

# The JRR Tolkien Discussion Group

Issue 1-8  
Aug 28 '19

Next meeting: September 7, 2-4PM at Grace Lutheran Church, 1107 Main St. West

## Last meeting:

We have finished reading *The Hobbit* and have set it aside for now. We saw that Bilbo is part of a much bigger tale than he could have possibly imagined. On August 24 we read the introductory material of '*The Lord of the Rings*' and took a close look at Tolkien's responses to critics and how he developed the novel.

## Next meeting:

Join us on September 7 as we discuss the first chapter of '*The Lord of the Rings*': 'A Long-Expected Party' and see how the next tale begins.

THE FELLOWSHIP  
OF THE RING



J.R.R. TOLKIEN  
THE LORD OF THE RINGS  
PART ONE

## 'A Long-Expected Party'

### A new tale begins:

"When Mr. Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventy-first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton."

### A party of special magnificence:

Excitement mounted among the Hobbits, and the party was prepared with tents and lanterns and, of course, culinary arrangements. At last, on 22 September, T.A. (Third Age) 3001, the party began. There were presents, dancing, songs, games, music, three meals, and Gandalf's marvelous fireworks. The festivities were punctuated by a particularly large firework of a dragon as a signal for supper in the pavilion, to which only 144 hobbits were invited.

### Confused Hobbits:

After the supper, Bilbo began his speech. He started out just as Hobbits liked: short, simple, and obvious. But then he turned enigmatic, saying that he had brought them there for Three Purposes, before launching into his comic halving line:

"I don't know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve."

