

Mythology in Tolkien's Works

Week 1

19:30, Weds 14 Oct, Timeout

The works of JRR Tolkien are renowned for their almost mythological quality. Tolkien's legendarium is still perhaps one of the best-known and influential pieces of world-building in fiction. He was also profoundly influenced by themes found in Northern European myth, from Finnish epic to the Old English works that formed the backbone of his academic career. Join the Cambridge Tolkien Society as we discuss mythology as both a theme and an inspiration for the works of the Professor.

Tolkien and Hope

Week 2

19:30, Weds 21 Oct, Timeout

In troubling times such as these, hope is something that can seem in short supply. However, hope is a fundamental theme in Tolkien's works. His characters strive against insurmountable odds, and overcoming hopelessness is an important part of the character of Tolkien's heroes. Join the Cambridge Tolkien Society as we consider how Tolkien treats the idea of hope in his works, and the role of his deep faith in informing this.

Concerning Dwarves

Week 3

19:30, Weds 28 Oct, Timeout

The dwarf is a common theme of many modern fantasy works, and many seem to owe a significant debt to the dwarves (or perhaps 'dwarrow') of JRR Tolkien's Legendarium. What did Tolkien tell us about the race of dwarves in Middle Earth? What was his inspiration for them? And how have they affected subsequent depictions of dwarves in later fantasy works? Join the Cambridge Tolkien Society as we dive into dungeons deep and caverns old.

Tolkien beyond Middle Earth

Week 4

19:30, Weds 4 Nov, Timeout

Though the Legendarium was Tolkien's life's work, and he never stopped adding to and changing it, there are many of Tolkien's works which are not set in Arda. Tolkien wrote allegorical short stories about creating literature, revolutionised the academic study of the poem Beowulf and charming children's tales about dogs being enchanted by wizards. Join the Cambridge Tolkien Society as we explore all things non-Middle Earth in Tolkien's prolific career as a writer and academic.

Games Night

Week 5

19:30, Weds 11 Nov, Timeout

To combat the first Week 5 Blues of the new academic year, Games Night returns! Consequences, (pictorial or otherwise), Werewolf and Contact make a return, with plenty of hilarity in tow. Also we need to start practicing for the Quiz so we can beat The Other Place.

Poetry and Story-telling

Week 6

19:30, Weds 18 Nov, Timeout

The traditional evening dedicated to reading and singing bits of Tolkien's work. This is a chance for us all to relive some of our favourite parts of the Tolkien canon, and the surrounding fandom. Come to participate, or just to listen.

Eagle Debate – Best-Dressed Character

Week 7

19:30, Weds 25 Nov, Timeout

Who had the snazziest threads in all the works of JRR Tolkien? Was it Saruman, whose love of many bright (and presumably clashing) colours began his downfall into evil? Or one of the many elves, who presumably always look a bit like film stars? Or was it Turin Turambar, doomed antihero, who accessorised with a dragon helmet and a talking sword? Canonicity not required; creativity encouraged.

Group Reading

Week 8

19:30, Weds 2 December, Timeout

On a different topic to storytelling and poetry, this is a time for CTS members who may not have an all-encompassing knowledge of the Tolkien corpus to experience one of the shorter stories, probably Leaf by Niggle or The Father Christmas Letters.

