



# British Legends: The Life and Legacy of J.R.R. Tolkien

*Charles River Editors*

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\*Includes pictures of Tolkien and important people and places in his life.

\*Explains Tolkien's life and career, and how he drew upon his real-life experiences to craft his classic fantasy titles.

\*Explains the origins of Middle Earth, and the plots and themes of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

\*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.

“Nothing has astonished me more (and I think my publishers) than the welcome given to *The Lord of the Rings*. But it is, of course, a constant source of consolation and pleasure to me. And, I may say, a piece of singular good fortune, much envied by some of my contemporaries. Wonderful people still buy the book, and to a man 'retired' that is both grateful and comforting.” – J.R.R. Tolkien

For more than half a century, the name J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) has been synonymous with epic fantasy. Known across the world for his classic *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Tolkien both revived interest in fantasy literature and set the standard for the genre. Today he is widely acknowledged as the “Father” of modern fantasy and its most famous author.

While Tolkien made Middle Earth famous and vice-versa, Tolkien’s works were influenced by a lifetime of Tolkien’s own personal experiences. His tales concern creatures of myth, yet the plot lines and characters are human at heart. Tolkien drew his inspiration from war, nature, history, love, and language, and through the lens of fantasy he examined bravery, loyalty and friendship. That essential “humanness” at the core of his writing, whether it was displayed by a man, hobbit, or even a tree, struck a chord with readers that continues to resonate today. *The Hobbit* has been released in more than 40 languages, and *The Lord of the Rings* has sold more than 150 million copies. In 2008, British daily newspaper *The Times* named him number six on its list of 50 greatest British writers since 1945.

At the same time, there is more to Tolkien than his books and their popularity. He is famous for his writing, but Tolkien led an exceptional life. Over the course of 81 years, he was a professor and a poet, a veteran of war and a champion for nature. His own love story influenced one of his beloved tales, and his friendship changed the course of one man’s writing. *British Legends: The Life and Legacy of J.R.R. Tolkien* chronicles the life and work of the famous writer and examines the enduring legacy. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events in her life, you will learn about Tolkien like you never have before, in no time at all.

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