

1. The Lord of the Rings

The subject of this lesson is J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, which customers of Amazon.com chose as their favourite book of all time in a survey conducted in 1999. Tolkien died on 2nd September 1973.

Level

Upper Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B2 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about *The Lord of the Rings*. You could ask those students who have read the books and/or seen the films to describe them to the other students. You could perhaps also extend the discussion to the 'fantasy' genre as a whole.
2. Hand out Worksheet A and give the students at least five minutes to read the text and look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to have to fill the gaps with appropriate words. You could perhaps suggest that they guess what the words might be first.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students at least another five minutes to fill the gaps using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that (a) there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and (b) there are 20 words in the box but only sixteen gaps in the text, meaning that four of the words should not be used.
4. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. series 2. creatures 3. tall 4. nevertheless 5. possesses 6. land
7. volcano 8. forces 9. published 10. fiction 11. time 12. detail 13. between
14. corrupting 15. greatest 16. contain

(Words that should not be used: have, therefore, for, people)

5. Keeping the students in their pairs, ask them to move on to the next exercise and work together to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers: 1. fought 2. Hobbit 3. elaborate 4. fiction 5. powerful 6. imagination
7. detailed 8. shorter 9. way 10. impressed 11. corrupt 12. published

If all the answers are correct, *The Two Towers* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A2866980>

An overview of the *Lord of the Rings* books from the BBC's h2g2 encyclopaedia. Appropriate for upper-intermediate level.

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/tolkien/story/0,,615651,00.html>

An article from the *Guardian* (2001) written shortly before the release of the first of Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* films. Challenging for upper-intermediate level.

<http://www.tolkiensociety.org/index.html>

Website of the Tolkien Society. Appropriate for upper-intermediate level.