

## WORKS OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN

**For a list of books in order of publication:** [tolkiensociety.org/author/books-by-tolkien](http://tolkiensociety.org/author/books-by-tolkien)

**Availability for each title is noted:**

JHLS = available in the physical collection of the Jackson/Hinds Library System  
(book or DVD)

Hoopla = free eBooks & eAudios available with your library card & pin #  
(visit [jhlibrary.org/ebooks](http://jhlibrary.org/ebooks) for more info)

### TALES OF MIDDLE-EARTH

1937 **The Hobbit** (JHLS, hoopla eBook & eAudio – dramatized BBC radio series)

[from [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)]

“When J.R.R. Tolkien wrote ‘The Hobbit’, he had already been writing works set in what came to be called Middle-earth for fifteen years,” and when “its success led the publisher to request that the author write a sequel, or at least another book about hobbits...exploring Bilbo’s world, and telling more about hobbits, and delving into the few loose ends left over at the end of Bilbo’s adventure led him to create the companion volume, the work by which he is best known: ‘The Lord of the Rings.’”

1977 Adapted into animated film (The Hobbit – JHLS)

2012-2014 Adapted into 3 motion-picture films:

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (JHLS)

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (JHLS)

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (JHLS)

### 1954-1955 **The Lord of the Rings**

- Began as a sequel to “The Hobbit”, but eventually developed into a much larger work, written in stages between 1937 and 1949.
- Initially intended by Tolkien to be one volume of a two-volume set along with “The Silmarillion,” but this idea was dismissed by his publisher. For economic reasons, The Lord of the Rings was published in three volumes over the course of a year.
- Structurally, the work is divided internally into six books, two per volume, with several appendices of background material at the end.

Adapted into 2 animated films:

1978 The Lord of the Rings (unavailable at JHLS)

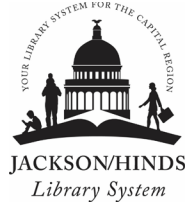
1980 The Return of the King (unavailable at JHLS)

Each volume has also been adapted into a motion-picture film:

2001 The Fellowship of the Ring

(Book - JHLS, hoopla eAudio – dramatized BBC radio series)

(DVD - JHLS)



2002 **The Two Towers**

(Book - JHLS, hoopla eAudio – dramatized BBC radio series)

(DVD - JHLS)

2003 **The Return of the King**

(Book - JHLS, hoopla eAudio – dramatized BBC radio series)

(DVD - JHLS)

Amazon also has a series currently in the works in conjunction with The Tolkien Estate. The series will introduce "previously unexplored stories based on J. R. R. Tolkien's original writings".

1977 **The Silmarillion** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien (JHLS, hoopla eBook)

- Tolkien's own mythological tales, collected together by Christopher Tolkien, of the beginnings of Middle-earth (and the tales of the High Elves and the First Ages) which he worked on & rewrote over more than 50 years.
- Set primarily in the First Age of Middle-earth, "The Silmarillion" contains the legend of the creation of the world and an account of the Elder Days. It is the ancient drama remembered by Elrond and Galadriel in "The Lord of the Rings," and the harrowing origin of the adventure that ends ages later with Frodo and the One Ring.

[from [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)]

"At the time of [J.R.R. Tolkien's] death fifty-six years later it was still unfinished. For nearly twenty years after the publication of 'The Lord of the Rings,' he had continued to work on 'the matter of Middle-earth,' until it...was beyond his declining energies to order. Thus 'The Silmarillion' is at once the precursor of and the sequel to 'The Lord of the Rings.'"

"In the process of expansion [over his lifetime]; 'waves' of revision passing over it had petered out or been overtaken by other waves, leading to frequent lack of coherence, and many parts existed in parallel versions, often divergent at essential turns in the story."

So, Christopher Tolkien organized together the many different pieces and versions to create a coherent story, "working toward a book that would show something of this diversity, this unfinished and many-branched growth."

1980 **Unfinished Tales of Númenor and Middle-earth** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien

(JHLS, hoopla eBook)

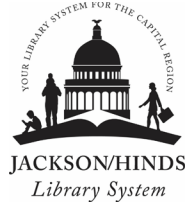
- A Collection of narratives concerned with Númenor and Middle-earth, ranging in time from the Elder Days of Middle-earth to the end of the War of the Ring, and further relates events as told in "The Silmarillion" and "The Lord of the Rings"

[from [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)]

"Many of the pieces in this collection are elaborations of matters told more briefly, or at least referred to, elsewhere."

[from [tolkiensociety.org](http://tolkiensociety.org)]

"More tales from Tolkien's notes and drafts of the First, Second, and Third Ages of Middle-earth giving readers more background on parts of 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Silmarillion.'"



The Great Tales of the Elder Days - Tales from the First Age, before the “Lord of the Rings”

- Some recommend reading “The Silmarillion” first, since these stories are an extension of the ones mentioned in “The Silmarillion”

2007 **The Children of Húrin** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien (JHLS)

Christopher Tolkien’s collation of the various versions his father wrote of the story of Túrin Turambar into one seamless novel.

2017 **Beren and Lúthien** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien (hoopla eBook)

- The epic tale of Beren and Lúthien became an essential element in the evolution of “The Silmarillion,” the myths and legends of J.R.R. Tolkien's First Age of the World.
- Beren was a mortal man, Lúthien an immortal Elf. Her father, a great Elvish lord, imposed on Beren an impossible task before he might wed Lúthien: to rob the greatest of all evil beings, Melkor, of a Silmaril.
- Christopher Tolkien tells the story in his father's own words by giving its original form as well as prose and verse passages from later texts that illustrate the narrative as it changed.

2018 **The Fall of Gondolin** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien (JHLS)

- This was Tolkien’s “first real story of this imaginary world”
- Gondolin, beautiful but undiscoverable, is central to the enmity of two of the greatest powers in the world. Morgoth of the uttermost evil seeks in vain to discover the marvelously hidden city of his Elven enemies, while the gods in Valinor refuse to support Ulmo Lord of Waters' designs to protect it. Into this world comes Tuor, cousin of Túrin, and guided unseen by Ulmo he sets out on the fearful journey to Gondolin to warn them of their coming doom. Then Morgoth learns through an act of supreme treachery all that he needs to mount a devastating attack on the city, with Balrogs and dragons and numberless Orcs.

1983-1996 **The History of Middle-earth** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien

[From [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)]

“Twelve hefty volumes...filled with tales, mostly fragmentary, as well as poems, essays, chronologies, maps and charts, and lists of linguistic roots...all...supplied with extensive notes and commentary” from Christopher Tolkien

Vol. 1-5: The History of Middle-earth (the early history of The Silmarillion & related texts)

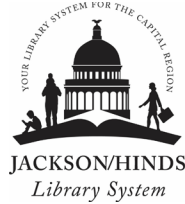
Vol. 6-9: The Lord of the Rings & Númenor

Vol. 10-11: The Later Silmarillion

Vol 12: Discusses the development of the Appendices to The Lord of the Rings & examines assorted writings from the last years of Tolkien's life

Vol. 1: The Book of Lost Tales, Part One (JHLS, hoopla eBook)

Vol. 2: The Book of Lost Tales, Part Two (JHLS, hoopla eBook)



- Vol. 3: The Lays of Beleriand (unavailable at JHLS)
- Vol. 4: The Shaping of Middle-earth (unavailable at JHLS)
- Vol. 5: The Lost Road and other Writings (unavailable at JHLS)
- Vol. 6: The Return of The Shadow (unavailable at JHLS)
- Vol. 8: The War of the Ring (unavailable at JHLS)
- Vol. 9: Sauron Defeated (JHLS)
- Vol. 10: Morgoth's Ring (unavailable at JHLS)
- Vol. 11: The War of the Jewels (JHLS)
- Vol. 12: The Peoples of Middle-earth (unavailable at JHLS)

### OTHER TALES & POETRY

#### **1945 Leaf, by Niggle**

(Tolkien Miscellany "Tree and Leaf" – JHLS, Tales from the Perilous Realm – hoopla eBook, Poems and Stories – unavailable at JHLS)

Often seen as an allegory of Tolkien's own creative process, and, to an extent, of his own life.

#### **1949 Farmer Giles of Ham**

(Tolkien Miscellany – JHLS, Tales from the Perilous Realm – hoopla eBook, Poems and Stories – unavailable at JHLS)

A light-hearted satire for readers of all ages that tells the tale of a reluctant hero who must save his village from a dragon.

#### **1962 The Adventures of Tom Bombadil**

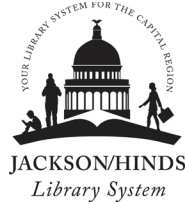
(Tolkien Miscellany – JHLS, Tales from the Perilous Realm – hoopla eBook, A Rare Recording of J.R.R. Tolkien – hoopla eAudio, Poems and Stories – unavailable at JHLS)

A collection of 16 poems, only two of which deal with Tom Bombadil, a character most famous for his encounter with Frodo Baggins in "The Fellowship of the Ring." The rest of the poems are an assortment of bestiary verse and fairy tale rhyme. Three of the poems appear in "The Lord of the Rings" as well.

- Hear "The Hoard" from "The Adventures of Tom Bombadil" read by J.R.R. Tolkien as part of "Voices of Poetry Vol. 1" (hoopla eAudio)
  - Rare recordings from some of the world's most-respected poets reading their own works
  - Tolkien recorded the poem for "Poems and Songs of Middle-earth" in 1967.
- Hear a recording of Tolkien reading from "The Adventures of Tom Bombadil," and a recording of the Swann musical arrangements [see "The Road Goes Ever On" below] in "A Rare Recording of J.R.R. Tolkien" (hoopla eAudio)
  - Recorded and produced as a gramophone record "Poems and Songs of Middle-earth" in 1967

#### **1967 Smith of Wootton Major**

(Tolkien Miscellany – JHLS, Tales from the Perilous Realm – hoopla eBook, Poems and Stories – unavailable at JHLS)



Story of a small English village and its customs, its Smith, and his journeys into the realm of Faery.

1953 **The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth** (Poems and Stories – unavailable at JHLS)

[from [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)]

“The background, and inspiration for Tolkien’s Homecoming is the Old English heroic poem The Battle of Maldon, which describes the events of the historic battle near Maldon in AD 991.”

“The dramatic dialogue between two Anglo-Saxons who (in Tolkien’s fiction) had been sent by the monks of the Abbey of Ely to recover the body of the nobleman Beorhtnoth from the battlefield near Maldon.”

2009 **The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun** – Edited by Christopher Tolkien (hoopla eBook)

Tolkien’s own version of the story of Sigurd and his wife Gudrún, one of the great legends of northern antiquity.

2013 **The Fall of Arthur** – Edited by Christopher Tolkien (hoopla eBook)

A collation of Tolkien’s versions of the tale of the end of the Arthurian cycle wherein Arthur’s realm is destroyed by Mordred’s treachery, featuring commentaries and essays by Christopher Tolkien.

2015 **The Story of Kullervo** – Edited by Verlyn Flieger (unavailable at JHLS)

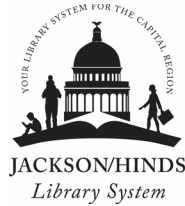
- Kullervo, son of Kalervo, is a luckless orphan boy with supernatural powers and a tragic destiny.
- Tolkien himself said that The Story of Kullervo was "the germ of my attempt to write legends of my own," and was "a major matter in the legends of the First Age."
- Tolkien’s Kullervo is the clear ancestor of Túrin Turambar, tragic incestuous hero of The Silmarillion.
- Includes the author’s drafts, notes, and lecture essays on its source work, the Kalevala.

2016 **The Lay of Aotrou and Itroun** – Edited by Verlyn Flieger (hoopla eBook)

- Originally written in 1930
- “The Lay of Aotrou and Itroun,” together with the two shorter “Corrigan” poems (which lead up to it and are also included in this volume), were the outcome of a period in which Tolkien was deeply engaged with Celtic, and particularly Breton, myth and legend.

2014 **Beowulf** – Edited by Christopher Tolkien (hoopla eBook, Finn and Hengest – JHLS)

- Tolkien completed his translation of “Beowulf” in 1926, but it was never published.
- He gave a series of lectures on the poem at Oxford in the 1930s. His 1936 lecture “The Monsters and the Critics”, later published as an essay, revolutionized the treatment of “Beowulf” by literary critics, and remains highly influential in the study of Old English literature to this day.



- “Beowulf” is one of the most significant influences upon Tolkien's later fiction, with major details of both “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” being adapted from the poem.

1975 **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** - Edited by Christopher Tolkien  
(A Tolkien Miscellany – JHLS)

Tolkien’s translations of these Middle English poems collected together: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (originally published in 1925), Pearl, and Orfeo

### COLLECTIONS

1980 **Poems and Stories** (unavailable at JHLS)

The Adventures of Tom Bombadil, The Homecoming of Beornthoth, Farmer Giles of Ham, Smith of Wootton Major, Leaf by Niggle, On Fairy-stories

1997 **Tales from the Perilous Realm** (hoopla eBook)

Farmer Giles of Ham, Leaf by Niggle, Smith of Wootton Major, Roverandom, The Adventures of Tom Bombadil, On Fairy-stories

2002 **A Tolkien Miscellany** (JHLS)

Smith of Wootton Major, Farmer Giles of Ham, Tree & Leaf: Leaf by Niggle & On Fairy-stories, The Adventures of Tom Bombadil & Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

1967 **The Road Goes Ever On: A Song Cycle** – Music by Donald Swann, Poems by J.R.R.

Tolkien (A Rare Recording of J.R.R. Tolkien – hoopla eAudio)

- Several walking songs that Tolkien wrote for his Middle-earth legendarium.
- Within the stories, the original song was composed by Bilbo Baggins and recorded in “The Hobbit.” Different versions of it also appear in “The Lord of the Rings,” along with some similar walking songs.
- The songs form a song cycle, designed to fit together when played in sequence.

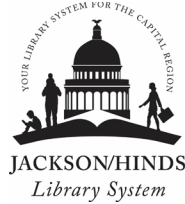
### TALES FOR CHILDREN

[from [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)]

“[These are] books that are most evidently written directly for children. However the author himself believed that these distinctions between “children's books” and “adult works” were often artificially imposed. Many other books by the author can be of interest and enjoyment to younger or older children, notably ‘Farmer Giles of Ham,’ and... ‘The Adventures of Tom Bombadil’”  
[see Other Tales & Poetry above]

1982 **Mr. Bliss** (JHLS)

- Originally written & illustrated in 1937 for the amusement of his own children
- A delightful illustrated story for children of a man’s misadventures



1974 **Bilbo's Last Song** (JHLS)

- Can be considered an epilogue to "The Lord of the Rings"
- The poem written by Bilbo Baggins just before he takes the ship from Middle-earth to the Undying Lands at the end of "The Lord of the Rings"

**The Father Christmas Letters** – Edited by Baillie Tolkien (JHLS, hoopla eBook)

- A collection of letters written by Tolkien to his children from Father Christmas (Santa) every year 1920-1943, in which he described in words and pictures his house, and his friends, and the events, hilarious or alarming, at the North Pole.
- Includes copies of some of "Father Christmas' shaky handwriting, and of the decorations of the letters and the envelopes" and "almost all the pictures that he sent."

1937 **The Hobbit** (JHLS, hoopla eBook & eAudio)

[see Tales of Middle-earth above]

1998 **Roverandom** – Edited by Christina Scull & Wayne Hammond  
(Tales from the Perilous Realm – hoopla eBook)

- Originally told in 1925 & submitted for publication in 1937 after the success of The Hobbit, but not published until 1998

[from [tolkiensociety.org](http://tolkiensociety.org)]

In the 1920s, a toy dog was lost on a seaside holiday. To cheer his son up, Tolkien created a story of the dog's adventures.

NON-FICTION & REFERENCE

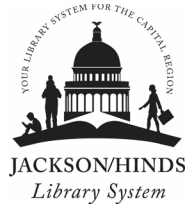
1922 **A Middle English Reader and Vocabulary** – Kenneth Sisam & J.R.R. Tolkien  
(hoopla eBook)

- Scholarly anthology of 14<sup>th</sup> century Middle English literature.
- Excerpts selected by Kenneth Sisam (Tolkien's tutor at Oxford) including such tales as "Sir Gawayne and the Grene Knight" and the "Gest Hystoriale of the destruction of Troy," the immortal "Piers Plowman," John Wycliffe's translation of the Bible, political commentaries, and poetry.
- With an extensive glossary "A Middle English Vocabulary" by J. R. R. Tolkien - Tolkien's first published book (1922), later published with Sisam's "Fourteenth Century Verse & Prose" (1921) together in one volume.

1977 **J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography** – Humphrey Carpenter (JHLS, hoopla eBook)

The Authorized biography





1981 **The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien** – Humphrey Carpenter with Christopher Tolkien  
(JHLS, hoopla eBook)

A collection of letters – to his publishers, to his family, to friends, and to fans of his books – which records the history and composition of his works and his reaction to subsequent events

1982 **Finn and Hengest: The Fragment and the Episode** – Edited by Alan Bliss  
(JHLS, Beowulf – hoopla eBook)

- From his Oxford lectures on the story of Finn and Hengest, two fifth-century heroes in northern Europe. The story is told in two Old English poems, “Beowulf” and “The Fight at Finnesburg.”
- By Tolkien’s wishes, prepared for publication by his student Alan Bliss (from 1946-1948)
- Pieced together entirely in Tolkien’s own words, from three separate sets of lecture-notes, ranging in date from before 1930 to after 1960.

1983 **The Monsters and the Critics & Other Essays: The Essays of J.R.R. Tolkien** – Edited by Christopher Tolkien (unavailable at JHLS)

- Seven “essays” - except one - originally delivered as lectures
- Concerning Beowulf, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (1953), English and Welsh (1959), and a paper on Invented Languages “A Secret Vice” (1931) – includes On Fairy-stories

### 1939 **On Fairy-stories**

(Tolkien Miscellany “Tree and Leaf” – JHLS, Poems and Stories – unavailable at JHLS, [On Fairy-Stories], The Monsters and the Critics & Other Essays – unavailable at JHLS)

- An essay – originally written & delivered as a lecture in 1939 – on Fairy Tales, Language, the Psychology of Fantasy, and Why There’s No Such Thing as Writing “For Children”
- Tolkien viewed fairy stories as those that take place in Faerie, an enchanted realm, with or without fairies as characters.
- He viewed the development of fairy stories as the natural development of the interaction of human imagination and human language.

2016 **A Secret Vice: Tolkien on Invented Languages** – Edited by Dimitra Fimi & Andrew Higgins

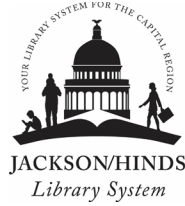
(unavailable at JHLS, The Monsters and the Critics & Other Essays – unavailable at JHLS)

2019 **Tolkien** (unavailable at JHLS)

Biographical film focusing on Tolkien’s early life & war experiences (not authorized by the Tolkien Estate)

## ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS & CALLIGRAPHY





Some of Tolkien's various maps, illustrations & calligraphy are available at [tolkienestate.com](http://tolkienestate.com)

**1979 Pictures by J.R.R. Tolkien** – Edited by Christopher Tolkien (unavailable at JHLS)

- Revised edition – 1992
- Reproductions of 48 paintings and drawings prepared as illustrations for Tolkien's works

**J.R.R. Tolkien: Artist & Illustrator** – Edited by Wayne G. Hammond & Christina Scull (unavailable at JHLS)

Explores Tolkien's art, from his childhood paintings and drawings to his final sketches with 200 reproductions, many in full color.

**The Art of the Lord of the Rings** – Edited by Wayne G. Hammond & Christina Scull (unavailable at JHLS)

Collects drawings, inscriptions, maps, and plans created during Tolkien's development of "The Lord of the Rings," more than half of them not previously published.