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Essay Research

*The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

The Fellowship of the Ring is one of the greatest literary classics of all time. It has inspired so much not just in the literature world but also in movies, games, and storytelling in general. This is my first time really reading this book. What I mean by that is I tried to read this in third grade but was unsuccessful because it's the Lord of the Rings and I was in third grade. I've seen the movies and love them so I didn't feel the need to read the books because the films are universally praised as the greatest film adaptations of a book ever.

I'm not gonna lie, this book was challenging to read. The language is so weird and different and it is a really slow burn; with that said I think that the book is a masterpiece. Now something being a slow burn is not a bad thing in the slightest, it just means it takes more time to build up. This book really battled my ADD brain a lot with the pacing though. The pacing is my one real complaint with the book because at times it feels like it's just meandering around and isn't moving the story forward. I don't think drawing a comparison to the movie for pacing is usually fair because movies move at a faster pace but this time I think it's fair. In the movie our Hobbits, Frodo and Sam, leave the Shire and meet up with Merry and Pippin and make it to Bree

in the first 30 minutes of the movie, but in the book it takes half of the book to get there. All of the time we spend wandering along the road is well-written but very repetitive and often boring.

Now the positives far outweigh the negatives for me. This is such an incredible story and created the format that most large ensemble stories use today. The way Tolkien uses these characters is something truly great. Each character is so different from one another and they all have different tasks and destinies but they all come together to help Frodo destroy the ring. Some characters are more important than others but each of them has a distinct purpose and they all affect the larger story as a whole. No character is unnecessary, which is one of my biggest pet peeves in storytelling. If a character doesn't need to be there and doesn't affect the story then they shouldn't be there. Tolkien doesn't have this problem because all of the characters he has created fit into the story and are all engaging in different ways.

The world-building is another one of my favorite things about this book. Tolkien creates such a beautiful and creative world that you want to spend time in and explore with these characters. It feels similar to our world but feels different in the fantastical sense. This is how you create an engaging world that audiences will love. You have it similar to our world, so it will remind them of their own world, and then show them something new and far-fetched in that world that would never happen in real life to spark their imagination. The way Tolkien describes the different locations is very beautiful. Each setting is different and takes each chapter in a direction.

The Fellowship of the Ring is such an endearing story. Tolkien started a phenomenal trilogy with this book and even though it is hard to read created one of the greatest stories ever written. I wouldn't say I enjoyed reading this book because there were several points where it felt more like work while reading it but the story and characters are so well crafted it is hard to critique it. The book as a whole I would give a 10 out of 10 but with my enjoyment and it being so hard to read I would give it a 7 out of 10. I read this like I read Ancient Greek poems, amazing story and themes but not enjoyable to read. Hopefully the next 2 books in the trilogy are more fun and enjoyable to read with all of the setup out of the way.