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| **Applicable in:** | English, History, Geography, Ethics and Religious Cultures, Media |
| **Age groups:** | ADVANCED Secondary 4, Secondary 5 |

**The Lord of the Rings**

Description

“The Lord of the Rings” is not only directly paralleled to World War I and II, making it an ideal novel to link to a history course, but also boasts a carefully detailed world map of Middle-Earth. As mentioned in the document for “The Lions of Al-Rassan” (refer to the [Core Teachers](http://themagicinteaching.weebly.com/core-teachers.html) sub-page on the [website](http://themagicinteaching.weebly.com/index.html)), Tolkien’s novels could be used to practice geographical locations with a map project, or to distinguish parallels and connections between the history of Middle-Earth and the history of our world.

Moreover, the trilogy is known to have one of the most complex, beautiful writing styles in the genre of Fantasy. Using detailed description (both in regards to scenery and character), as well as multiple dialects and even a few languages that Tolkien fabricated himself (for example: Elvish, and the language of Morder), “The Lord of the Rings” is the ideal tool to help a student realize just how far their potential as writers can go. Furthermore, due to its fantastical nature, it does not make the students feel limited to “realistic” writing, but provides them with proof that they can push boundaries, and create new worlds through words.

In regards to religion, Tolkien’s novels have an extensive Christian undertone which can be explored and brought out by the students. This can be seen in a positive or negative light, with an impressive quantity of textual proof for both sides.

Finally, “The Lord of the Rings” is unique in the sense that it has been put into cinematic form, and the movies are just as well known (if not more renowned) than the books. The movies give students the opportunity to compare their maps to the world created on screen, get to know the characters even more fully, and be able to critique the media interpretation of the novels.