**English 11/12 Honors: Tolkien Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

**Thesis Essay: Tolkien, A Singin’ Fool**

Introduction: J.R.R. Tolkien may have written novels, but he had the soul of a poet. Well, okay, that’s just not true. He was a dull, conservative college professor who was also a war veteran. In other words, he was no Walt Whitman (Note: if you don’t know who Walt Whitman is, look him up the next time you are on the web instead of checking out some Youtube video about a rapping cat named MC Claws). Anyway, had Tolkien tried to be a poet, he probably would not have been very successful. It’s not that he was that bad, mind you. He just wasn’t “excellent.” However, he was an excellent novelist, and in his novels, he found a home for his poetry in the form of song lyrics. Still, these songs did not just exist for Tolkien’s own personal amusement. They also served a number of important purposes in his novels.

Like What? Well, that’s what I’m asking you, my students. In other words, this is your essay question.

Official Question: Why are songs important to the novels *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring*? What purposes do they serve?

Requirements: Your essay must:

* Contain FOUR paragraphs.
* Include TWO quotations for each body paragraph.
* Not contain any “tears.” A point will be deducted for each “tear” (max: 10)
* Be written in MLA style (up to -10 points)
* Be handed into turnitin.com

Grade: You will be graded based on the accompanying rubric (see back). I will be focusing on how you select and integrate the quotations into your paper to support your overall argument.

Due Dates:

Rough Draft: Monday, Feb 12

Final Draft: Wednesday, Feb 14

**MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

***RUBRIC FOR ANALYTICAL WRITING***

**The final draft of an analytical essay must demonstrate depth of thinking, attention to a specific audience, coherence and accuracy.**

**ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS POINTS COMMENTS**

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| **INTRODUCTION**  **(with Thesis Statement)**   * **Introductory Paragraph:**. * **Topic (and plot if writing about literature)** is fully explained. * **Includes a General Introduction** * **Include a Complete Identification** * **Thesis Statement**: Final sentence makes a claim with supports | **/25** |  |
| **BODY**  **(Usually Three Paragraphs)**  **Each paragraph includes**:   * Strong **Topic Sentence** that relates to the thesis and introduces the support for the paragraph. * Specific **Evidence** to support the thesis. * For a literary analysis with textual evidence or outside source material, include proper **MLA Citations** * Use of **Direct Quotations** (Including proper lead ins) * Analyzes **Evidence** and connects it to the **thesis**. * Strong **Closing Sentences** that reinforces the main point. | **/50** |  |
| **CONCLUSION**   * **Restate** (reword) main idea of the thesis. * **Summarize** the main points. * End with a statement that **broadens the main idea** to the universal. | **/15** |  |
| **MECHANICS**   * Communication of ideas reflects **good grammar usage.** * **Paragraphs** are indented. * All **sentences** are complete and construction is varied. * Correct use of **capital letters.** * Free of **spelling** errors. | **/10** |  |