

Aragorn (Sindarin: [\[ˈaragorn\]](#)) is a fictional character and a [protagonist](#) in [J. R. R. Tolkien's](#) *[The Lord of the Rings](#)*. Aragorn is a [Ranger of the North](#), first introduced with the name Strider and later revealed to be the heir of [Isildur](#), an ancient King of [Arnor](#) and [Gondor](#). Aragorn is a confidant of the wizard [Gandalf](#) and plays a part in [the quest](#) to destroy the [One Ring](#) and defeat the Dark Lord [Sauron](#). As a young man, Aragorn falls in love with the immortal [elf Arwen](#), as told in "[The Tale of Aragorn and Arwen](#)". Arwen's father, [Elrond Half-elven](#), forbids them to marry unless Aragorn becomes King of both Arnor and Gondor.

Aragorn leads the [Company of the Ring](#) following the loss of Gandalf in the Mines of [Moria](#). When the Fellowship is broken, he tracks the hobbits [Meriadoc Brandybuck](#) and [Peregrin Took](#) with the help of [Legolas](#) the elf and [Gimli](#) the dwarf to [Fangorn Forest](#). He fights in the battle at [Helm's Deep](#) and the [Battle of the Pelennor Fields](#). After defeating Sauron's forces in Gondor, he leads the armies of Gondor and [Rohan](#) against the [Black Gate](#) of Mordor, distracting Sauron's attention and enabling [Frodo Baggins](#) and [Samwise Gamgee](#) to destroy the [One Ring](#). Aragorn is proclaimed King by the people of Gondor and crowned King of both Gondor and Arnor. He marries Arwen and rules for 122 years.

Tolkien developed the character of Aragorn over a long period, beginning with a [hobbit](#) nicknamed Trotter and trying out many names before arriving at a [Man](#) named Aragorn. Commentators have proposed historical figures such as King [Oswald of Northumbria](#) and King [Alfred the Great](#) as sources of inspiration for Aragorn, noting parallels such as spending time in exile and raising armies to retake their kingdoms. Aragorn has been compared to the figure of [Christ](#) as King, complete with the use of prophecy paralleling the Old Testament's foretelling of the [Messiah](#). Others have evaluated his literary status using [Northrop Frye's](#) classification, suggesting that while the hobbits are in "Low Mimetic" mode and characters such as [Éomer](#) are in "High Mimetic" mode, Aragorn reaches the level of "[Romantic](#)" [hero](#) as he is superior in ability and lifespan to those around him.

Aragorn has appeared in mainstream films by [Ralph Bakshi](#), [Rankin/Bass](#), the film trilogy by [Peter Jackson](#), and the fan film *[The Hunt for Gollum](#)*. He has also appeared in the [BBC radio dramatisation](#) of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Background

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [Isildur](#)

Long ago, [Sauron](#), the Dark Lord, made the [One Ring](#), a [Ring of Power](#), to enable him to take control of the whole of [Middle-earth](#). [Isildur](#) and his brother Anarion – together with their father [Elendil](#), High King of Gondor and Arnor – joined the Last Alliance of [Elves](#) (under Gil-galad) and Men against Sauron. The Alliance defeated Sauron at the Battle of Dagorlad, and laid siege to Sauron's Dark Tower, [Barad-dûr](#), in Mordor. After seven years, Sauron came out to challenge the Alliance. During the final battle on the slopes of [Mount Doom](#), Elendil and Gil-galad were both killed.^{[\[1\]](#)} Isildur took up the hilt-shard of [Narsil](#), Elendil's sword, and cut the One Ring from the hand of Sauron. Despite the urging of [Elrond](#) and [Círdan](#), Gil-galad's lieutenants, Isildur did not destroy the Ring in the fires of Mount Doom; rather, he kept the Ring for himself. The Second Age ended, and Isildur became

King of both Arnor in the North and [Gondor](#) in the South. Isildur was killed by [Orcs](#) soon afterwards at the Gladden Fields beside the [River Anduin](#), and the Ring was seemingly lost forever.^{[12][13][14]}

Following the defeat of Sauron and the deaths of Elendil, Anarion, and Isildur, Anarion's son, Meneldil, became king of Gondor and Isildur's son, Velandil, became king of Arnor. Many years later, the kingdom of Arnor was lost in battle with the evil land of Angmar, and Arvedui, the king of Arnor, died in a shipwreck. After that, the line of the kings of Arnor was maintained by the Chieftains of the Dúnedain, who were raised in Rivendell. The kingdom of Gondor continued, but years later, after the childless King Earnur was lost, Gondor was ruled by stewards. Eventually, Sauron returned to the land of Mordor and openly declared himself.^[15] Each Chieftain was given a name with the Kingly prefix of *Ar(a)-*, to signify his right to the Kingship of Arnor.^[16]

Fictional biography

[\[edit\]](#)

Early life

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [The Tale of Aragorn and Arwen](#)



Sketch map of the

north-west of [Middle-earth](#) at the end of the [Third Age](#)

Aragorn is the son of Arathorn II and his wife Gilraen. Gilraen's mother, Ivorwen, prophesies that if Arathorn II and Gilraen "wed now, hope may be born for our people; but if they delay, it will not come while this age lasts".^[15] Aragorn is the heir to the throne of Gondor and of the lost realm of

Arnor.^[17] When he is two years old, his father is killed while pursuing [orcs](#). Aragorn is fostered in [Rivendell](#) by [Elrond](#), who is still living in Middle-earth at the end of the [Third Age](#). At the bidding of Elrond, his lineage is kept secret, as Elrond fears he will be killed like his father and grandfather if his identity as Isildur's heir becomes known. Aragorn is renamed *Estel* ("hope" in [Sindarin](#)) to hide his existence from Sauron. During his childhood, he is not told about his heritage.^[15]

At the age of 20, after Aragorn has done great deeds in the company of Elrond's sons, Elrond [tells him of his ancestry](#) and his true name, and gives him the shards of Elendil's sword, Narsil, and another ancient heirloom, the [Ring of Barahir](#). He withholds the Sceptre of Annúminas from him until he has earned the right to possess it. The following day, Aragorn meets and falls in love with Elrond's daughter, the beautiful elf-maiden [Arwen](#), who has recently returned to Rivendell from her grandparents' home in Lothlórien.^[15] Thereafter, Aragorn assumes his role as the sixteenth Chieftain of the [Dúnedain](#), the [Rangers of the North](#). He goes into the wild and lives with the remnants of his people, whose kingdom, Arnor, had been destroyed centuries before.^[15] The Rangers helped to guard [the Shire](#), a land inhabited by the diminutive [hobbits](#). He becomes known as "Strider" in the Shire and [Bree](#).^[18] Aragorn meets and befriends [Gandalf](#) the wizard.^[15]

Aragorn undertakes great journeys, serving in the armies of King Thengel of [Rohan](#) and of Ecthelion II, the Steward of Gondor. He conceals his true name and identity. His tasks help to raise morale in the West and to counter the growing threat of Sauron and his allies, and he acquires experience that he later puts to use in the [War of the Ring](#). With a small squadron of ships from Gondor, he leads an assault on Umbar, burning many of the Corsairs' ships and personally killing their lord during the Battle of the Havens. After the victory at Umbar, he ventures alone to the east and south of Middle-earth and continues to work against Sauron.^[15]

At the age of 49, Aragorn visits Lothlórien, and again meets Arwen. He gives her the Ring of Barahir.^[19] On the hill of Cerin Amroth, Arwen pledges her hand to him in marriage, renouncing her Elvish lineage and accepting mortality (the "Gift of Men"). Elrond withholds permission to marry his daughter from Aragorn until he is king of both [Gondor](#) and Arnor. Elrond fears that in the end, Arwen might find the prospect of death too difficult to bear.^[15]

Years later, Gandalf grows suspicious of [Bilbo Baggins](#)'s magic ring, which he finds to be Sauron's One Ring.^[110] Gandalf asks Aragorn to find [Gollum](#), a creature who had previously possessed the Ring. This hunt leads Aragorn across [Rhovanion](#); he finally captures Gollum in the [Dead Marshes](#) northwest of [Mordor](#). Aragorn brings Gollum to King [Thranduil](#)'s halls in [Mirkwood](#), where Gandalf questions him.^[14]

The War of the Ring

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [The Lord of the Rings](#)

Aragorn meets [Frodo Baggins](#), Bilbo's adopted heir, and three of Frodo's friends at [the Prancing Pony](#) Inn in [Bree](#). The four hobbits had set out from [the Shire](#) to bring the One Ring to [Rivendell](#). Frodo and his friends were hoping to meet [Gandalf](#) at the Prancing Pony, but he was not there. A letter from Gandalf helps convince Frodo to trust Aragorn. Aragorn is 87 years old, nearing the

prime of life for a [Númenórean](#).^[18] With Aragorn's help, the hobbits reach Rivendell despite being pursued by the [Nazgûl](#), servants of Sauron.^[11]

At Rivendell, Aragorn is chosen as a member of the [Fellowship of the Ring](#) to accompany Frodo in his quest to destroy the Ring in the fires of [Mount Doom](#) in the land of Mordor.^[14] Elven-smiths reforge the shards of Narsil into a new sword, setting into the design of the blade seven stars (for [Elendil](#)) and a crescent moon (for [Isildur](#)), as well as many runes. Aragorn renames the sword [Andúril](#), "Flame of the West".^[12]

The Fellowship attempt to cross the Misty Mountains via the pass of [Caradhras](#).^[12] Their attempt fails in a violent storm. Instead, the Fellowship travels through the mines of [Moria](#). When Gandalf is killed fighting a [Balrog](#),^[13] Aragorn leads the company to [Lothlórien](#)^[14] and down the [River Anduin](#) to the Falls of Rauros. He plans to go to Gondor to aid its people in the war against Sauron.^[15] The Fellowship is then broken: Frodo continues his journey to Mordor, accompanied only by his gardener and friend, Samwise Gamgee. Two other hobbit members of the Fellowship, Merry and Pippin, are captured by orcs.^[16]

Aragorn, [Legolas](#), and [Gimli](#) set off to track the orcs, hoping to rescue Merry and Pippin. They learn that the orcs have been killed, and that no hobbits were found among the remains.^[17]

Nevertheless, clues lead Aragorn to believe that the hobbits are still alive, prompting him to take the party into [Fangorn](#) Forest. They meet Gandalf, sent back from death to continue his duties in Middle-earth. Gandalf tells them that the hobbits are in the care of the [Ents](#) of Fangorn.^[18]

'I serve no man', said Aragorn; 'but the servants of [Sauron](#) I pursue into whatever land they may go... I am not weaponless'. Aragorn threw back his cloak. The elven-sheath glittered as he grasped it, and the bright blade of Andúril shone like a sudden flame as he swept it out. 'Elendil!' he cried. 'I am Aragorn son of Arathorn and am called Elessar, the Elfstone, Dúnadan, the heir of Isildur Elendil's son of Gondor. Here is the Sword that was Broken and is forged again! Will you aid me or thwart me? Choose swiftly!'

J.R.R. Tolkien, [The Two Towers](#)

Together, Gandalf and the Three Hunters travel to [Edoras](#) in [Rohan](#), where Gandalf frees [King Théoden](#) from the enchantment of the treacherous wizard [Saruman](#) and helped him prepare the Rohirrim to fight against Saruman.^[19] Aragorn fights with the men of Rohan at the [Battle of Helm's Deep](#), in which Saruman's army of orcs is destroyed.^[20] Aragorn uses the [palantír](#), a seeing stone, to reveal himself to [Sauron](#) as the heir of [Isildur](#), to distract him from [Frodo's](#) approach to [Mordor](#), and to draw Sauron's forces out of Mordor. Aragorn's action causes Sauron to launch his assault on the city of [Minas Tirith](#) prematurely. To reach the city in time to defend it, Aragorn takes the [Paths of the Dead](#), summoning the Dead Men of Dunharrow. The Dead Men owed allegiance to Aragorn as the heir of Isildur; it had been prophesied by Isildur and Malbeth the Seer that the Dead would one day be summoned to pay their debt for betraying Gondor.^[21] With their aid, Aragorn defeats the Corsairs of Umbar at the port of [Pelargir](#). Aragorn releases the Dead Men and uses the Corsairs' ships to sail up the Anduin to Minas Tirith with his [Rangers](#) and a large contingent of men from the southern regions of Gondor.^[22] As they approach Minas Tirith, Aragorn unfurls the royal standard that Arwen had made for him, showing both the [White Tree of Gondor](#) and the jewelled crown and

seven stars of the House of [Elendil](#). With the help of the southern forces, the armies of Gondor and Rohan rally and defeat Sauron's army in the [Battle of the Pelennor Fields](#).^[123]

Aragorn's daring and success had brought him closer to his own kingship, which was his by right as a direct descendant of Isildur. Gondor had been under the rule of the [Stewards of Gondor](#) for centuries, and it was doubted that any of the royal line still lived.^[15] The Steward [Denethor](#), who years before had seen Aragorn (then known as Thorongil) as a rival for his father's favour, declares that he will not bow to a descendant of Isildur. Believing that it is futile to battle Sauron, Denethor has himself burned on a funeral pyre.^[124] Aragorn heals [Faramir](#), Denethor's heir, who had been wounded in battle and was expected to die, using the herb [athelas](#). Faramir recognizes Aragorn as his lord and the rightful heir to the throne of Gondor. Aragorn's humility and self-sacrifice win him the hearts of the inhabitants of Gondor's capital city. His healing abilities are noted by the people of Gondor; as the wise-woman and healer [loreth](#) says, "The hands of the King are the hands of a healer, and so shall the rightful king be known". The people hail Aragorn as King that same evening.^[125]

Despite his immediate success and popularity, and to avoid conflict, he leaves Minas Tirith, refusing to enter it again until he was crowned King. To give Frodo the best chance of fulfilling his quest, Aragorn leads an army to make a diversionary feint on the [Black Gate of Mordor](#) in the [Battle of the Morannon](#). The army has no realistic chance of victory.^[122] Sauron attacks with overwhelming force.^[126] While the battle takes place, the Ring is destroyed, and Sauron and his forces are utterly vanquished.^[127]

Upon Sauron's defeat, Aragorn is crowned King Elessar ("Elfstone", a [Quenya](#) name given to him by Arwen's grandmother, [Galadriel](#)); he marries Arwen at midsummer. He becomes the twenty-sixth King of Arnor, the thirty-fifth King of Gondor, and the first High King of the Reunited Kingdom of Gondor and Arnor. His line is called the House of Telcontar (Quenya for "Strider").^[128]

Aragorn rules the Kingdoms of Gondor and Arnor until year 120 of the [Fourth Age](#). His reign is marked by harmony and prosperity, and by a renewal of cooperation between Men, Elves, and Dwarves. Aragorn leads the forces of the Reunited Kingdom on military campaigns against the Easterlings and [Haradrim](#), re-establishing rule over lands that Gondor had lost in previous centuries. He dies at the age of 210, after 122^[19] years as king. The graves of Merry and Pippin (who had died in Gondor 58 years earlier) are set beside his. He is succeeded on the throne by his son, Eldarion. Arwen, heartbroken by the loss of her husband, dies shortly afterwards in Lothlórien.^[15]

Concept and creation

[\[edit\]](#)

Identity

[\[edit\]](#)

The "first germ" of the character that later evolved into Aragorn or Strider was a peculiar hobbit met by Bingo Bolger-Baggins (precursor of Frodo Baggins) at the inn of *The Prancing Pony*. His description and behaviour, however, was already quite close to the final story, with the difference that the hobbit wore wooden shoes, and was nicknamed Trotter for the "clitter-clap" sound that

they produced. He was accounted to be "one of the wild folk – rangers", and he played the same role in Frodo's journey to Rivendell as in *The Lord of the Rings*.^[T 29]

Later Tolkien hesitated about the true identity of "Trotter" for a long time. One of his notes suggested that the Rangers should not be hobbits as originally planned, and that this would mean that Trotter was either a man, or a hobbit who associated himself with the Rangers and was "very well known" (within the story).^[T 30] The latter suggestion was linked to an early comment of Bingo: "I keep on feeling that I have seen him somewhere before".^[T 31] Tolkien considered that Trotter might be [Bilbo Baggins](#) himself, but soon rejected that idea after Aragorn identified himself.^[T 30]

Another suggestion was that Trotter was Fosco Took (Bilbo's first cousin), who "vanished when a lad, owing to Gandalf".^[T 30] This story was further elaborated, making Trotter a nephew of Bilbo, named Peregrin Boffin, and an elder cousin of Frodo. He was said to have run away after he came of age,^[T 32] some 20 years before Bilbo left the Shire, and had helped Gandalf in tracking Gollum later. A hint was also given as to why Trotter wore wooden shoes: he had been captured by the Dark Lord in Mordor and [tortured](#), but saved by Gandalf; a note was added by Tolkien in the margin, saying that it would later be revealed that Trotter had wooden feet.^[T 33]

The conception of Trotter as a hobbit was eventually discarded. Another short-lived idea was to make Trotter "a disguised elf-friend of Bilbo's in Rivendell", and a scout from Rivendell who "pretends to be a ranger".^[T 34] It was not until after Book I was written that Tolkien finally settled on making Trotter a man, introducing him from the beginning as *Aragorn*, a "descendant of the ancient [men of the North](#), and one of Elrond's household".^[T 34]

Development

[\[edit\]](#)

The development of Aragorn's connection to Gondor was long and complex, as was his association with Boromir. Initially, it is said that Aragorn's forefathers were the exiles of Númenor who ruled over the people of *Ond* (the early name of Gondor) but were driven out by the [Witch-king of Angmar](#) "when Sauron raised a rebellion".^[T 35] The story of the two branches of Elendil's descendants ruling over two kingdoms of Men through many generations only emerged gradually; at one time, Tolkien even seems to have conceived only three generations between Isildur and Aragorn.^[T 36]

Aragorn's relationship with Arwen was established very late in the writing. When Tolkien first introduced [Éowyn](#), the interest she showed towards Aragorn was not one-sided, with suggestions in notes that they would marry at the end of the story. Another proposal was that Éowyn would die to save or avenge Théoden, and Aragorn would never marry after her death.^[T 37]

The first mention of Elrond's daughter, named *Finduilas*, was made in reference to the banner she made for Aragorn,^[T 38] but Tolkien did not give any hint whether she had any further part to play. The references to her marriage with Aragorn came later,^[T 39] but it was explicitly stated only near the completion of the book.^[T 40] Only in his work on the appendices for *The Lord of the Rings* did Tolkien record the full [Tale of Aragorn and Arwen](#).^[T 41]

A passing idea was that Galadriel gave her Ring to Aragorn, and that he would accordingly be titled the "Lord of the Ring".^[T 39]

Names

[\[edit\]](#)

Tolkien retained the original nickname "Trotter" for a long time, deciding to change it to "Strider" only after the story was completed. He tried several experimental translations of "Trotter" to [Sindarin](#): *Padathir*, *Du-finnion*, and *Rimbedir*, with *Ethelion* possibly an equivalent of "Peregrin" (Boffin).^[T 42] Before the later title "the Dúnadan" ("Man of the West") emerged, he used *Tarkil* ([Quenya](#) for "noble Man") as another synonym for [Númenórean](#).^[T 43]

Tolkien hesitated for some time over Strider's "real" name. Although *Aragorn* was the first suggestion when his Mannish descent was determined, the name was changed repeatedly. At one point Tolkien decided that an [Elvish](#) name did not suit a Man, and thus altered it from *Aragorn* via "Elfstone" to "Ingold", an Old English name with "ing-" representing "West". Later he introduced a new plot element: Galadriel's gift of a green stone, and reverted to *Elfstone* to make an additional connection.^[T 44]

Among other names, Tolkien considered "Elfstan", "Elfmere", "Elf-friend", "Elfspear", "Elfwold" and "Erkenbrand", with Elvish forms: *Eldamir*, *Eldavel*, *Eledon*, *Qendemir*. The name of Aragorn's father also passed through many transient forms: Tolkien paired *Aramir* or *Celegorn* with *Aragorn* before settling upon *Arathorn*; among the various pairings were "Elfhelm" and *Eldakar* with "Elfstone" and *Eldamir*; and *Ingrim* with "Ingold".^[T 44]

Significance

[\[edit\]](#)

Conjectured historical basis

[\[edit\]](#)



Max Adams suggested that Tolkien based Aragorn on the saint and king [Oswald of Northumbria](#).^[1]

The Catholic author [Joseph Pearce](#) and others have conjectured, without direct evidence, that Aragorn's name is derived from the [Kingdom of Aragon](#), and leaders such as [Catherine of Aragon](#) whose heritage is linked to the [crown of Castile](#) and [crown of Aragon](#).^{[2][3]}

The archaeologist Max Adams suggests that Tolkien may have based Aragorn on [Oswald](#), a prince of the [Northumbrian](#) royal house exiled to the Kingdom of [Dál Riata](#) after [Cadwallon](#) King of [Gwynedd](#) and [Penda](#) King of [Mercia](#) laid waste to his ancestral homelands. Oswald returned years later with a raised army of Anglian exiles and retook his kingdom, slaying Cadwallon in the process.^[1]

The French medievalist Alban Gautier, and separately the historian [Christopher Snyder](#), suggest a connection with a different Anglo-Saxon king, [Alfred of Wessex](#), described by Snyder as "an unexpected monarch (he had four elder brothers) and inspirational leader who united disparate peoples".^{[4][5]} The Dutch medievalist Thijs Porck writes that Alfred, like Aragorn, spent time in exile. [Danes](#) attacked him in [Chippenham](#), and he took refuge in the wilds before gathering an army at [Egbert's Stone](#) and defeating the Danes at the [Battle of Edington](#). Alfred's history parallels Aragorn's gathering of the Dead, the Oathbreakers, at the Stone of Erech.^[6]

Thijs Porck's comparison of Aragorn with King Alfred^[6]

Aragorn

Years in exile

Gathering of the Dead, the Oathbreakers, at the Stone of Erech

Defeated Mordor at the [Battle of the Pelennor Fields](#)

Alfred the Great

Refuge in the wilds after [Danes](#) attacked him at [Chippenham](#)

Gathered an army at [Egbert's Stone](#)

Defeated the Danes at the [Battle of Edington](#)

The fragmentation of the Dúnedain kingdoms, leading to Aragorn's small band of Rangers living in the wild, has been compared to that of the early [Frankish kingdoms](#).^[7]

Christ-figure

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [Christianity in Middle-earth](#)

Aragorn has been called a Christ-as-King character; Tolkien's use of prophecy has been compared to the Old Testament's foretelling of the coming of the Messiah.^[8] It has been suggested that some of the Christian themes extrapolated from Tolkien's work were not intentional, but resulted from the interplay between the background he grew up in and the myths that inspired him.^[9] However, aspects of Aragorn's character - his ability to heal, his sacrificial journey, and his experiences with death and the dead - have long been seen as clues to overt Messianic overtones.^{[10][11]}

Karen Nikakis writes that Aragorn fits a "sacrificial king" archetype, noting the multiple sacrifices that Aragorn makes for the benefit of those around him and for his future people. Those sacrifices include waiting to claim his throne and to marry Arwen until the One Ring had been destroyed.^[12]

Ranger

[\[edit\]](#)



Aragorn has been likened to the ranger [Natty Bumppo](#) (left) in [James Fenimore Cooper's](#) 1823–1841 [Leatherstocking Tales](#).^[13]

Thomas Kullmann and Dirk Siepmann comment that Aragorn's pathfinding lifestyle and [style of speech](#) resembles that of the ranger [Natty Bumppo](#) in [James Fenimore Cooper's](#) 1823–1841 [Leatherstocking Tales](#), suggesting that Aragorn's "If I read the sign back yonder rightly" could easily have been spoken by Bumppo.^[13] On the other hand, they write, Aragorn's awareness of "a historical and mythological past", and his continuity with those, is "emphatically lacking" in Cooper's writings.^[13]

Romantic hero

[\[edit\]](#)

Further information: [Heroism in The Lord of the Rings](#)



A fan's illustration of Aragorn

The Tolkien scholar [Tom Shippey](#) evaluates the literary status of Aragorn and *The Lord of the Rings* using [Northrop Frye's](#) [Anatomy of Criticism](#). He writes that figures like [Éomer](#) of [Rohan](#) and [Faramir](#) of [Gondor](#) are, in Frye's terms, "superior in degree to other men but not to their natural environment", which places them in Frye's "High Mimetic" literary mode. The

hobbits are often in "Low Mimetic" mode, or even (like Bilbo) "Ironic". Aragorn, Shippey states, while not being a "Mythic" figure, is superior to his environment; Shippey points out that he can run 135 miles in three days and lives "in full vigour" for over 200 years. This places him in Frye's "Romantic" mode. Tolkien does come close to myth, Shippey suggests, when [Gandalf](#) confronts the leader of the [Nazgûl](#) at the gate of Minas Tirith and a cock crows "as if" signalling the arrival of the Rohan cavalry, just as a crowing cock signalled the [Resurrection](#) to [Simon Peter](#) in the Bible.^[14]

[Tom Shippey's analysis of Aragorn's place](#) in [Northrop Frye's literary modes](#)^[14]

Literary mode [Middle-earth](#) example

Mythic	Hints and allusions, e.g. cock-crow as Rohan cavalry arrives to save Gondor
Romantic	Aragorn's physical stamina, lifespan
High Mimetic	Heroic figures like Éomer of Rohan, Faramir of Gondor
Low Mimetic	Hobbits , especially at start
Ironic	Bilbo Baggins , joking

The Tolkien scholar [Verlyn Flieger](#) contrasts the warrior-hero Aragorn with the suffering hero Frodo Baggins. Aragorn is, like Beowulf, an epic/romance hero, a bold leader and a healer-king. Frodo is "the little man of fairy tale", the little brother who unexpectedly turns out to be brave. But the fairy tale [happy ending](#) comes to Aragorn, marrying the beautiful princess (Arwen) and winning the kingdom (Gondor and Arnor); while Frodo, who returns home miserable, with neither Ring nor appreciation by the people of the Shire, gets "defeat and disillusionment—the stark, bitter ending typical of the *Iliad*, *Beowulf*, the *Morte D'Arthur*".^[15] In other words, the two types of hero are not only contrasted, but combined, halves of their legends swapped over. Flieger comments that the two together mark the end of the old, with Frodo's bitter end and the disappearance of the Ring, the Elves, and much else that was beautiful; and the start of the new, with Aragorn's rise to the throne of Gondor and Arnor, and a world of Men.^[15]

Adaptations

[\[edit\]](#)

Film

[\[edit\]](#)



Aragorn in [Ralph Bakshi](#)'s animated version of [The Lord of the Rings](#)

Aragorn was voiced by [John Hurt](#) in [Ralph Bakshi](#)'s [1978 animated film version of The Lord of the Rings](#),^[16] and by [Theodore Bikel](#) in the 1980 [Rankin/Bass](#) animated version of [The Return of the King](#), made for television.^[17] [Kari Väänänen](#) portrayed him in the 1993 Finnish television [miniseries Hobitit](#).^[18]



Aragorn in the [Rankin/Bass](#) animated production of [The Return of the King](#)



[Viggo Mortensen](#) as Aragorn in [Peter Jackson](#)'s film adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings*.

In [Peter Jackson](#)'s [the Lord of the Rings film trilogy](#), Aragorn was played by the [Danish-American](#) actor [Viggo Mortensen](#). He received acclaim for the portrayal,^{[19][20]} and Aragorn was ranked No. 15 in [Empire](#)'s 2015 survey of greatest film characters.^[21]

Fan film responses

[\[edit\]](#)

In the 2009 fan film [The Hunt for Gollum](#), Aragorn is portrayed by Adrian Webster. The film is set during the time of *The Fellowship of the Ring*. It takes place after Gandalf has discovered the true nature of Bilbo's ring and just before Frodo leaves the Shire for Rivendell.^[22] Another fan film, [Kate Madison](#)'s 2009 [Born of Hope](#), imagines a time in the life of Aragorn's parents from shortly before they are married to his father's early death.^[23]

The film scholar Maria Alberto writes that such fan films reveal one way that readers engage with Tolkien's writings. In her view, *Born of Hope*, six years in the making, comes close to a canonical narrative, while *Hunt for Gollum* expands a canonical incident. Alberto notes, too, that *Born of Hope* nods to Mortensen's physical appearance as Aragorn in both casting and costume. As for *Hunt for Gollum*, Alberto writes, the narrative arc requires the viewer to know from the *Lord of the Rings* why Aragorn would be searching for Gollum, while his meeting Gandalf in a pub plainly

recalls "both Tolkien's and Jackson's" *Prancing Pony*.^[24] Alberto states that the widely-scattered locations, from [north Wales](#) to [Epping Forest](#) and [Hampstead Heath](#) are meant to be seen as a measure of how far Aragorn travels, and in which part of the world, as he seeks Gollum. She cites the scholar [Robin Anne Reid](#)'s remark that "*Hunt* is 'imitative' where *Hope* is transformative",^{[24][25]} meaning that the former attempts to mimic Jackson and Tolkien, whereas the latter sees fans interpreting and adding to the canon.^[24]

Other

[\[edit\]](#)

In [Brian Sibley](#)'s 1981 BBC radio dramatisation of *The Lord of the Rings*, Aragorn was played by [Robert Stephens](#). Sibley writes that Stephens gave "a [mercurial](#) performance, combining nobility and humanity in his portrayal of the returning king whose fate, along with that of all Middle-earth, [hung] on the success or failure of Frodo's quest."^[26] On stage, Aragorn was portrayed by [Evan Buliung](#) in the three-hour production of *The Lord of the Rings*, which opened in 2006 in [Toronto, Ontario](#), Canada.^[27] In the 1969 parody *Bored of the Rings*, Aragorn is portrayed as "Arrowroot son of Arrowshirt".^{[28][29][30]} In 2023, the expansion set *The Lord of the Rings: Tales of Middle-earth* was released for the collectible card game *Magic: The Gathering*. Its depiction of Aragorn as a black man has drawn both praise and criticism from fans of *The Lord of the Rings*.^{[31][32][33]}