

魔戒前传·霍比特人

世界名著学习馆
哈佛双语导读本

The Hobbit

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原著 [英] J.R.R. Tolkien
导读 Patrick Gardner
Brian Phillips
主译 张滨江

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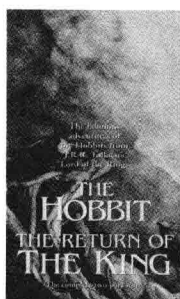
致 读 者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

名著是经典传承的历史明珠,尽管岁月变迁,经典名著总是在各个时代给我们启迪和指引。哈佛双语名著导读丛书正是风行全美的经典名著导读笔记,是由哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通,编写而成的名著导读本,可谓“名著名导”。该系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,突出“导读”特色,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括著作的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关思考题及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解,更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握经典名著的精华和内涵,同时也可对英语语言和文化做进一步的了解和研究。本丛书精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,帮你在有限的闲暇时间内享受文学,提高文学修养,同时在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平,增强语言能力。

CONTEXT



1993 年英文版

《魔戒前传：
霍比特人》

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born on January 3, 1892, in Bloemfontain, South Africa. His parents had moved there from England so that his father, Arthur, could work for the bank of Africa. Tolkien lost both parents early in life—his father died in Africa in 1896 after the rest of the family had returned to England, and his mother, Mabel, died in 1904 near Birmingham, England. After Mabel's death, Tolkien and his younger brother, Hilary, came under the care of Father Francis Morgan, a friend of the family's. Soon after, Tolkien went to King Edward's School and then to Oxford.

At Oxford, Tolkien pursued a degree in English language and literature. He developed a particular passion for philology, the study of languages. While studying Old English, Anglo - Saxon, and Welsh poetry, he continued experimenting with a language of his own, which he had started to do in his youth. This language would form the groundwork for his imagined world known as Middle-Earth.



约翰·罗纳德·

瑞尔·托尔金

(John Ronald
Reuel Tolkien)

在牛津大学担任教授,是一名古英语专家,具有出类拔萃的语言天赋。他一生中最大的成就是创造了“中土世界”,并为之创造出了多种语言,其中精灵种族的“辛达语”和“昆雅语”甚至可以被实际应用。他一手缔造的奇幻世界几十年来令读者沉溺其中,流连忘返。

作品·溯源

约

约翰·罗纳德·鲁埃尔·托尔金于1892年1月3日出生在南非的布隆方丹市。他的父母为了让他的父亲亚瑟能在非洲银行工作从英国搬到了那里。托尔金很小的时候就失去了双亲——他的父亲于1896年在家里其他人都返回英国后在南非去世了,而他的母亲梅布尔也于1904年在英国伯明翰附近与世长辞。在梅布尔去世后,托尔金和他的弟弟希拉里就被委托给他家的一位好友弗朗西斯·摩根神父来照顾。不久以后,托尔金考入了爱德华国王学校,后来又进入牛津大学继续深造。

在牛津大学,托尔金攻读英语语言和文学学位,他逐渐对哲学和语言研究表现出特殊的热情。他一边学习古英语、盎格鲁-撒克逊及威尔士诗歌,一边继续尝试着创造自己独特的语言,这一尝试从他的青年时期就开始了,而这种语言为他的奇幻世界即中土世界打下了基础。

By 1916, Tolkien had received his degree and married his childhood sweetheart, Edith Bratt. He eventually took a teaching position at Oxford. By 1929, he had had his fourth child with Edith. During these years, he also began his great mythology of Middle-Earth, a compendium of stories called *The Silmarillion*. Out of these stories grew *The Hobbit* (1936), his first published work. A simple children's story about a small person who takes part in great adventures, the novel's playful tone and imagery made it a hit with both children and adults. *The Hobbit*'s success also gave Tolkien a huge public that was anxious to learn more about the meticulously* developed world that he had created around his invented language and mythology, only a small part of which was detailed in *The Hobbit*.

The Hobbit's plot and characters combined the ancient heroic Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian epics Tolkien studied with the middle-class rural England in which he lived. In many ways, the novel's charm and humor lie in transplanting a simple, pastoral Englishman of the 1930s into a heroic medieval setting. Tolkien acknowledged that his hero, Bilbo Baggins, was patterned on the rural Englishmen of his own time.

By the time Tolkien began to work on the sequel to *The Hobbit*, he had developed a friendship with another well-known Oxford professor and writer, C.S. Lewis, author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Their friendship lasted for many years. Tolkien helped convert Lewis to Christianity* (although Tolkien, a Roman Catholic, was disappointed that Lewis became a Protestant), and the two critiqued each other's

* meticulously *adv.* 细致地, 一丝不苟地, 拘泥地

* Christianity *n.* 基督教, 基督精神, 基督教教义

托尔金在 1916 年获得学位并且迎娶了孩童时代的意中人依迪斯·布拉特。他最终在牛津大学找到了一份教书的工作。到 1929 年,他和依迪斯已经有了第四个孩子。这些年来,他同时开始创作其伟大的中土神话,一本叫做《精灵宝钻》* 的故事简编。他于 1936 年出版的首部作品《魔戒前传:霍比特人》就是从这些故事中诞生的。它是一本关于一个小矮人参加大冒险的简单儿童故事,但小说风趣的语言和形象的描述使儿童和成人都十分喜欢。《魔戒前传:霍比特人》的成功也给托尔金带来了一大批读者,他们渴望更多地了解他用自创的语言和神话所精心设计的那个世界,而《魔戒前传:霍比特人》中只详细描述了其中的一小部分。

《魔戒前传:霍比特人》的情节和人物把托尔金曾经研究过的盎格鲁-撒克逊和斯堪的纳维亚英雄史诗同他亲身经历过的英国中产阶级乡村生活有机地结合到了一起。从许多方面看,这部小说的魅力和幽默在于它把一个生活在 20 世纪 30 年代过着简单田园生活的英国人放到了充满英雄气概的中世纪背景当中。托尔金承认他的主人公比尔博·巴金斯的原型就是他那个时代的乡村英国人。

到托尔金开始创作《魔戒前传:霍比特人》的续篇时候,他已经和牛津大学的另一位教授及作家,《纳尼亚传奇》* 的作者,C. S.刘易斯成为好友。他们的友谊持续了很多年。托尔金帮助刘易斯皈依了基督教(尽管作为一名天主教徒的托尔金对刘易斯成为新教徒感到失望),

*《精灵宝钻》同样叙述“中土世界”的故事,主要叙述因精灵王芬威(Finwe)的长子费诺(Feanor)所制作的三颗精灵宝钻在中土世界引发了长期战争的悲剧故事。这部书共有 5 部分,讲述了漫长的中土世界各种族的历史,并揭开了《霍比特人》、《魔戒》中各人物的谜团。精灵宝钻是在托尔金逝世后,由其儿子克里斯托夫·托尔金编辑出版的。

*《纳尼亚传奇》著名的儿童魔幻系列文学作品,该系列共有 7 本,是英国作家 C.S.刘易斯(C. S. Lewis)在 1950 年写就的。《纳尼亚传奇》讲述了一个小女孩和她的朋友及家人,偶然通过衣柜进入到了纳尼亚王国,并展开了一连串的冒险和拯救这个王国的故事。

work as part of an informal group of writers known as the Inklings.

From 1945 to 1959, Tolkien continued to teach at Oxford and wrote *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, which served as a follow-up to *The Hobbit*. The trilogy brought Tolkien fame in England and America, but he was never a public figure. He continued work on *The Silmarillion* and other tales and led a quiet life. Despite his public acclaim, he was most comfortable with middle-class surroundings and peace in which to write and think. Tolkien died on September 2, 1973. *The Silmarillion* was edited and published posthumously by his son Christopher in 1977.

而且他们把批评性地评论彼此的作品当做是因克林 * 这个非正式作家俱乐部活动中的一部分。

从 1945 年到 1959 年，托尔金继续在牛津大学任教，并创作了《魔戒》三部曲作为《魔戒前传：霍比特人》的续篇。这三部曲使托尔金在英国和美国名声大震，但他却从来不是一位公众人物。他继续创作他的《精灵宝钻》及其他故事，过着一种平静的生活。尽管周围充满公众的喝彩声，但托尔金还是觉得中产阶级的生活圈子以及能使他创作和思考的平静生活最为舒适。托尔金于 1973 年 9 月 2 日去世，他的《精灵宝钻》一书是其死后由他的儿子克里斯多夫于 1977 年编辑出版。

* 因克林

因克林俱乐部由一位名叫爱德华·坦吉·利恩的大学生创立，成员每周在大学学院聚会一次。目的是让每位成员都可以在聚会上朗诵自己尚未发表的新作。托尔金和刘易斯一直持续进行这个活动。在 1939 年的每周二上午，他们在盖尔斯街一家叫“老鹰和小孩” (The Eagle and Child) 的小酒店里聚会，他们昵称彼此为“鸟与宝宝”。

PLOT OVERVIEW

Bilbo Baggins lives a quiet, peaceful life in his comfortable hole at Bag End. Bilbo lives in a hole because he is a hobbit—one of a race of small, plump people about half the size of humans, with furry toes and a great love of good food and drink. Bilbo is quite content at Bag End, near the bustling hobbit village of Hobbiton, but one day his comfort is shattered by the arrival of the old wizard Gandalf, who persuades Bilbo to set out on an adventure with a group of thirteen militant dwarves*. The dwarves are embarking on a great quest to reclaim their treasure from the marauding dragon Smaug, and Bilbo is to act as their “burglar.” The dwarves are very skeptical about Gandalf’s choice for a burglar, and Bilbo is terrified to leave his comfortable life to seek adventure. But Gandalf assures both Bilbo and the dwarves that there is more to the little hobbit than meets the eye.

Shortly after the group sets out, two hungry trolls capture all of them except for Gandalf. Gandalf tricks the trolls into remaining outside when the sun comes up, and the sunlight turns the nocturnal

* dwarves *n.* 矮人; *v.* 使矮小

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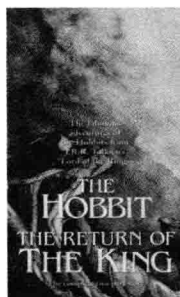
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* meticulously *adv.* 细致地, 一丝不苟地, 拘泥地

* Christianity *n.* 基督教, 基督精神, 基督教教义