

# Tolkien Reading Day 2024



THE  
TOLKIEN  
SOCIETY

## Echoes of Middle-earth

**Subject Areas:** Art

**Skills:** Creative Expression, Visual Interpretation, Artistic Technique, Critical Thinking

### Learning Objectives

- Participants will explore themes of service and sacrifice in Tolkien's stories through artistic expression.
- Participants will create original artworks inspired by characters or events from Tolkien's works.
- Participants will reflect on the significance of service and sacrifice in Middle-earth through their artwork.

### Materials

- Art supplies (e.g., drawing paper, canvas, paints, coloured pencils, markers, brushes)
- Reference images from Tolkien's stories (optional)
- Visual aids (images related to Middle-earth or scenes depicting service and sacrifice)
- Writing materials (notebooks, pens, or digital devices) for reflection

### Lesson Activities

#### 1. Review and Preparation:

- Define service as the act of helping or doing work for someone else, often at personal cost, and sacrifice as the act of giving up something valuable for the sake of others. Discuss how these themes are prevalent throughout Tolkien's works and contribute to the depth of his storytelling.
- Begin the art activity by discussing the themes of service and sacrifice in Tolkien's stories. Explain how these themes are central to the characters and events within Middle-earth and how they resonate with readers and viewers.
- Show visual aids or reference images related to Middle-earth to inspire participants and provide context for their artwork.

#### 2. Brainstorming and Concept Development:

- Encourage participants to brainstorm ideas for their artworks based on characters or events from Tolkien's stories that embody the themes of service and sacrifice.
- Provide time for participants to sketch or outline their concepts, considering composition, symbolism, and the message they want to convey through their artwork.

### 3. Art Creation:

- Distribute art supplies and allow participants to begin creating their artworks based on their chosen concepts.
- Provide guidance and support as needed, offering tips on artistic techniques and composition.
- Encourage participants to experiment with different mediums and styles to best express their ideas.

### 4. Reflection and Discussion:

- Once participants have completed their artworks, facilitate a group discussion where they can share their pieces and discuss the themes of service and sacrifice depicted in their work.
- Encourage participants to reflect on the artistic choices they made and how they represent the themes of service and sacrifice in their artwork.
- Prompt discussion questions such as:
  - How did you incorporate themes of service and sacrifice into your artwork?
  - What elements or symbols did you include to convey these themes?
  - How do your artistic choices reflect the characters or events from Tolkien's stories?
  - What emotions or messages do you hope viewers will take away from your artwork?

### Gallery Walk and Feedback:

- Arrange the completed artworks around the room for a gallery walk. Allow participants to view each other's artwork and provide feedback and compliments.
- Encourage participants to discuss what they admire about each other's pieces and how they interpret the themes of service and sacrifice in different ways.
- Provide time for participants to individually reflect on their own artwork and the creative process. Ask them to write down their thoughts and feelings about their artwork, including what they learned from the experience and how it deepened their understanding of the themes explored.
- During the gallery walk, participants can view each other's artworks and provide constructive feedback on how effectively the themes were depicted, the use of artistic techniques, and the overall impact of the pieces.
- Encourage participants to consider how they can continue exploring themes of service and sacrifice in their future artistic endeavors.

### Conclusion

- Wrap up the art activity by summarising the key points discussed and thanking participants for their creativity and participation.
- Encourage participants to continue exploring Tolkien's stories and themes of service and sacrifice in their own artistic practice.