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utopia and dystopia in tolkien s legendarium explores how tolkien s works speak to many modern people s utopian desires despite the overwhelming dominance of dystopian literature in the twentieth and twenty first centuries it also examines how tolkien s malevolent societies in his legendarium have the unique ability to capture the fears and doubts that many people sense about the trajectory of modern society tolkien s works do this by creating utopian and dystopian longing while also rejecting the stilted conventions of most literary utopias and dystopias utopia and dystopia in tolkien s legendarium traces these utopian and dystopian motifs through a variety of tolkien s works including the hobbit the lord of the rings the silmarillion book of lost tales leaf by niggle and some of his early poetry the book analyzes tolkien s ideal and evil societies from a variety of angles political and literary theory the sources of tolkien s narratives the influence of environmentalism and catholic social doctrine tolkien s theories about and use of myth and finally the relationship between tolkien s politics and his theories of leadership the book s epilogue looks at tolkien s works compared to popular culture adaptations of his legendarium

j r r tolkien s novels of middle earth the hobbit the lord of the rings trilogy and the silmarillian have become some of the most famous and most beloved literary works of the twentieth century and the lord of the rings films by director peter jackson have re ignited

interest in tolkien and his works as well as introduced his stories to a new generation of fans even if you ve never read the novels and have only seen the films you know that the world of middle earth is a complicated one tolkien took great care in representing this world from creating new languages to including very particular cultural details that add to the richness of the world s fabric many other books have been written about tolkien and his works but none have come close to providing the kind of reference needed to comprehend the world of middle earth that s what veteran dummies author and unabashed tolkien fan greg harvey attempts to do in the origins of tolkien s middle earth for dummies as the author says in his introduction to the book this is not an encyclopedia or quick quide to all the diverse beings languages and history that make up tolkien s middle earth nor is it a set of plot outlines for the novels rather what you II find in the origins of tolkien s middle earth for dummies is a basic guide to some of the possible linguistic and mythological origins of middle earth plus a rudimentary analysis of its many themes and lessons for our world this book can help enrich your reading or re reading of tolkien s novels and it will challenge you to think about the themes inherent in tolkien s middle earth and their implications in your own life here s just a sampling of the topics you II find covered in the origins of tolkien s middle earth for dummies exploring the main themes in tolkien s works including immortality and death the heroic quest love fate and free will and faith and redemption investigating the diverse lands of middle earth including the shire gondor and mordor and their significance examining the different cultures of middle earth such as hobbits elves men and those wily wizards touring the history of middle earth understanding tolkien s creation of new languages to enrich the story of middle earth top ten lists on the battles in the war of the ring online resources and the ways the films differ from the novels so whether you re reading tolkien s novels or watching the films for the first time or you ve been a fan for many years and are looking for a new take on tolkien s works the origins of tolkien s middle earth for dummies can help you enhance your reading or viewing experience for years to come

a detailed work of reference and scholarship this one volume encyclopedia includes discussions of all the fundamental issues in tolkien scholarship written by the leading scholars in the field coverage not only presents the most recent scholarship on j r r tolkien but also introduces and explores the author and scholar s life and work within their historical and cultural contexts tolkien s fiction and his sources of influence are examined along with his artistic and academic achievements including his translations of medieval texts teaching posts linguistic works and the languages he created the 550 alphabetically arranged entries fall within the following categories of topics adaptations art and illustrations characters in tolkien s work critical history and scholarship influence of tolkien languages biography literary sources literature creatures and peoples of middle earth objects in tolkien s work places in tolkien s work reception of tolkien medieval scholars scholarship by tolkien medieval literature stylistic elements themes in tolkien s works theological philosophical concepts and philosophers tolkien s contemporary history and culture works of literature

the texts presented in proportion harmonies and identities phi tradition and innovation were compiled with the intent to establish a multidisciplinary platform for the presentation interaction and dissemination of researches they also aim to foster the awareness and discussion on the topic of tradition and innovation focusing on different visions relevant to architecture arts and humanities design and social sciences and its importance and benefits for the sense of identity both individual and communal the idea of tradition and innovation has been a significant motor for development since the western early modern age its theoretical and practical foundations have become the working tools of scientists philosophers and artists who seek strategies and policies to accelerate the development process in different contexts

when the lord of the rings was published in the 1950 s it did not sit comfortably among any preconceived notions of literary genre the

critical responses reflected the confusion for some it was an unwelcome reappearance of narrative standards that modernism was supposed to have done away with or just a bad novel others considered it a refreshing work in the epic and romance traditions ironically much of the critical prejudice regarding the question of genre in the lord of the rings has been motivated by the same kind of blindness that tolkien denounced in his famous 1936 lecture beowulf the monsters and the critics like beowulf tolkien s work has also failed to be properly appreciated and assessed due to a general refusal to accept the centrality of monsters because despite its monstrous originality and fantastic setting it is very clearly and not only chronologically at the centre of twentieth century literature the lord of the rings and the western narrative tradition is an attempt to account for the particular genre interaction that governs tolkien s tale and put it in a meaningful relationship with the contemporary literary context at the same time it is a quest to track down one of the most famous and elusive literary monsters of the past century by filling out a long neglected white space on the map of comparative literature and genre criticism

epic romances fearsome dragons and alien worlds lie between the pages of this volume containing more than 35 stories from the early masters of fantasy literature the narratives here transport the reader to alternate worlds where magic abounds cosmic terrors lie around the corner and intrepid heroes fight for justice drawing inspiration from norse japanese and chinese mythology as well as from traditional fairytales and modern fears the authors collected here span the breadth of the genre including tales from william morris h g wells robert e howard and h p lovecraft amongst others they demonstrate the plethora of imaginative literature that was written in the late 19th and early 20th centuries many of these tales were foundational works bringing ideas of the supernatural into the mainstream and through their efforts creating entirely new genres before tolkien there were many writers embracing the realm of fantastic fiction

the man responsible for its origin was george macdonald 1824 1905 a calvinist minister and celtic scholar who wrote the first true fantasy novel he was followed by a number of imaginative successors at the end of the 19th century including h g wells arthur machen and ernest bramah after the end of world war i the pulp magazines opened up the genre to a new generation of writers particularly h p lovecraft and robert e howard who provided exciting magical and horrifying tales that fascinated a multitude of readers by the outbreak of world war ii the outlines of the fantasy genre had been sketched out by these pioneers and an entirely new type of fiction had been created this collection includes stories by robert e howard h p lovecraft g g pendarves h g wells william morris lafcadio hearn abraham merritt arthur machen ernest bramah robert w chambers george macdonald

the encyclopedia offers comprehensive and international coverage of children's literature from a number of perspectives theory and critical approaches types and genres context applications and individual country essays

analyzes tolkien s works in relation to major literary movements from ancient times to the present day

available for the first time in one volume this is the definitive collection of tolkien s five acclaimed modern classic fairie tales in the vein of the hobbit fully corrected and reset for this edition

includes chapters on I frank baum and ursula le guin with material on washington irving edgar allan poe herman melville nathaniel hawthorne edgar rice burroughs james branch cabell h p lovecraft ray bradbury edward eager and james thurber among others

on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the new kalevala thirty experts on comparative epic research from 12 countries met in

turku finland in august 1999 to debate the role of the finnish national epic and its scientific significance as material for comparison they used textualised epics from europe and epic traditions some of them still preserved in oral form from america africa central and southern asia a special look was taken at the baltic finnish and baltic epics the kalevala the kalevipoeg the setu peko and the lativan lacplesis which all share certain ideological strands the cooperation between fieldworkers documenting living oral epics and textual analysts utilizing old texts and archive sources sets the tone of the articles of this volume which brings the singer of epics and his her cultural world closer to the modern editors and publishers of epics the paradox of oral performance in writing is brought one step nearer to its optimal solution

join the journey through middle earth in the study guide of these two epic fantasies suggestive of life in medieval days a classical battle between good and evil and the quest for a magical ring this guide covers all four volumes of this unforgettable fantasy

apocalyptic themes have formed a significant part of the jewish and christian religions this is becoming more widely recognized but it is the pervasiveness of such themes in art literature and history which contributes most to this collection of essays moving from the study of biblical apocalyptic to its role in wider culture the interest in apocalypticism which was prompted by the turn of the millennium should not be a temporary phase in intellectual life since as these essays indicate the wide influence of apocalypticism deserves a central place in theological and historical study

in this volume of their ground breaking research lewis and currie explore the earliest writings that formed a part of tolkien s invented mythology to look for the origins and the sources the authors of the highly acclaimed uncarted realms of tolkien venture out like

victorian explorers seeking the source of a mighty river their journey is no less spectacular for in the cauldron of a world war the youthful tolkien found is imagination turning to thoughts of earendil the mariner and to gondolin and elvish city doomed to destruction we find the sources of tolkien s invented mythology are as wide ranging as any river that victorian explorers sought after with tenacious research techniques rigorous and painstaking investigation lewis and currie in this book overturn a number of long held opinions which were founded on little more than hearsay by the use of rarely seen medieval texts some of which are translated for the first time in the modern era and the use of greek philogy lewis and currie have uncovered a fascinating web of connections find out where gondolin is drawn from and where else the same sources were utilised in the lord of the rings read about the fascinating origins of the hero sailor who would become earendil and discover the truly amazing background to the witch king the lord of nazgul from the lord of the rings from cover

examines the relationship of tolkien s middle earth mythology to the legends and myths of many cultures

c s lewis and j r r tolkien are two of the most interesting and entertaining writers of fantasy in the twentieth century certainly they are two of the most popular and in their own domain they have been considered among the very best of popular practitioners the literary and artistic merits of their work are in themselves enough to justify an extended discussion of their work but they have another interest for the student of intellectual and cultural history they present striking examples of the moral dilemma with which all conscientious intellectuals must deal not out of society but unhappy in it they are among many who have attempted a mode of escape and criticism of modern society they have been among the most sensitive registers of the moral crisis in modern capitalist society

petty explores why j r r tolkien s works continue to resonate with new generations of readers as she reveals the underlying themes of his timeless classics illustrations

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