customers voted it their favourite book of all (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Most readers are impressed by Tolkien's astonishing imagination and also by the huge amount of (12) \_\_\_\_\_ he provided about Middle-earth, which helps give the impression of actually stepping into another world.

The stories clearly reflect Tolkien's interest in mythology and religion, and also his experiences as a soldier during World War I. The battle (13) \_\_\_\_\_ good and evil is a constant theme, and in the characteristics of the Ring there is also a message about the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ nature of absolute power.

The books tend to appeal more to young people, a fact recognised by British author Terry Pratchett when he suggested that 'at seventeen, if you don't think *The Lord of The Rings* is the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to literature there's something wrong with your head', but 'if you still think that at fifty, there's definitely something wrong with your head'. It is true, however, that the stories (16) \_\_\_\_\_ many aspects that are also of interest to adults, which is one of the reasons why in the last few years they have sometimes been compared with the *Harry Potter* books.

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WORKSHEET B

## EXERCISE A

Can you fill the sixteen gaps in the text with the correct words from the box? There are four words that you will not be able to use.

time	forces	land	people
tall	corrupting	for	possesses
between	series	nevertheless	contain
detail	volcano	greatest	published
have	therefore	fiction	creatures

## EXERCISE B

Now fill the gaps below to complete the title of the second book in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

1. Tolkien \_\_\_\_\_ in World War I.
2. Frodo is a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. *The Lord of the Rings* stories are very \_\_\_\_\_.
4. *The Lord of the Rings* is a work of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Although small, the Ring is immensely \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Tolkien needed an amazing \_\_\_\_\_ in order to create *The Lord of the Rings* stories.
7. Tolkien gives an extremely \_\_\_\_\_ description of Middle-earth.
8. Hobbits are \_\_\_\_\_ than adult human beings.
9. Frodo and his companions get into dangerous situations on their \_\_\_\_\_ to Mordor.
10. Terry Pratchett obviously thinks that many seventeen-year-olds are likely to be \_\_\_\_\_ by *The Lord of the Rings*.
11. The Ring has the power to \_\_\_\_\_ those who possess it.
12. *The Lord of the Rings* books have been \_\_\_\_\_ in many different languages.