

# The JRR Tolkien Discussion Group

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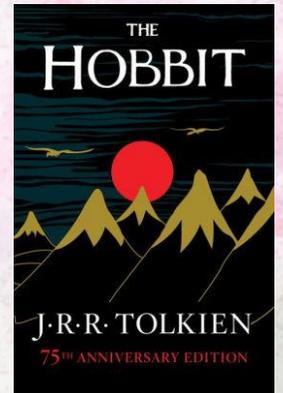
Next meeting: May 18 2-4PM at Grace Lutheran Church, 1107 Main St. West Hamilton

## Last meeting:

We discussed the background behind the composition of *The Hobbit*, why it was written, and its publication history. We also discussed how early Anglo-Saxon Old English epic poems such as *Beowulf* influenced the tone of sadness, sorrow, and lament that is prevalent in his stories.

## Next meeting:

Come join us on May 18 as we continue to read and discuss Tolkien's lighthearted book *The Hobbit*!



## Fun Facts from the World of JRR Tolkien

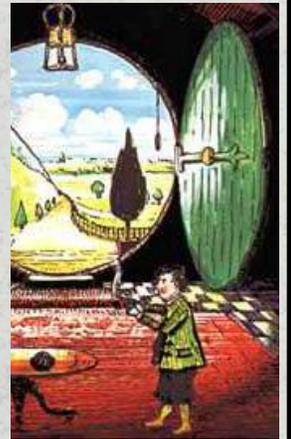
### Nost-na-lothion

The 'Birth of Flowers' festival is celebrated by the Elves annually on May 22, and is a transition from the spring season into summer. It was celebrated by the Elves as a time to appreciate flowers, and the fruit that will come from them later in the year. Also the Pleiades star cluster rises with the sun on this day.



### Bilbo Baggins

In the eyes of his neighbours, he originally seemed just like his father, a solid, sensible, unadventurous and respectable hobbit. But after becoming older, he started to become "strange" and often left his home for many days to meet with strangers, including Dwarves and Elves. He is also very fond of flowers.



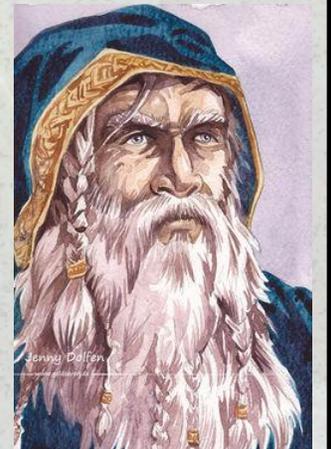
### Gandalf the Grey

One of the wizards, Gandalf appears to most as a bearded old man with grey robes and a pointy hat. He is in fact a timeless being, having been sent as an emissary to kindle hope to all who struggle against the coming darkness. He has the ability to help others see their true potential. He allows others to do great deeds in their own ways.



### Thorin Oakenshield

Thorin is a leader among the dwarves in exile. He met Gandalf and the two of them discussed the Quest to retake the dwarves ancestral home from the dragon Smaug. Gandalf's instinct was that the Quest would only be successful if Bilbo accompanied them. He is considered a 'very important' dwarf!



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