

READING and LISTENING

Listen to Simon talking about his favorite book, then try to complete the sentences (a-j)

This was my favorite book when I was younger. It's called The Lord of the Rings. It's a real epic, it's a classic – it was written for kids, but actually lots of adults read it as well. It's huge, three books in fact, but such an excellent read! It's set in a fantasy world called Middle Earth, and it has fantasy characters like elves and dwarves, and monsters and dragons, and all sorts of mythical creatures like that. And it tells the story of these creatures called Hobbits, who are kind of like humans but not really humans. The main character is named Frodo and he's the one who has to get rid of the ring. Well, it's a very special ring that was crafted a long, long time ago by the Dark Lord, who is the villain of the story. And it's an extremely powerful ring, the "ring of power," you might want to call it, because anybody who puts it on becomes invisible. And, basically, this book is about their quest, the quest of the hobbits and their companions, to destroy the ring, because if the Dark Lord gets hold of it he can rule the world. Oh, and there's this other character named Gandalf who is a wizard, and he's on the side of good, and he helps Frodo and his companions to vanquish the Dark Lord. And, well, anyway, they have all sorts of, kind of, adventures, and there are lots of battles and stuff and, well, in the end Frodo throws the ring into a volcano and that's the end of the ring. Basically, it's about the battle between the forces of good and evil, and in the end, the good triumphs over evil. It's a really powerful story, a real page-turner. You get totally engrossed in the story, it's so well-written. It's really magical. I couldn't put it down. It's been made into a movie trilogy now, another epic, and very popular.

- a The story is set in a _____ world called _____ Earth.
- b The characters are _____, _____, _____, _____, and all sorts of _____ creatures like that.
- c It tells the story of creatures called _____, who are kind of like _____ but not really humans.
- d The main character is named _____.
- e The book is about the _____ of the hobbits and their companions to _____ a ring.
- f The villain is the _____.
- g They have all sorts of _____ and there are a lot of _____.
- h In the end, the _____ of _____ triumph.
- i He enjoyed the book because it's _____ – _____ and really _____.
- j Now the book _____ into a movie _____.

