One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.

BB

Since The Hobbit was first published in 1937, and The Lord of the Rings in 1954-55, readers have fallen in love with Middle-earth and its inhabitants: Hobbits, Elves, Dwarves, Ents, Orcs, Trolls, Wizards, Wargs, and Men. No other writer of Tolkien's century created an imaginary world as distinct as Middle-earth, complete with its own geography, history, languages, and legends.

"I have, I suppose, constructed an imaginary time, but kept my feet on my own mother-earth for place. I prefer that to the contemporary mode of seeking remote globes in 'space.'"

> — J.R.R. Tolkien, in a letter to Rhona Beare, October 14, 1958, from The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, edited by Humphrey Carpenter and Christopher Tolkien



Map from *The Lord Of The Rings*, 50th Anniversary Edition by J.R.R. Tolkien (Boston: HMH, 2004)



