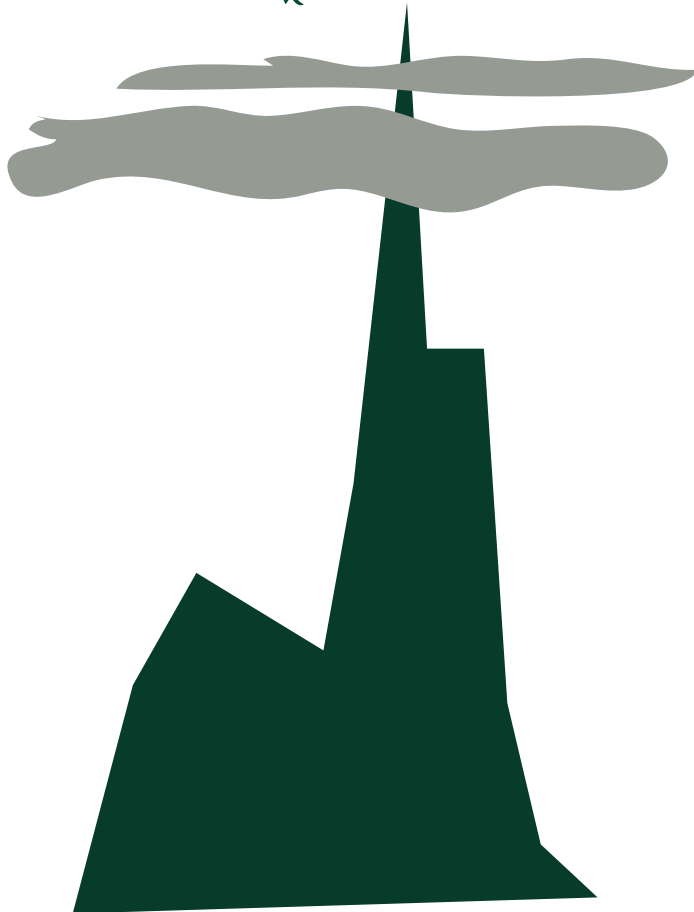


LEARNING GENRES FANTASY

The fantasy genre is a type of fiction. Fantasy stories cannot happen in the real world—they are purely imaginary. Fantasy stories include make-believe animals, magic, monsters and other things that do not exist in our reality. They can take place in the past, present or future, but usually do not take place on Earth (at least not the Earth we are familiar with). Many beloved childhood series such as *Lord of the Rings* are great examples of the fantasy genre. Can you think of any others?



C.S. Lewis: Lewis was a British fantasy writer. He was a contemporary and friend of Tolkien and wrote the *Chronicles of Narnia* series.

"But what does it all mean?" asked Susan when they were somewhat calmer.

"It means," said Aslan, "that though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of Time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and the darkness before Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backwards."

-The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe (1950)



Name some of the words and elements of this quote that tell you it is fantasy.

FANTASY



J.R.R. Tolkein: Tolkein was a British fantasy writer and scholar like his friend C.S. Lewis. He is probably the most famous fantasy writer in the world. He wrote the *Lord of the Rings* series.

“The stars were out in a dark sky above the trees. He thought of the jewels of the dwarves shining in dark caverns. Suddenly in the wood beyond The Water a flame leapt up - probably somebody lighting a wood-fire - and he thought of plundering dragons settling on his quiet Hill and kindling it all to flames. He shuddered; and very quickly he was plain Mr Bag-gins of Bag-End, Under-Hill, again.”

-*The Hobbit* (1937)



What elements of this quote tell you it is fantasy?

H.P. Lovecraft: Lovecraft's books covered many genres. His otherworldly themes were partly inspired by Edgar Allen Poe, and like him, his books greatly advanced all the genres they covered.

“the marble cloud-city of Serannian, that lies in ethereal space beyond where the sea meets the sky... Shining still is the bronze of the great gates, nor are the onyx pavements ever worn or broken...”

- *The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath* (1927)



How do we know that this quote is from a fantasy story?

FANTASY



All fantasy stories have mythical characters that we can't find in real life: trolls, wizards, flying bear-dogs ... you name it! Now it's time to come up with your own character for your fantasy story. Is it an animal? Or is it more like a human with special powers and physical features? Draw a picture of your character in the box to the right, and write a paragraph describing who he/she/it is, what they do and where they live.

