

A Chronological Middle-earth Reading List

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Introduction

This reading list is a guide for those who want to read Tolkien's works in the order in which they took place in Middle-earth, rather than in the order Tolkien originally wrote them. The reading order is NOT recommended for those who have never read any of Tolkien's works before. The reader should have already read *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* at least once before attempting this list.

Books Needed (clicking on a title will open up its page on Amazon.com):

- [*The Silmarillion*](#)
- [*The Histories of Middle-earth, Volumes 1-5*](#)
- [*The Peoples of Middle-earth*](#)
- [*Unfinished Tales*](#)
- [*The Children of Húrin*](#)
- [*The Lord of the Rings*](#)
- [*The End of the Third Age*](#)

Books Recommended (clicking on a title will open up its page on Amazon.com):

- [*The Atlas of Middle-earth*](#) by Karen Wynn Fonstad
- [*The Complete Guide to Middle-earth*](#) by Robert Foster

The Reading List

1. "Ainulindalë" and "Valaquenta" from *The Silmarillion*
2. "Quenta Silmarillion" from *The Silmarillion* Chapters 1-19
3. "The Lay of Leithian" from *The Lays of Beleriand* (v. 3 of *The Histories of Middle-earth*) (extension of part of Chapter 19 of *The Silmarillion*)
4. *The Silmarillion* Chapters 20-21
5. "Narn i Hîn Húrin" from *Unfinished Tales* (extension of Chapter 21 of *The Silmarillion*)
6. *The Children of Hurin*
7. *The Silmarillion* Chapters 22-23
8. "Of Tuor and His Coming To Gondolin" from *Unfinished Tales* (extension of part of Chapter 23 of *The Silmarillion*)

9. "Akallabeth" from *The Silmarillion*
10. Appendix A: The Numenorean Kings - Numenor, from *The Lord of the Rings*
11. Part Two of *Unfinished Tales*
12. "Tal-Elmar" from *The Peoples of Middle-earth*
13. "The Numenorean Chapters" of *The Lost Road* (v. 5 of *The Histories of Middle-earth*)
14. "Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age" from *The Silmarillion*
15. "The Disaster of the Gladden Fields" from *Unfinished Tales*
16. Appendix A: The Numenorean Kings – The Realms in Exile, from *The Lord of the Rings* (the line from Isildur to Aragorn II)
17. Appendix A: The Numenorean Kings – Eriador, Arnor and the Heirs of Isildur, from *The Lord of the Rings* (a history of the northern kingdoms)
18. Appendix A: The Numenorean Kings – Gondor and the Heirs of Anarion, from *The Lord of the Rings* (a history of the southern kingdom)
19. "Cirion and Eorl" from *Unfinished Tales*
20. Appendix A: The House of Eorl, from *The Lord of the Rings* (the history of the Kings of the Mark of Rohan)
21. Appendix A: The Numenorean Kings – The Tale of Arwen and Aragorn, from *The Lord of the Rings*
22. "The Istari," "The Palantiri," and "The Druedan," from *Unfinished Tales*, in that order
23. Appendix A: Durin's Folk, from *The Lord of the Rings*
24. *The Hobbit*
25. "The Quest of Erebor," from *Unfinished Tales*
26. *The Lord of the Rings*
27. "The Hunt for the Ring" and "The Battle of the Fords of Isen", from *Unfinished Tales* (refers to things taking place during *The Lord of the Rings*)
28. The Epilogue to *The Lord of the Rings*, from *The End of the Third Age*