

A Book that Changed My Life

Name:

Institution:

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Seasons may come and go, but I still remember the time when I read a book that changed my life. I was on the border between childhood and adolescence; a child who was looking for answers to questions difficult even for adults; a child who was afraid of an unknown world and trying to hide from problems. The trilogy of *The Lord of the Rings* gave me priceless life lessons that become an inner light for me.

Sometimes, life offers many trials; one of them is not giving into one's negative thoughts. In the darkest hours of my self-analysis, I conclude that my life can be an empty existence without any sense or purpose, but it does not last long, because I remember Gollum. He not might be the best example; nevertheless, his actions saved the life of the main character and all the inhabitants of Middle-Earth. *The Lord of the Rings* has brought patience and comprehension that helps me to overcome the darkest thoughts in my head.

Sometimes the world chokes with violence and bloodshed, and then it is difficult to be a good person. It is difficult to such an extent that I want to scream and to beat my enemies until they feel the pain that they have caused. Nevertheless, I will never do this. *The Lord of the Rings* might be just a book, but it shows me that even the worst enemy has his or her own tragedy that forces him or her to do terrible things. Violence as a response does not eradicate violence in general, and the world will continue to suffer. *The Lord of the Rings* has brought compassion into my life, which is difficult to maintain but worth it.

Sometimes I think that no one needs me because no one tells me these words. It is a vile part of human nature: to remember the words and not the actions in the first place. *The Lord of the Rings* has shown me a pure and sincere friendship that seems fragile but withstands any

obstacles. Samwise Gamgee and his willingness to follow Frodo even knowing that he might be dead encourages me to think about my friends. They will do everything to help me, and I will do the same. *The Lord of the Rings* has brought an understanding that words are nothing but actions are everything.

Sometimes the darkest hours might defeat common sense and force us to do terrible and cruel things. If I surrender under the pressure of the world (because I am a human being and no one is perfect), I know that it is never too late to repent. It is never too late to change, to realize a caused injustice, and to ask for forgiveness in words or deed. *The Lord of the Rings* introduced me to Boromir who eventually surrenders to the power of the Ring and tries to steal it. In the end, he understands that he was wrong and sought forgiveness, even if it brought his death. *The Lord of the Rings* has also brought me an understanding that one should not be afraid of death; one should be afraid of ignorance and an unwillingness to admit mistakes.

The Lord of the Rings was my means to escape the world that was a horrifying place for a person who was between childhood and adolescence. *The Lord of the Rings* turned into a book that changed my life and prepared me for the future. My life is not perfect and I know I will face many obstacles. Nevertheless, I am ready for them, because one day I was lucky to find a great book which continues to remind me that everything has its meaning.