

pointless reasons. In The Two Towers, the Ents destroyed the home of and captured the man who had been allowing the destruction of the forest where they lived and cared for the trees. The “*Hrum, Hroom*” in Treebeard’s, an Ent, speech came from C.S. Lewis’s voice, with whom Tolkien was good friends. The character of Tom Bombadil in The Fellowship of the Ring came from a doll that belonged to Tolkien’s son Michael. Tom Bombadil also came from stories Tolkien made up for his children. The name of “Gamgee” came from a family trip to Lamorna Cove in Cornwall, where Tolkien named one of the locals Gaffer Gamgee, to the amusement of his children. According to Carpenter, “The choice of was primarily directed by alliteration; but I did not invent it. It was in fact the name when I was small (in Birmingham) for cotton-wool” (160). The hobbits themselves possess many characteristics from Tolkien’s life and habits.

Tolkien himself was well aware of the similarity between creator and creation.

“I am in fact a hobbit,” he once wrote, “in all but size. I like gardens, trees, and unmechanized farmlands; I smoke a pipe, and like good plain food...and even dare to wear...ornamental waistcoats. I am fond of mushrooms...have a simple sense of humor...I go to bed late ...I do not travel.” (Carpenter 176)

Another familiar character is that of the wizard Gandalf. He is said to have come from a German postcard that pictured “...a bearded man in a broad-brimmed hat...” (Rogers 65). This graphic figure came to be the wizard Gandalf.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien died at the age of eight-one on September 2, 1973. During his life, he wrote many books and essays. His series The Lord of the Rings inspired many people and was the cause of a “hobbit craze.” The Lord of the Rings (1949) was not the only book he wrote about Middle-Earth. He also wrote The Hobbit (1937), The Silmarillion (1975), edited by Christopher Tolkien), Unfinished Tales of Númenor and Middle-Earth (1980, edited by Christopher Tolkien), and The History of Middle-Earth (the material for this was collected and edited by Christopher Tolkien after his father’s death). Tolkien was a prolific writer that loved languages and loved to tell a good tale.