**Lord of the Rings**, the most popular book of the last century according to various polls, was written by [J.R.R. Tolkien](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.R.R._Tolkien), Jack’s close friend. Two years after his conversion, Jack formed “The Inklings,” a group of writers, including Tolkien, who met every week at the Eagle and Child (an Oxford pub) or at The Trout Inn. Sharing a pint and their writing, Jack and his friends looked forward to their time at the "Bird and Baby ", as their favorite pub was affectionately known. (Today, a plaque at the pub commemorates their famous meetings."

Tolkien was making progress on *Lord of the Rings*, his masterpiece. This link is not to be missed!) Jack continued to encourage Tolkien in his ambitious project. Having read George MacDonald’s *Phantastes* (which “baptized my imagination”) when he was eighteen, Jack loved the imaginary world of the allegorical writer.

As Tolkien’s fantastic work ([here](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fantastic-Illustrations-Lord-of-the-Rings), again, illustrated by Alan Lee) took shape, Jack listened to the ideas of his close friend.

Later, Tolkien credited Jack with helping him maintain enthusiasm for his monumental project.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: [http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LORD-OF-THE-RINGS-Shadowlands](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LORD-OF-THE-RINGS-Shadowlands)


**Fantastic Illustrations - Lord of the Rings**

Image, copyright Alan Lee, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for education purposes and to acquaint new readers with Lee’s work on *Lord of the Rings*.

Illustration by Alan Lee
Image, copyright Alan Lee, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for education purposes and to acquaint new readers with Lee's work on Lord of the Rings.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Illustration-by-Alan-Lee

Drawing by Alan Lee
Image, copyright Alan Lee, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for education purposes and to acquaint new readers with Lee's work on Lord of the Rings.
C.S. Lewis Explains His Vision of Narnia
Clip from Shadowlands, copyright Price Entertainment, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the film.

Directed by:
Richard Attenborough

Produced by:
Richard Attenborough and Brian Eastman

Written by:
William Nicholson

Starring:
Anthony Hopkins
Debra Winger
Edward Hardwicke

Music by:
George Fenton

Cinematography by:
Roger Pratt

Editing by:
Lesley Walker

Studio:
Price Entertainment

Distributed by:
Savoy Pictures (US)
Paramount Pictures (UK)

Release date:
25 December 1993

Run time:
131 minutes

Country of origin:
United Kingdom

View this asset at:

Interview with JRR Tolkien
Clip of Tolkien interview - from BBC 4's "Now Read On," online courtesy BBC. Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Interview-with-JRR-Tolkien

Tolkien Describes His Inspiration for Lord of the Rings
Clip from BBC's Newsnight - online, courtesy BBC Worldwide Channel at YouTube.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tolkien-Describes-His-Inspiration-for-Lord-of-the-Rings