

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

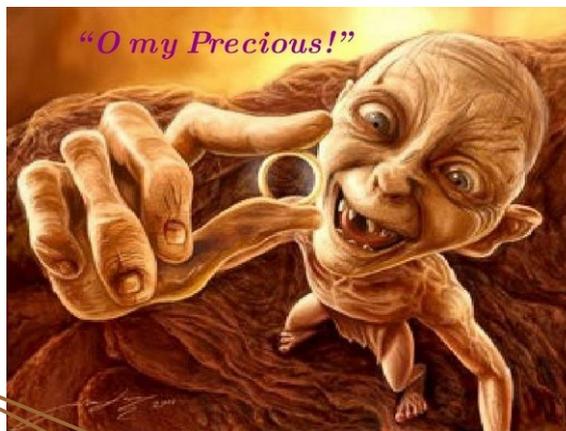
16th January: Evil

People have very different reactions to tales of elves and magic etc. How about you?

When you read the brief summary of Tolkien's experience, in what ways do you think this might have influenced his writing?

Tolkien accepts Augustine's belief that evil has no power to create, only to corrupt. Does that sound right to you? (see *John 1.1-3, Isaiah 45.6*)

Sauron, the evil lord, creates the One Ring to give him power over all the peoples in Middle Earth. When he loses the Ring it falls into the hands of Sméagol, who calls it "My Precious". It becomes clear that Sméagol has been corrupted by the Ring, turning into the creature Gollum (named after the gulping sound he makes). It has been said that "we become servants of whatever we worship". What false gods do you see being worshipped, by you or others, and what corrupting power do they have?



Read *Ephesians 6.10-18*

What part of God's armour means the most to you and why? How might it help guard against the corruption we have been studying?

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien CBE FRSL (1892 - 1973)

Aged 3 His father died of rheumatic fever, so his mother took him to live with her parents near the Malvern Hills.

Aged 4 Mabel taught her two children at home. His favourite lessons were those concerning languages, and his mother taught him the rudiments of Latin very early. The "Fairy Books" of Andrew Lang were particularly important to him.

"The Shadow that bred them can only mock, it cannot make: not real new things of its own. I don't think it gave life to the orcs, it only ruined them and twisted them." - Frodo Baggins

Aged 24 He was sent to the Somme in early July 1916. He contracted trench fever, a disease carried by lice. He was invalided to England. Many of his dearest school friends were killed and his battalion was almost completely wiped out.

Age 33 Professor of Anglo-Saxon and English Literature at Oxford. He

was a close friend of C. S. Lewis, a fellow member of The Inklings.

"One who cannot cast away a treasure at need is in fetters. You did rightly." - Aragorn

If you haven't seen the films there is a plot summary at www.sparknotes.com/film/lordoftherings/summary