



The Author of “The Lord of the Rings”

Adapted from BBC News



JRR Tolkien is the famous author who wrote The Lord of the Rings trilogy (魔戒三部曲) which the blockbuster(轟動的) movies are based on. He was born on 3 January 1892 in South Africa. When he was three, he and his mom moved to England. But he had quite a sad childhood because his parents died when he was very young.

Tolkien grew up and joined the army(軍隊) when the First World War(第一次世界大戰) started in 1914, but he left the army because his best friend died in the war and he himself was hurt and very sick. He got a job as lecturer(講師) in English Language at the University(大學) of Leeds then professor(教授) of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford University.

In 1916, Tolkien started to imagine the worlds which would be the settings(背景) for his classic fantasy tales (古典奇幻故事). When he was a professor at Oxford, he became really good mates with the author CS Lewis. Tolkien showed him and some other friends his rough drafts (草稿) of Lord of the Rings trilogy. They helped him think of the complicated(複雜的) work, which took 17 years to finish!

The Lord of the Rings is made up of three books:

- The Fellowship of the Ring (魔戒現身)
- The Two Towers (雙城奇謀)
- The Return of the King (王者再臨)

The first two Lord of the Rings books were published(出版) in 1954 and The Return of the Ring came out in 1955. The Lord of the Rings has sold some 100 million copies worldwide since then.

Tolkien died in 1973, but his name lives through the millions who read his books worldwide.

1. How long had the books been written?
(A) Fifty-five years. (B) Three years. (C) Seventeen years. (D) Fourteen years.
2. About Tolkien’s jobs, which is **NOT** mentioned above?
(A) A movie actor. (B) A writer. (C) A teacher. (D) A soldier(士兵).
3. What is the idea of the books from?
(A) An old movie. (B) Tolkien’s imagination(想像).
(C) A history of England. (D) A story from the First World War.
4. How many copies has the book been sold?
(A) One hundred. (B) About one hundred million. (C) Thousands of million. (D) One billion.
5. Which is **TRUE**?
(A) Tolkien made up the story by himself.
(B) Tolkien was born in England.
(C) Tolkien started the story in his army.
(D) The Fellowship of the Ring and The Two Towers were published in the same year.

Ans: C A B B D