A Description of Human and Non-Human Characters in The Lord of The Rings-The Two Towers a Novel by J.R.R. Tolkien

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A DESCRIPTION OF HUMAN AND NON HUMAN CHARACTERS IN
*THE LORD OF THE RINGS-THE TWO TOWERS* A NOVEL BY
J.R.R. TOLKIEN

A PAPER

BY

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DIPLOMA III ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF SUMATERA UTARA

MEDAN

2017
ABSTRACT


This research focused on human and non human character in The Two Towers Novel. The research was conducted by using qualitative research method. The data were collected from the The Two Towers Novel. The findings of the paper showed that there were characters are portrayed not only humans, there are also other creatures like hobbits, wizards and others, with different traits and characteristics.

Keyword: Human and Non Human Character, Novel
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks God, all the praise to Jesus Christ for the blessing, mercy, and guidance in giving the writer full strength and patience to complete this paper. This paper is aimed to fulfill one of the requirements to obtain the D3 Associate’s Degree at English Department in Faculty of Cultural Study, University of Sumatera Utara.

In accomplishing this paper, the writer has been helped by a lot of beloved people especially for the loyal supporters. Therefore, the writer would like to express her sincere and greatest gratitude to:

- **Prof. Dr. Runtung, S.H., M.Hum.**, the Rector of University of Sumatera Utara.
- **Dr. Drs. Budi Agustono, M.S.**, the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Study.
- **Dra. Swesana Mardia Lubis, M.Hum.**, the Head of Diploma III English Study Program.
- **Riko Andika Rahmat Pohan, S.S, M.Hum.**, the Secretary of English Study Program.
- **Drs. Parlindungan, M.Hum.**, her Paper Advisor for them guidance, advice, suggestion and comment and the time to supervising this paper until complete in making this paper better.
- All beloved Lecturers in English Study Program who advised and guided the writer during academic years.
- **All lectures and staffs** of English Department who helped and given contribution of knowledge, advice and guidance during her academic years in English Department.
- The best family of the author, her beloved Mother, **Mrs. Asamta Tarigan**, her beloved father, **Mr. Serta Yahya Sitepu, S.H.**, her brothers **Equinta Cihona Sitepu S.S, Reynold Haganta Sitepu** and **Raynaldo Edika Sitepu**, and her sister **Yosita Pehulisa Sitepu, S.pd**, for their endless love, support, encouragement, motivation, prayers, and laughter shared during...
the writer’s life. He loves them so much. Also his great family for the support during the completion of this paper.

- **Uncle Benro Simbolon** and **Novita Fracisca Simbolon** and **Hagaina Monica** who always supported and give motivation.

- My best friends, **Esteria Jernika Nainggolan A.Md.**, **Ester Ulina Sinulingga A.Md.**, **Elin Very Nancy A.Md.**, **Novia Laura Sebayang**, **Sonya Jenifer Sirait**, thanks for all support, motivation, prayer, and laughter.

- All Students of English Study Program (SOLIDAS), especially Class B that could not be mentioned one by one. Thanks for their support, info, assistance, and best moment ever during the academic years.

- Everyone who has been involved directly or indirectly in the writing of this paper that cannot be mentioned one by one, and thanks for all the memories that the writer got during his study at this beloved campus. Thank you very much. God bless. Amin.

  Without their deep and sympathetic understanding, this paper could not complete, may all the assistance can be their charity.

  Medan, August 2017  
The writer,

  **Sinthya Nitami Sitepu**  
Reg. Number: 142202006
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature (from Latin *litterae* (plural); *letter*) is the art of written work, and is not confined to published sources (although, under some circumstances, unpublished sources can also be exempt). Roberts (1993: 1) says that literature also refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas. Before the invention of writing, literary works were necessarily spoken or sung, and were retained only as long as living people performed them. From the statement, it is concluded that there are 3 kinds of literature, namely: (1) novel (a work of prose fiction written in the narrative, usually in the form of stories), (2) drama (literature designed to be performed by actors who played works of art orally among the players (dialogue), (3) poetry (expresses a conversation or interchange that is grounded in the most deeply felt experiences of human beings).

Usually, those three are classed as imaginative literature. The genres of imaginative literature have much in common, but they also have distinguishing characteristics. Prose fiction, or narrative fiction, includes myths, parables, romances, novels, and short stories. The writer specially wants to analyze the novel. From the various types of imaginative literature, my choise falls on narrative fiction, exactly on novel, which is a fictitious
prose narrative of considerable length and complexity, portraying characters and presenting an organized sequence of events and scenes.

Some of novels are fiction and some based on true stories. Both of those not only entertain but also give meaning messages and impression to readers. Most people are concerned with ordinary people and their problems in the societies in which they find themselves (John peck and Martin Coyle sin their book *Literary Term and criticism*, 1998:102).

J.R.R. Tolkien is one of wonderful author. *The Lord of The Rings-The Two Towers* is the most famous and the best novel. This book is a book of trilogy and this novel is the second series, where the story in this novel focuses on the destruction of the ring held by Frodo Baggins. Most people in all over the world have read it or seen it in the cinema or on television. The author is really creative, the novel is very interesting, because the characters depicted are very diverse, there are humans, fairies, witches, dwarves, hobbits and others. The author of this book also makes an interesting storyline with a lot of places that are foreign to the reader, thus making the reader have to enliven the imagination in order to understand this novel so that messages of the story can be sent to the readers. I hope by discussing the novel, the young author who will be the next novelist can make the mutual story.
1.2 Problem of Study

Trough this novel, the writer has problem which need to identify. The problem of the study is:

How are the characters portrayed in the novel?

1.3 Scope of Study

Basically, a lot of aspects in building a novel. But, important to limit the topic in order to make the paper easily and clearly understood. Based on title of this paper is concentrated on describing the characters especially main characters. They are Frodo Baggins, Aragorn, Legolas, Saruman. The portrayal is limited to character personality through what they look like; what they do.

1.4 Objective of Study

To describe the humsn snd non humsn characters are portrayed in the novel.

1.5 Significance of Study

By reading this paper, it is expected that the description of this paper can enrich the information and knowledge about character and the study of literature especially for student English Diploma.

1. Theorically, to add the study of literature in terms of character.

2. Practically, this study may help student to understand character and its study.
1.6 The Method of Writing

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method in doing this paper by apply library research and browsing internet. The collect some data by reading several books and from the internet. Then the writer read the novel in several times to make her understand about the story. After having understood about it, the writer focuses to describe the main character. And the writer watched the film twice to make more understood the story. Then the writer browsed data from internet to look for the compliment sources and also to know the biography of the writer, then the writer makes conclusions about it.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Character

Character is very important element in literary works such as novel, drama or even poems. The character can be human, or even animal. In a novel, the character usually dominated by human as the character, while the character in a novel has his/her own personality equal to human. The personality of the character will lead the character to act such emotional, behavioral, and all the logical things that deals with the problems which be faced by the character. Therefore, the character of the novel mostly has a value of a human in real life. According to Abrams (1981:20) says that character is the persons presented in dramatics of narrative work who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say and what they do in action.

In novel, a character may be defined as a verbal representation of a human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors portray characters who are worth caring about, rooting for and even loving, although there are also characters you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate, to quote Robert and Jacobs (1995:131). There can be simplified that the character in a novel is a description and a representation of a person qualities. It can be shown by the creation of the characters in a novel from their action, gesture, speech, and behavior, these term can be used by the readers to identify the characters in a novel, because the character in a novel has equal qualities as a person in real life.
The attempt of the author describes the characters in a narrative work known as a characterization. According to Di Yanni (1990:36) says that Characterization is the means by which the writers present and reveal the characters.

The author of the narrative work established the characterization by showing two main distinctions as the alternative method for revealing the characters in a narrative; they are indirect presentation or by showing and direct presentation or by telling. In indirect presentation or by showing, the traits of the characters are revealed by action and speech of the characters, the author presents the characters talking and acting, this make the readers infer to what motives and disposition lie behind what the characters say and do. In direct presentation or by telling, the characters are described by the author, the narrator, or by other characters. They describe the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters.

According to Nurgiyantoro (1998: 176-191), characters can be categorized based different of point of view and observation as follows:

**2.1.1 Main Character and Peripheral Character**

In a novel, there are several characters presented. Nevertheless, each of the character has a different role. Based on the role of characters in developing the plot, characters are distinguished into main character and peripheral character.

Main character is a character which is very important and usually dominating the whole story in a literary works. He is often presented whether as the doer of an action or the one who is affected in the action. Main character in a novel can be more than one; however its superiority values are not always to be the same. Its
superiority is determined by its domination, and its influence to the development of plot as a whole.

Peripheral character is the character that appears once or sometimes in a novel, and may be relatively in short portion. It is called peripheral character often provide, support, and illuminate the protagonist.

Main character in the novel may more than one person, although the superiority degree not always same. they are protagonist and antagonist.

2.1.2 Protagonist Character and Antagonist Character

Based on the function of appearance, characters are distinguished into the protagonist character and antagonist character.

Protagonist character is the most favorite character by the readers and popularly called hero. Readers often identified themselves with certain characters, giving sympathy and empathy to protagonist character. Because it presents something which is conform to the readers’ point of view, norms manifestation, and value. In short, all the things that the character felt, thought, and done, it all represents the readers.

Antagonist character is stated to be the opposite of protagonist character directly or indirectly, physically or psychologically. In other words, this character gives a conflict to story.
2.1.3. Simple Character and Complex Character

Based on the characterization, character can be distinguished into simple character and complex character.

Simple character is a character that has only a certain individual quality and one certain character. As a character of human being, any possibility of his life is not revealed. He does not have any characteristics and behavior that can give any surprising effect to the readers. This kind of character is monotone, his behavior and characteristics is flat and reflect a certain character only.

Complex character is a character which is different to simple character; the character has a life side and personality that is revealed. He could have certain characteristics that can be formulated, but he can present various characteristics and behavior, even may be has a contradiction and hard to be guessed. In comparison with simple character, complex character is more resemble to the real human life besides having some possibility of behavior and actions, he often gives a surprise.

2.1.4 Static Character and Developing Character

Based on the criteria whether the character is developed or not, character can be distinguished into static character and developing character.

Static character is a character that essentially does not experience any change and development as the result of events. This kind of character seems not really involved and influenced by any environment changing that happened because of a relationship among human being. Static character has a constant and
undeveloped behavior and characteristic, since the beginning to the end of the story.

Developing character is a character that experiences a change of characterization in accordance with the developing and changing of event and plot narrated. The character interacts with his environment, whether it is social, nature, or even others, and all of it will influence his behavior and characteristic. Thus, the character will experience to be change and developed from the beginning, in the middle, and until the end of the story according to the coherence of the story as the whole.

2.1.5 Typical Character and Neutral Character

Based on the reflection of the character to the group of human, character can be distinguished into typical character and neutral character.

Typical character is a character which is individually less presented, but more of its works or nationality is presented, or some other things that possibly more represent. It is a description and reflection or reference of one or group of people as a part of one institute which exist in the real life.

Neutral character is a character that exists only for the story itself. It is an imaginary that lives and exists only in fiction. He presents or presented for the story or even as the storyteller, or the main character. His existence does not to represent or to describe something outside him, someone outside of his real life.
CHAPTER III

THE DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER

3.1. Frodo Baggins

Frodo Baggins is a hobbit from the Shire. He is one of the nine bearers of the Sauron ring (the ring of evil forces) passed down by his uncle Bilbo Baggins. He was the one who was appointed to hold the ring and wipe out on the mountain Doom. He was with his friend Samwise Gamgee who was a hobbit as well. They are separated from the other because someone is trying to seize the ring and wants to master it.

‘Then you know about Frodo!’ said Gimli. ‘How do things go with him?’ ‘I cannot say. He was saved from a great peril, but many lie before him still. He resolved to go alone to Mordor, and he set out: that is all I can say.’ ‘Not alone,’ said Legolas. We think that Sam went with him.’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 484)

Though in many ways Frodo is an ordinary hobbit, happy to live among his friends and family in the Shire, his pure, incorruptible heart sets him apart not only from other hobbits but also from the other races of Middle-earth and makes him the ideal candidate to deliver the ring of power to Mordor. Frodo’s mission to destroy the ring involves a treacherous journey and countless dangers, such as orcs, volcanoes, and wraiths, and in facing these obstacles he is no different from the other eight members of the fellowship. However, his task involves much more than this perilous journey to Mordor. His real challenge is to bear the ring without giving in to its temptations. This resistance is Frodo’s inner journey, in which his
pure heart is constantly under assault by his darker yearnings for power. The ring tempts others in the fellowship, however good and pure they are. Gandalf, Aragorn, Sam, and Bilbo all have their eyes widen when the ring is before them, and their own weaknesses, despite their often remarkable physical strength, prove how difficult a task for Frodo carrying the ring really is. The difficulty makes his success all the more impressive.

‘We can stay here all night, fix or no fix. We must find a more sheltered spot, and camp once more; and perhaps another day will show us a path.’ ‘Or another and another and another day,’ muttered Sam. ‘Or maybe no day. We’ve come the wrong way.’

‘I wonder,’ said Frodo. ‘It’s my doom, I think to go to that Shadow yonder, so that a way will be found. But will good or evil show it to me? What hope we had was in speed. Delay plays into the Enemy’s hands – and here I am: delayed. Is it the will of the Dark Tower that steers us? All my choice have proved ill. I should have left the Company long before, and comedown from the North, east of the River and the Emyn Muil, and so over the hard of Battle Plain to the passes of Mordor. But now it isn’t possible for you and me alone to find a way back, and the Orc are prowling on east Bank. Every day that passes is a precious day lost. I am tired, Sam. I don’t know what is to be done.’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 590)

On the way he met with gollum (the condemned man) and his arrest, he ruled gollum it to guide their way to the mountain of doom. Purity for him he can not see the cunning gollum that was originally good turned into evil. Gollum did not have time to make Frodo Dam Sam misunderstood his fellow, he wanted to
run the ring, failed. Eventually Sam went back to Frodo and rescued Frodo from being caught in Shelob’s spider web, he had experienced Frodo, then he did not continue his own journey and accidentally heard the fruit conversation of Sauron that Frodo was alive.

‘Got him!’ hissed Gollum in his ear. ‘At last, my precious, we’ve got him, yes, nasty hobbit. We takes this one. She’ll get the other. O yes, Shelob will get him, not Smeagol: he promised; he won’t hurt Master at all. But he’s got you, you nasty filthy little sneak!’ He spant on Sam’s neck. (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 709)

‘Sam was left alone. Wearily, as the evening of the Nameleess fell upon the place of battle, he crawled back to his master.’ ‘Master, dear Master,’ he said, but Frodo did not speak. As he had run forward, eager, rejoicing to be free, Shelob with hideous speed had come behind and with one swift stroke had stung him in neck. He lay now pale, and heard no voice.’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 :713)

‘The news that his master was still alive roused him to a last effort beyond thought of weariness.’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 742)

3.2 Aragorn

Aragorn is a prince, son of the Lord of Gondor, who representing Men. He is one of nine ring bearers, he is in charge of helping Frodo to Mount Doom to destroy a ring that possesses evil powers. When his friend Gandalf the wizard disappears, Aragorn takes over the leadership of the group and leads them to the
next place. He is a figure who is respected by the people around him because of the way he leads and more experienced in many ways. He was instrumental in leading the war that took place during their journey towards Mount Doom, he and his friends faced many dangers to get there. He showed toughness and ability to fight.

‘Aragorn threw back his cloak. The elven-sneath glittered as he grasped it, and the bright blade of Alandúril shone like a sudden flame as he swept it out. ‘Elendil!’ he cried. ‘I am Aragorn son of Arathon, and am called Elessar, the Elfstone, Dúnadan, the heir of Isildur Elendil’s son of Gondor. Here is the Sword that was Broken and is forged again! Will you aid me or thwart me? Choose swiftly!’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 423)

‘but at this time our chief concern is with Saruman. He has claimed lordship over all this land, and there has been war between us for many months. He has taken Orcs into his service, and Wolf-riders, and evil Men, and he has closed the Gap against us, so that we are likely to be beset both east and west. (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 462)

Aragorn was separated with a herd of hobbits because they were intercepted by orcs. He is someone who is very concerned about the circumstances of his friends, he is always worried about their existence. He's busy figuring out and trying to figure out what's left. But on the way Aragorn thought back to allowing Frodo and the other flock, and he and his friend took care of the obstacles that prevented them the way to Mount Doom.
‘Aragorn sped on up the hill. Every now and again he bent to be ground. Hobbit go light, and their footprints are not easy even for a Ranger to read, but not far from the top a spring crossed the path, and in the wet earth he saw what he was seeking. (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954: 403)

‘I would have guide Frodo to Mordor and gone with him to the end; but if I seek him now in wilderness, I must abandon the captives to torment and death. My heart speaks clearly at last: the fate of the Bearer is in my hands no longer. The Company has played its part. Yet we that remain cannot forsake our companions while we have strength left. Come! We will go now. Leave all that can be spared behind! We will press on by day and dark!’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954: 409)

He is also a very brave and unyielding person, he takes a dangerous risk for him to get his way out, he is ready to fight in various situations. Fight all the enemies that cause the noise. But the work he does is successful, he can embrace all his friends to unite and fight crime and win all wars.

‘Nay, Lord,’ said Aragorn. ‘There is no rest yet for weary. The men of Rohan must ride forth today, and we will ride with them, axe, sword, and bow. We did not bring them to rest against your wall, Lord of the Mark. And I promised Eomer that my sword and his should be drawn together.’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954: 507)
3.3 Saruman

Saruman also known as **Saruman the White** was an *Istar* (wizard), who lived in Middle-earth during the Third Age. Originally, he was the chief of the wizards and of the White Council that opposed Sauron. His extensive studies of dark magic, however, eventually led him to desire the One Ring for himself. Thinking he could ally himself with Sauron and then betray him, Saruman allied Isengard with Mordor in the War of the Ring, in which he was defeated.

“He has changed; but we have not a chance to see how much, yet. But think of the last part of that business with Saruman. Remember Saruman was once Gandalf's superior: head of the Council, what ever they may be exactly. He was Saruman the White. Gandalf is the White now. Saruman came when he was told, and his rod was taken; and then he was just told to go, and he went.” (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 576)

‘Then is not Saruman a traitor?’ said Gimli. ‘Indeed yes,’ said Gandalf. ‘Doubly. And is not that strange? Nothing that we have endured of late has seemed so grievous as the reason of Isengard. Even reckoned as lord and captain Saruman has grown very strong. He threatens the Men of Rohan and draws off their help from the East. Yet a treacherous weapon is ever a danger to the hand. Saruman also had a mind to capture the Ring, for himself, or at least to snare some hobbits for his evil purposes.’ (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 486)
He studied deeply the arts of Sauron, the better to oppose him, but he soon became enamored of Sauron's devices, especially the One Ring. He betrayed his mission and sought the power of the Ring for himself. He initially advocated an alliance with Sauron, but he soon betrayed Sauron as well, as his ultimate goal was to supplant Sauron and rule Middle-earth. But his plans came to nought, and his power was broken in the Battle of the Hornburg and the Battle of Isengard. Before his fall, he was the chief of both the wizards and of the White Council (a league of all those opposed to Sauron). His knowledge and skill, especially of Sauron's devices, was said to be great. However, his deep study of the One Ring and Sauron's other magic corrupted him, and his overweening lust for power led to his downfall. He is one of the few characters in Middle-earth who is morally "grey" - serving neither good nor evil. He betrays both sides and ultimately works for his own ends.

“Reason for leaving you can see from your windows, answered Gandalf. ‘Others will occur to your thought. Your servant are destroyed and scattered; your neighbours you have made your enemie; and you have cheated your new master, or tried to do so.” (J.R.R. Tolkien 1954 : 568)
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1 Conclusions

After having described the novel *The Lord Of The Rings-The Two Towers* from the human and non human character portrayal, finally I take some conclusions as follows:

1. In J.R.R Tolkien novel The Two Towers, the main characters are Frodo Baggins, Aragorn and Saruman.
2. From the main characters, there are Human and Non Human character.
3. The Human character is Aragorn. He is very optimist to force the tragedy.
4. The Non Human characters are Frodo Baggins, he is a hobbit who has a good heart, and Saruman, he is a wizard who make problems.
4.2 Suggestion

The writer suggest the readers especially the student of English Department to choose character as the object of research, because many interesting aspects which can be analyzed. The Two Towers are the second series of the trilogy of The lord of the Rings by J.R.R.Tolkein. The book has a high fantasy story, and the characters portrayed how in various obstacles and teamed up with the team.

Furthermore, I want to say this novel is meaningful for those who are interested in literature. Beside that, reading novel, the readers can enrich their vocabulary, improve their English as well as broaden their understanding of life and people.

Finally, I hope that this paper will be precious contribution academically. So, this may be a string point for my friends as a students of English Diploma III to analyze one kind of literary works.
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lord_of_the_Rings:_The_Two_Towers
(Retrieved on 15 Juny 2017)
J.R.R. Tolkien is the wildly imaginative author of The Lord of The Rings fame. One of the greatest writers of the 20th century, Tolkien’s talents were not limited to writing novels, he was also a poet, philologist, scholar and university professor. In addition to being referred as the father of modern fantasy, Tolkien was also ranked sixth on a list of ‘The 50 greatest British writers since 1945’ in 2008. Forbes declared him the 5th top earning dead celebrity in 2009.

J.R.R. Tolkien is an internationally renowned fantasy writer. He is best known for authoring The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Born on January 3, 1892, in Bloemfontein, South Africa, J.R.R. Tolkien settled in England as a child, going on to study at Exeter College. While teaching at Oxford University, he published the popular fantasy novels The Hobbit and the Lord of
the Rings trilogy. The works have had a devoted international fan base and been adapted into award-winning blockbuster films. Tolkien died in 1973 at 81.

Continuing his linguistic studies, Tolkien joined the faculty of the University of Leeds in 1920 and a few years later became a professor at Oxford University. While there he started a writing group called The Inklings, which counted among its members C.S. Lewis and Owen Barfield. It was also at Oxford, while grading a paper, that he spontaneously wrote a short line about "a hobbit."

The award-winning fantasy novel The Hobbit—about the small, furry-footed Bilbo Baggins and his adventures—was published in 1937 and was regarded as a children’s book, though Tolkien would state the book wasn’t originally intended for children. He also created more than 100 drawings to support the narrative.

Over the years, while working on scholarly publications, Tolkien developed the work that would come to be regarded as his masterpiece—the Lord of the Rings series, partially inspired by ancient European myths, with its own sets of maps, lore and languages.

Tolkien released part one of the series, The Fellowship of the Ring, in 1954; The Two Towers and The Return of the King followed in 1955, finishing up the trilogy. The books gave readers a rich literary trove populated by elves, goblins, talking trees and all manner of fantastic creatures, including characters like the wizard Gandalf and the dwarf Gimli.
While *Rings* had its share of critics, many reviewers and waves upon waves of general readers took to Tolkien’s world, causing the books to become global best sellers, with fans forming Tolkien clubs and learning his fictional languages.

Tolkien retired from professorial duties in 1959, going on to publish an essay and poetry collection, *Tree and Leaf*, and the fantasy tale *Smith of Wootton Major*. His wife Edith died in 1971, and Tolkien died on September 2, 1973, at the age of 81. He was survived by four children.

*The Hobbit* and the *Lord of the Rings* series are grouped among the most popular books in the world, having sold tens of millions of copies. The *Rings* trilogy was also adapted by director Peter Jackson into a highly popular, award-winning trio of films starring Ian McKellen, Elijah Wood, Cate Blanchett and Viggo Mortensen, among others. Jackson is also at the helm of a three-part *Hobbit* movie adaptation starring Martin Freeman, with the first installment being released at the end of 2012.

Tolkien's son Christopher has edited several works that weren't completed at the time of his father's death, including *The Silmarillion* and *The Children of Húrin*, which were published posthumously. *The Art of the Hobbit* was published in 2012, celebrating the novel's 75th anniversary by presenting Tolkien's original illustrations.
B. Summary of the Novel

Book III: The Treason of Isengard

As Aragorn searches for Frodo, he suddenly hears Boromir’s horn. Aragorn finds Boromir mortally wounded by arrows, sitting with his back against a great tree, surrounded by many slain orcs. Before Boromir dies, Aragorn learns that Saruman's Uruk-hai soldiers have kidnapped some of the hobbits, in spite of his efforts to defend them, that Frodo had vanished after Boromir had attempted to take the Ring from him and that he truly regretted his actions. In his last moments, Boromir charges Aragorn with defending Minas Tirith from Sauron. With Legolas and Gimli, who had been fighting Orcs by themselves, Aragorn pays his last tributes to Boromir and sends him down the Great River Anduin on a funeral boat, the usual methods of burial being impractical. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli later resolve to follow the Uruk-hai captors and save Merry and Pippin.

Aragorn, Gimli and Legolas come across the Riders of Rohan led by Éomer, nephew of King Théoden. The trio learn that the horsemen had attacked a band of Orcs the previous night, and that they had left no survivors. However, Aragorn is able to track a small set of prints that lead into Fangorn, where they see an old man who disappears almost as soon as they see him — they assume him to be Saruman. Their horses bolt away, which they also assume to be the work of Saruman.
Merry and Pippin, taken captive by the Uruk-hai, learn that one of the orcs from Mordor, Grishnakh, knows about the ring and believes it to be on one of them. The fact that the Uruk-hai and the Mordor orcs are in collusion proves to be a disquieting piece of information. When the Uruk-hai are attacked by the horsemen of Rohan, called the Rohirrim or "Riders of Rohan". Merry and Pippin escape Grishnakh, who has taken them out of the camp but is killed by a Rider. They then go into the nearby Fangorn Forest, where they encounter the giant treelike Ents. The Ents resemble actual trees, except they are able to see, talk, and move. These guardians of the forest generally keep to themselves, but after a long contemplation on whether or not the Hobbits were friends, or foes, their leader Treebeard takes them in as friends. The hobbits are given some of the nourishment of the Ents, Ent-draught, which causes them to grow. Treebeard then calls a council of the Ents, or an Entmoot. There, Treebeard and another Ent named Quickbeam persuades the Ent council to oppose the menace posed to the forest by the wizard Saruman, as suggested by Merry and Pippin, as Treebeard realizes that Saruman's minions have been cutting down large numbers of their trees to fuel the furnaces needed for Saruman's arming of his dark army. The Ents then lead the entire forest toward Isengard.

Aragorn, Gimli and Legolas then go into Fangorn and surmise that the forest feels as if it about to explode. Shortly afterward, the three meet Gandalf (again, they at first take him to be Saruman), whom they believed had perished in the mines of Moria. He tells them of his fall into the abyss, his battle to the death with the Balrog and his resurrection and his enhanced power. Gandalf tells them
that Merry and Pippin are safe, and then summarizes the situation. Their allies, Rohan and Gondor, lie in between Mordor and Isengard and that the treachery of Saruman diverts Rohan's forces from Minas Tirith.

The four then ride to Rohan's capital, Edoras, where Gandalf rouses King Théoden from bewitchment and inaction against the threat Saruman poses. In the process, Saruman's spy in Rohan (and King Théoden's trusted advisor) Gríma Wormtongue, is expelled from Rohan. Éomer, imprisoned by Wormtongue, is released and named heir to the king because Théoden's son Théodred was slain in battle. Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas then travel with Théoden's troops towards the fords of Isen, but they meet those who had retreated from the fords as they battled the Uruk-hai. Gandalf then tells them to ride to the fortress of the Hornburg, in the valley of Helm's Deep. Gandalf rides away before the battle begins, though he gives no reason for doing so.

At the Hornburg, the army of Rohan led by King Théoden and Aragorn resist a full-scale onslaught by the hosts of Saruman. They are able to weather several assaults until things begin to go ill with Rohan. The wall of the Hornburg is taken, driving Éomer and Gimli into the Glittering Caves and Aragorn and Théoden into the citadel. Théoden and Aragorn then marshal enough riders to ride out in a blaze of glory, but then Gandalf arrives with Erkenbrand and the remains of the army of Westfold that Saruman's forces had previously routed. The tide now turns in Rohan's favour, and Saruman's orcs flee into a forest of Huorns, creatures similar to Ents, and none escape alive. Háma, captain of the king's guard
had died during the attack. Gandalf, Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas, along with King Théoden, Éomer, and the men from Rohan, head to Saruman's stronghold of Isengard.

When they come to the Isen River, they find that the river is dry and that steams are coming up from the Wizard's Vale. When they reach Isengard, they discover that it is completely flooded and the central tower of Orthanc besieged by the Ents, with Saruman and Wormtongue trapped inside. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli reunite with Merry and Pippin and catch each other up on their various fortunes and what happened in Isengard. The hobbits tell the tale of how the Ents nearly caught Saruman after the Uruk-hai marched out to Rohan. The Huorns followed the Uruk-hai, but the Ents attacked Isengard, only to be foiled by the magic of Orthanc and the fire of Saruman's machinery. The Ents then flooded Isengard by damming and diverting the Isen.

Gandalf and the entire company then go to Orthanc. Théoden rejects Saruman's offer of peace despite the wizard's cunning words. Gandalf then offers Saruman a chance to repent, but Saruman is too proud and refuses. So Gandalf casts Saruman out of the Order of Wizards and the White Council and breaks his staff. Gríma throws something from a window at Gandalf but misses, and it is picked up by Pippin. Gandalf quickly takes it from Pippin. This object turns out to be one of the *palantíri* (seeing-stones). Pippin, unable to resist the urge, looks into it and encounters the Eye of Sauron, but emerges unscathed from the ordeal. Gandalf then realizes at last the link between Isengard and Mordor and how
Saruman fell at last into evil. By looking into the palantír, Saruman became ensnared by the Dark Lord and made to do Sauron's bidding. Gandalf then gives the palantír to Aragorn.

Believing Saruman to have captured the Ringbearer, Sauron has sent a Nazgûl to Orthanc. When it passes overhead, Gandalf realizes that the Nazgûl's crossing of the River means that war is imminent. Gandalf takes Pippin then heads for Minas Tirith in Gondor in preparation for the war against Mordor, while Théoden, Merry, Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas remain behind to begin the muster of Rohan, to ride to the aid of Gondor.

Book IV: The Ring Goes East

Frodo and Sam discover and capture Gollum, who has been stalking them in their quest to reach Mount Doom and destroy the One Ring, as Gollum attempts to reclaim the Ring for himself. Sam loathes and distrusts him, but Frodo pities the poor creature. Gollum promises by the Ring (his "Precious") to lead the pair to the Black Gate of Mordor, and for a time appears to be like his old self Sméagol. He leads them through a hidden passage of the Dead Marshes in order to avoid being spied by Orcs. Frodo and Sam learn that the Dead Marshes were once part of an ancient battlefield, upon which the War of the Last Alliance was fought. They see many dead faces of ancient warriors and orcs staring up at them.

After the marshes, they then cross the desolation and come to the Black Gate. At night, Sam overhears Gollum talking to himself and plotting to get the
Ring back. Unable to do so because of the promise he made to Frodo, he resolves to allow something he refers to only as "She" to take care of his problem. Sam realizes that the Ring masters Gollum more than hunger. Gollum persuades Frodo and Sam not to enter the Black Gate, where they would have been surely caught.

Gollum tells them of a secret entrance to Mordor. Thus, they head south into Gondor's province of Ithilien, where they get to see one of the "oliphants" in a battle between the men of Gondor and the Haradrim. They are then accosted by a group of Gondorian rangers led by Faramir, the brother of Boromir. Frodo learns from Faramir of Boromir's death. Faramir and the Rangers lead Frodo and Sam into a secret hideout where Sam accidentally reveals to Faramir that Frodo carries the One Ring. As a result of this, Frodo reveals the plan to destroy the Ring in the fires of Mount Doom. Unlike his brother Boromir, Faramir resists the temptation of the Ring. Later that night, Gollum is captured diving for fish into the sacred pool. Frodo negotiates Gollum's freedom with Faramir. The following morning Faramir allows them to go on their way, but warns them that Gollum may know more about the secret entrance than he has been telling them.

Gollum then leads the hobbits to the Cross Roads where they see a vandalized statue of a king of Gondor. They then reach the evil city of Minas Morgul, and Frodo watches as the Witch-King leads the Morgul army out and toward Minas Tirith. They then climb up a long, steep staircase of the Cirith Ungol and into a tunnel when Gollum disappears. The tunnel is actually the lair of an enormous spider named Shelob. Gollum hopes to get the Ring from Frodo's bones after Shelob is done with him. The hobbits escape Shelob in her lair using
the light of the Phial of Galadriel and mistakenly assume that they are safe. However, Shelob sneaks up on Frodo. Sam attempts to warn Frodo but is attacked by Gollum. Shelob stings Frodo in the back of the neck and he collapses to the ground. Sam fends off Gollum, who runs off back towards Shelob's cave. Sam then fights Shelob, and eventually drives her off by wounding her with Frodo's blade, Sting and the Phial.

After seeing Frodo lifeless and pale, Sam assumes that Frodo is dead and debates chasing Gollum and abandoning the Quest in favor of vengeance. Sam resolves to finish the Quest himself and takes the Ring, but when Orcs take Frodo's body, Sam follows them, aided by the invisibility of wearing the Ring. He learns that Frodo is not dead, but only unconscious, and is now a prisoner. Sam falls into a swoon as the orcs reach the undergate of the Tower of Cirith Ungol. The book ends with the line, "Frodo was alive but taken by the Enemy."