

leaf by niggle analysis

Leaf by Niggle: A Deep Dive Analysis of Tolkien's Unconventional Masterpiece

Introduction:

Have you ever felt the pull of a creative project, a relentless urge to bring something beautiful into being, even when life throws relentless obstacles in your way? J.R.R. Tolkien's lesser-known novella, *Leaf by Niggle*, explores this very theme with a depth and subtlety that continues to resonate with readers today. This in-depth analysis of *Leaf by Niggle* will delve into the allegorical layers, the symbolic significance of its characters and setting, and the profound philosophical questions it raises about art, faith, and the nature of good and evil. We'll unpack the narrative, exploring its unique structure and thematic richness, providing you with a comprehensive understanding of this captivating and surprisingly relevant story. Prepare to embark on a journey into the heart of Tolkien's most unconventional, yet arguably most poignant, work.

I. Niggle: The Artist and His Obsession

Niggle, the central character, is a painter consumed by his artistic endeavor – the meticulous rendering of a single tree. This tree, far from being a mere object, represents his creative passion and his dedication to beauty. His obsession borders on the obsessive, consuming his time and energy, often to the detriment of his other responsibilities. This aspect of Niggle's character is key to understanding the story's central themes. His focus on the detail, the minute imperfections, and the overall grandeur of the tree symbolizes the artist's dedication to their craft, the tireless pursuit of perfection, and the profound spiritual satisfaction it can bring. Tolkien subtly contrasts Niggle's artistic dedication with the mundane demands of everyday life, highlighting the tension between creative fulfillment and societal

expectations.

II. The Journey and the Unexpected Destination:

The unexpected summons to complete a painting for a neighbour – a mundane task seemingly insignificant compared to his grand project – forces Niggle on a journey. This journey, both physical and spiritual, transforms into a pilgrimage, unexpectedly mirroring the creative process itself. The physical journey is fraught with hardship and delay, mirroring the artist's struggle to overcome obstacles in their work. The unexpected arrival at "The Land," a place of breathtaking beauty and tranquility, underscores the transformative power of art and faith. "The Land" serves as a symbolic representation of the realm of artistic creation, a place where beauty transcends the limitations of the physical world.

III. The Parable of the Tree and the Larger Picture:

The meticulously detailed tree Niggle paints is not just a tree; it's a microcosm of the larger world and the artist's relationship with it. Each leaf represents a detail, a moment of creation, a step in the journey. The process of painting the tree becomes a metaphor for the creative process itself, a journey of discovery, refinement, and ultimately, fulfillment. The unfinished aspects of the tree represent the ever-evolving nature of art and the endless possibilities for creative expression. The completed sections symbolize the moments of achievement, the satisfaction of bringing something beautiful into existence.

IV. The Role of Charity and Unexpected Grace:

Niggle's initial reluctance to complete the neighbor's painting and his self-absorption highlight a critical flaw in his character: a lack of consideration for others. His journey, however, leads him to encounter acts of kindness and grace, showing him the importance of compassion and selfless service. His encounter with the other travelers on the journey, each with their own stories and burdens, showcases the interconnectedness of humanity and the necessity of empathy. The unexpected grace he receives at "The Land" serves as a testament to the redemptive power of faith and the unexpected rewards of

selfless acts.

V. The Significance of "The Land" and its Inhabitants:

"The Land" is not simply a beautiful setting; it represents a realm of spiritual understanding and artistic fulfillment. The inhabitants, seemingly ordinary individuals from Niggle's life, are revealed in "The Land" to possess deeper significance, representing aspects of Niggle's own character and his creative journey. Their collective efforts in preparing for the arrival of the "Great Painter" (a metaphor for God or a higher power) mirrors the collaborative nature of the creative process and the ultimate perfection that comes from divine inspiration. The landscape of "The Land" itself mirrors the grand scope of Niggle's painting, highlighting the connection between earthly and divine creativity.

VI. The Unfinished and the Complete: A Reflection on Mortality

Niggle's inability to complete his masterpiece before his journey underscores the limitations of earthly existence. The unfinished nature of the tree, however, does not diminish its beauty or significance. This speaks to the inherent incompleteness of human endeavors and the acceptance of mortality. The fact that his work continues, even after his death, suggests the enduring power of art and its ability to transcend physical limitations. This also touches upon the idea that true art and spiritual growth is an ongoing process.

VII. A Modern Parable for the Creative Soul

Leaf by Niggle transcends its time. It speaks directly to contemporary artists, writers, and creative individuals who struggle to balance their artistic ambitions with the demands of everyday life. It offers solace and inspiration, reminding us that the creative process is a journey of self-discovery and growth, not a race to the finish line. It validates the struggles of the artist, while simultaneously emphasizing the importance of balance, charity, and the enduring power of faith and creativity.

VIII. Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Leaf by Niggle

Leaf by Niggle is a profoundly moving and subtly allegorical tale. It's a story about the artist's relentless pursuit of beauty, the challenges of balancing creative ambition with everyday life, and the transformative power of faith and compassion. Through Niggle's journey, Tolkien offers a timeless meditation on the nature of art, the human condition, and the enduring power of creativity to enrich and redeem our lives. The story lingers in the mind long after the last page is turned, prompting reflection on our own creative pursuits and the ways in which we engage with the world around us.

Outline of Leaf by Niggle Analysis:

Title: A Comprehensive Analysis of J.R.R. Tolkien's Leaf by Niggle

Introduction: Hooking the reader with the central theme and overview of the analysis.

Chapter 1: Niggle the Artist: Exploring Niggle's character and his artistic obsession.

Chapter 2: The Unexpected Journey: Analyzing the symbolic meaning of Niggle's journey.

Chapter 3: The Tree as Metaphor: Deconstructing the symbolism of the tree and its creation.

Chapter 4: Charity and Unexpected Grace: Examining the importance of compassion and redemption.

Chapter 5: The Significance of "The Land": Interpreting the symbolism of "The Land" and its inhabitants.

Chapter 6: The Unfinished and the Complete: Discussing the themes of mortality and completion.

Chapter 7: A Modern Parable: Relating the story to contemporary creative individuals.

Chapter 8: Conclusion: Summarizing the key themes and enduring legacy of Leaf by Niggle.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter point is provided in the main body of the article above.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of Leaf by Niggle? The central theme explores the balance between artistic pursuit and the responsibilities of everyday life, highlighting the importance of faith, compassion, and the transformative power of creativity.

1. Who is Niggle? Niggle is a painter deeply engrossed in creating a detailed picture of a tree, representing the dedicated artist struggling with worldly demands.

1. What is the significance of "The Land"? "The Land" symbolizes a realm of spiritual understanding and artistic fulfillment, representing a higher plane of existence where creativity flourishes.

1. What does the unfinished tree symbolize? The unfinished tree symbolizes the ever-evolving nature of art and the acceptance of incompleteness in human endeavors.

1. How does Leaf by Niggle relate to Tolkien's other works? While different in style, it shares thematic elements with Tolkien's larger body of work, such as the importance of faith, beauty, and the struggle against darkness.

1. What is the significance of the neighbor's painting commission? It forces Niggle to confront his

self-absorption and engage with the world beyond his artistic pursuits.

1. Is *Leaf by Niggle* a children's story? No, while accessible to a wide range of readers, it deals with complex themes unsuitable for very young children.

1. What makes *Leaf by Niggle* a significant work? Its allegorical nature and exploration of universal themes make it a poignant and thought-provoking story applicable across cultures and time periods.

1. Where can I find *Leaf by Niggle*? It is readily available in bookstores, online retailers, and libraries.

Related Articles:

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9. The Power of Small Acts of Kindness: Reflections on Leaf by Niggle: A focus on the significance of seemingly insignificant acts of compassion.

leaf by niggle analysis: Leaf by Niggle J. R. R. Tolkien, 2016 Published for the very first time in its own volume, Tolkien's remarkable tale about a painter whose obsession with detail prevents him from finishing his great work. Niggle is a painter. Not a very successful one, partly because he has so many other things to do. For some time he has been obsessed with one particular canvas - a curious picture of a tree with a vast landscape stretching out behind it. The painting keeps getting bigger and bigger, but Niggle has a journey to make. In 1939 Tolkien was despairing of ever bringing his great work The Lord of the Rings to a conclusion. One morning he woke up with the story Leaf by Niggle complete in his mind and wrote it down. This poignant story, about an artist on a curious journey, is often seen as an allegory of the writer's own creative process and life. Published to coincide with a new touring stage production of the story, this is the first time the story has been published in its own volume, enabling readers to savour one of Tolkien's most elegant, haunting and least-known short stories.

leaf by niggles analysis: *Tree and Leaf* John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, 1964

leaf by niggles analysis: Utopian and Dystopian Themes in Tolkien's Legendarium Mark Doyle, 2019-11-08 Utopia and Dystopia in Tolkien's Legendarium explores how Tolkien's works speak to many modern people's utopian desires despite the overwhelming dominance of dystopian literature in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It also examines how Tolkien's malevolent societies in his legendarium have the unique ability to capture the fears and doubts that many people sense about the trajectory of modern society. Tolkien's works do this by creating utopian and dystopian longing while also rejecting the stilted conventions of most literary utopias and dystopias. Utopia and Dystopia in Tolkien's Legendarium traces these utopian and dystopian motifs through a variety of Tolkien's works including *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Silmarillion*, *Book of Lost Tales*, *Leaf by Niggle*, and some of his early poetry. The book analyzes Tolkien's ideal and evil societies from a variety of angles: political and literary theory, the sources of Tolkien's narratives, the influence of environmentalism and Catholic social doctrine, Tolkien's theories about and use of myth, and finally the relationship between Tolkien's politics and his theories of leadership. The book's epilogue looks at Tolkien's works compared to popular culture adaptations of his legendarium.

leaf by niggles analysis: Every Good Endeavour Timothy Keller, 2014-07-17 In today's increasingly competitive and insecure economic environment, we often question the reason for work: why am I doing this? Why is it so hard? And what can I do about it? Work may seem just a means to an end: we do it to earn the money to enjoy life outside the workplace. Here, Timothy Keller argues that God's plan is radically more ambitious: he actually created us to work. We are to work together to make the world a better place, to help each other, and so to find purpose for our lives. Our faith should enhance our work, and our work should develop our faith. With deep insight, Timothy Keller draws on essential and relevant biblical wisdom to address our questions about work. There is grace available if we have taken the wrong attitude, idolising money and using our careers to glorify ourselves rather than God. This book provides the foundations for a work-life balance where we can thrive both personally and professionally. Keller shows how through excellence, integrity, discipline, creativity and passion in the workplace we can impact society for good. Developing a better attitude to work releases us to serve others humbly, to worship God everyday, and leaves us deeply fulfilled.

leaf by niggles analysis: J.R.R. Tolkien Tom Shippey, 2014-02-21 The definitive Tolkien companion—an indispensable guide to *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and more, from the author of *The Road to Middle-earth*. This “highly erudite celebration and exploration of Tolkien's works [is] enormous fun,” declared the *Houston Chronicle*, and Tom Shippey, a prominent medievalist and scholar of fantasy, “deepens your understanding” without “making you forget your initial, purely instinctive response to Middle-earth and hobbits.” In a clear and accessible style, Shippey offers a new approach to Tolkien, to fantasy, and to the importance of language in literature. He breaks down *The Lord of the Rings* as a linguistic feast for the senses and as a response to the human instinct for myth. Elsewhere, he examines *The Hobbit*'s counterintuitive relationship to the heroic world of Middle-earth; demonstrates the significance of *The Silmarillion* to Tolkien's canon; and takes an illuminating look at lesser-known works in connection with Tolkien's life. Furthermore, he ties all these strands together in a continuing tradition that traces its roots back through Grimm's Fairy Tales to *Beowulf*. “Shippey's commentary is the best so far in elucidating Tolkien's lovely myth,” wrote *Harper's Magazine*. *J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century* is “a triumph” (*Chicago Sun-Times*) that not only gives readers a deeper understanding of Tolkien and his work, but also serves as an entertaining introduction to some of the most influential novels ever written.

leaf by niggles analysis: Tolkien and C.S. Lewis Colin Duriez, 2003 This book explores their lives, unfolding the extraordinary story of their complex friendship that lasted, with its ups and downs, until Lewis's death in 1963. Despite their differences - of temperament, spiritual emphasis, and storytelling style - what united them was much stronger: A shared vision that continues to inspire their millions of readers throughout the world.--BOOK JACKET. Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

leaf by niggle analysis: *The Tolkien Reader* John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, 1986-11 A classic collection of stories, poems, and critical essays by J.R.R. Tolkien.

leaf by niggle analysis: *The Monsters and the Critics, and Other Essays* John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, 1984

leaf by niggle analysis: *The Fellowship of the Ring* J.R.R. Tolkien, 1986-08-12 The opening novel of *The Lord of the Rings*—the greatest fantasy epic of all time—which continues in *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* The dark, fearsome Ringwraiths are searching for a Hobbit. Frodo Baggins knows that they are seeking him and the Ring he bears—the Ring of Power that will enable evil Sauron to destroy all that is good in Middle-earth. Now it is up to Frodo and his faithful servant, Sam, with a small band of companions, to carry the Ring to the one place it can be destroyed: Mount Doom, in the very center of Sauron's realm.

leaf by niggle analysis: *Ents, Elves, and Eriador* Matthew T. Dickerson, Jonathan Evans, 2006-11-17 Many readers drawn into the heroic tales of J. R. R. Tolkien's imaginary world of Middle-earth have given little conscious thought to the importance of the land itself in his stories or to the vital roles played by the flora and fauna of that land. As a result, *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion* are rarely considered to be works of environmental literature or mentioned together with such authors as John Muir, Rachel Carson, or Aldo Leopold. Tolkien's works do not express an activist agenda; instead, his environmentalism is expressed in the form of literary fiction. Nonetheless, Tolkien's vision of nature is as passionate and has had as profound an influence on his readers as that of many contemporary environmental writers. The burgeoning field of agrarianism provides new insights into Tolkien's view of the natural world and environmental responsibility. In *Ents, Elves, and Eriador*, Matthew Dickerson and Jonathan Evans show how Tolkien anticipated some of the tenets of modern environmentalism in the imagined world of Middle-earth and the races with which it is peopled. The philosophical foundations that define Tolkien's environmentalism, as well as the practical outworking of these philosophies, are found throughout his work. Agrarianism is evident in the pastoral lifestyle and sustainable agriculture of the Hobbits, as they harmoniously cultivate the land for food and goods. The Elves practice aesthetic, sustainable horticulture as they shape their forest environs into an elaborate garden. To complete Tolkien's vision, the Ents of Fangorn Forest represent what Dickerson and Evans label feraculture, which seeks to preserve wilderness in its natural form. Unlike the Entwives, who are described as cultivating food in tame gardens, the Ents risk eventual extinction for their beliefs. These ecological philosophies reflect an aspect of Christian stewardship rooted in Tolkien's Catholic faith. Dickerson and Evans define it as stewardship of the kind modeled by Gandalf, a stewardship that nurtures the land rather than exploiting its life-sustaining capacities to the point of exhaustion. Gandalfian stewardship is at odds with the forces of greed exemplified by Sauron and Saruman, who, with their lust for power, ruin the land they inhabit, serving as a dire warning of what comes to pass when stewardly care is corrupted or ignored. Dickerson and Evans examine Tolkien's major works as well as his lesser-known stories and essays, comparing his writing to that of the most important naturalists of the past century. A vital contribution to environmental literature and an essential addition to Tolkien scholarship, *Ents, Elves, and Eriador* offers both Tolkien fans and environmentalists an understanding of Middle-earth that has profound implications for environmental stewardship in the present and the future of our own world.

leaf by niggle analysis: *Olive Kitteridge* Elizabeth Strout, 2008-03-25 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • The beloved first novel featuring Olive Kitteridge, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *My Name is Lucy Barton* and the Oprah's Book Club pick *Olive, Again* "Fiction lovers, remember this name: Olive Kitteridge. . . . You'll never forget her."—USA Today "Strout animates the ordinary with astonishing force."—The New Yorker One of the New York Times's 100 Best Books of the 21st Century A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: The Washington Post Book World, USA Today, San Francisco Chronicle, Chicago Tribune, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, People, Entertainment Weekly, The Christian Science Monitor, The Plain Dealer, The Atlantic, Rocky Mountain News,

Library Journal At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large, but she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her: a lounge musician haunted by a past romance; a former student who has lost the will to live; Olive's own adult child, who feels tyrannized by her irrational sensitivities; and her husband, Henry, who finds his loyalty to his marriage both a blessing and a curse. As the townspeople grapple with their problems, mild and dire, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life—sometimes painfully, but always with ruthless honesty. Olive Kitteridge offers profound insights into the human condition—its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires. The inspiration for the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries starring Frances McDormand, Richard Jenkins, and Bill Murray

leaf by niggle analysis: Creation and Beauty in Tolkien's Catholic Vision Michael John Halsall, 2020-01-02 This book invites readers into Tolkien's world through the lens of a variety of philosophers, all of whom owe a rich debt to the Neoplatonic philosophical tradition. It places Tolkien's mythology against a wider backdrop of Catholic philosophy and asks serious questions about the nature of creation, the nature of God, what it means to be good, and the problem of evil. Halsall sets Tolkien alongside both his contemporaries and ancient authors, revealing his careful use of literary devices inspired by them to craft his own "mythology for England."

leaf by niggle analysis: A Catholic Story : Or, Four Months' Residence in the House of a Convert from Protestantism Mary C. Edgar, 1845

leaf by niggle analysis: The Letters Of J.r.r. Tolkien J.R.R. Tolkien, 2014-02-21 This collection will entertain all who appreciate the art of masterful letter writing. The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien sheds much light on Tolkien's creative genius and grand design for the creation of a whole new world: Middle-earth. Featuring a radically expanded index, this volume provides a valuable research tool for all fans wishing to trace the evolution of THE HOBBIT and THE LORD OF THE RINGS.

leaf by niggle analysis: Farmer Giles of Ham J. R. R. Tolkien, 1990

leaf by niggle analysis: Crossing to Safety Wallace Stegner, 2007-12-18 Introduction by Terry Tempest Williams Afterword by T. H. Watkins Called a "magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom" by Howard Frank Mosher in The Washington Post Book World, Crossing to Safety has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

leaf by niggle analysis: The J.R.R. Tolkien Companion & Guide Christina Scull, Wayne G. Hammond, 2006 Designed to be the essential reference works for all readers and students, these volumes present the most thorough analysis possible of Tolkien's work within the important context of his life. The Reader's Guide includes brief but comprehensive alphabetical entries on a wide range of topics, including a who's who of important persons, a guide to places and institutions, details concerning Tolkien's source material, information about the political and social upheavals through which the author lived, the importance of his social circle, his service as an infantryman in World War I -- even information on the critical reaction to his work and the Tolkien cult. The Chronology details the parallel evolutions of Tolkien's works and his academic and personal life in minute detail. Spanning the entirety of his long life including nearly sixty years of active labor on his Middle-earth creations, and drawing on such contemporary sources as school records, war service files, biographies, correspondence, the letters of his close friend C. S. Lewis, and the diaries of W. H. Lewis, this book will be an invaluable resource for those who wish to gain a complete understanding of Tolkien's status as a giant of twentieth-century literature.

leaf by niggle analysis: Tolkien B. Rosebury, 2003-10-21 This comprehensive and discriminating account of Tolkien's work has been revised and expanded, to take account both of recent developments in scholarship, and of the recent films directed by Peter Jackson. Tracing the

development of Tolkien's creative technique over several decades, it explores the bewildering profusion of shorter works, as well as devoting an extended analysis to *The Lord of the Rings*. Chapters consider Tolkien's contribution to the history of ideas, and review the reception of the *Lord of the Rings* film adaptations and other popular adaptations of his work.

leaf by niggle analysis: *The Road to Middle-Earth* T. A. Shippey, 1983

leaf by niggle analysis: ***The Arrow and the Crown*** Emma Fox, 2019-06-19 Ever since Anna can remember, she has avoided the ancient Grünwald Forest, where her parents disappeared years ago. Everyone in the kingdom of Weissburg knows the forest is haunted. Tales abound of vengeful spirits that lurk among the trees, and of a Beast that has taken the lives of peasants, knights, and the king's own son. But when the Beast emerges after seven silent years to wreak havoc on the kingdom, Anna braves all her fears to confront him. She soon discovers that there's more to the Beast than she realized...and more to herself than she ever imagined.

leaf by niggle analysis: *J.R.R. Tolkien* Richard Purtill, 2011-05-02 Here is an in-depth look at the role myth, morality, and religion play in J.R.R. Tolkien's works such as *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *The Silmarillion*-including Tolkien's private letters and revealing opinions of his own work. Richard L. Purtill brilliantly argues that Tolkien's extraordinary ability to touch his readers' lives through his storytelling-so unlike much modern literature-accounts for his enormous literary success. This book demonstrates the moral depth in Tolkien's work and cuts through current subjectivism and cynicism about morality. A careful reader will find a subtle religious dimension to Tolkien's work-all the more potent because it is below the surface. Purtill reveals that Tolkien's fantasy stories creatively incorporate profound religious and ethical ideas. For example, Purtill shows us how hobbits reflect both the pettiness of parochial humanity and unexpected heroism. Purtill, author of 19 books, effectively addresses larger issues of the place of myth, the relation of religion and morality to literature, the relation of Tolkien's work to traditional mythology, and the lessons Tolkien's work teaches for our own lives.

leaf by niggle analysis: ***Tales from Firozsha Baag*** Rohinton Mistry, 2011-03-11 In these eleven stories, Rohinton Mistry opens our eyes and our hearts to the rich, complex patterns of life inside Firozsha Baag, an apartment building in Bombay. Here are Jaakaylee, the ghost-seer, and Najamai, the only owner of a refrigerator in Firozsha Baag; Rustomji the Curmudgeon and Kersi, the young boy whose life threads through the book and who narrates the final story as an adult in Toronto. We see their passions, their worst fears, their betrayals, and their humorous acts of revenge. Witty and poignant, in turns, these intersecting stories create a finely textured mosaic of lives and illuminate a world poised between the old ways and the new.

leaf by niggle analysis: ***The Flame Imperishable*** Jonathan S. McIntosh, 2017-12-06 J. R. R. Tolkien was a profoundly metaphysical thinker, according to this new study of his works. *The Flame Imperishable* follows the thought of Aquinas as a guide in laying bare the deeper foundations of many of the more familiar themes from Tolkien's legendarium, including such notions as sub-creation, free will, evil, and eucatastrophe.

leaf by niggle analysis: ***A Dish of Orts*** George MacDonald, 1893

leaf by niggle analysis: ***The Legend Of Sigurd And Gudrún*** J.R.R. Tolkien, Christopher Tolkien, 2012-02-15 Many years ago, J.R.R. Tolkien composed his own version of the great legend of Northern antiquity, recounted here in *The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrún*. In the Lay of the Völsungs is told the ancestry of the great hero Sigurd, the slayer of Fáfnir, most celebrated of dragons; of his awakening of the Valkyrie Brynhild, who slept surrounded by a wall of fire, and of their betrothal; and of his coming to the court of the great princes who were named the Niflungs (or Nibelungs), with whom he entered into blood-brotherhood. In scenes of dramatic intensity, of confusion of identity, thwarted passion, jealousy, and bitter strife, the tragedy of Sigurd and Brynhild, of Gunnar the Niflung and Gudrún his sister, mounts to its end in the murder of Sigurd, the suicide of Brynhild, and the despair of Gudrún. The Lay of Gudrún recounts her fate after the death of Sigurd, her marriage against her will to the mighty Atli, ruler of the Huns (the Attila of history), his murder of her brothers, and her hideous revenge.

leaf by niggle analysis: *The Book of Lost Tales* John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, 1983

leaf by niggle analysis: *Tolkien, Self and Other* Jane Chance, 2016-11-21 This book examines key points of J. R. R. Tolkien's life and writing career in relation to his views on humanism and feminism, particularly his sympathy for and toleration of those who are different, deemed unimportant, or marginalized—namely, the Other. Jane Chance argues such empathy derived from a variety of causes ranging from the loss of his parents during his early life to a consciousness of the injustice and violence in both World Wars. As a result of his obligation to research and publish in his field and propelled by his sense of abjection and diminution of self, Tolkien concealed aspects of the personal in relatively consistent ways in his medieval adaptations, lectures, essays, and translations, many only recently published. These scholarly writings blend with and relate to his fictional writings in various ways depending on the moment at which he began teaching, translating, or editing a specific medieval work and, simultaneously, composing a specific poem, fantasy, or fairy-story. What Tolkien read and studied from the time before and during his college days at Exeter and continued researching until he died opens a door into understanding how he uniquely interpreted and repurposed the medieval in constructing fantasy.

leaf by niggle analysis: *Beowulf and Other Old English Poems* Constance Hieatt, 2010-05-26 Unique and beautiful, *Beowulf* brings to life a society of violence and honor, fierce warriors and bloody battles, deadly monsters and famous swords. Written by an unknown poet in about the eighth century, this masterpiece of Anglo-Saxon literature transforms legends, myth, history, and ancient songs into the richly colored tale of the hero Beowulf, the loathsome man-eater Grendel, his vengeful water-hag mother, and a treasure-hoarding dragon. The earliest surviving epic poem in any modern European language. *Beowulf* is a stirring portrait of a heroic world—somber, vast, and magnificent.

leaf by niggle analysis: *The Old English Exodus* John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, Joan Turville-Petre, 1981 *The Old English Exodus* is based on full notes for a series of lectures delivered to a special class in Oxford in the 1930s and 1940s; the notes were retouched in the following decade. It was never intended to be an edition, although the lecturer scrupulously drew up and edited text as basis of his commentary. It is an interpretation of the poem, designed to reconstruct the original (as far as that is possible), and to place it in the context of Old English poetry--Publisher's description

leaf by niggle analysis: *Representations of Nature in Middle-Earth* Martin Simonson, 2015-07-10 Tolkien's portrayal of nature in Middle-earth has been interpreted in a variety of ways, often depending on the context of the reading. Some have seen Middle-earth and its potential destroyer, the Ring, as an allegory of the European continent under the threat of the atomic bomb, while others have embraced it as an artistic expression of the Green movement's agenda in the face of industrial abuse. Some have read nature in Tolkien's work in terms of myth and religion; yet others take the exhaustive descriptions of the physical environment as a sign that Middle-earth itself is the central protagonist of the stories. All in all, nature in Middle-earth plays a crucial role not only in the creation of atmospheres and settings that enhance the realism as well as the emotional appeal of the secondary world; it also acts as an active agent of change within the setting and the story. This collection of essays explores Middle-earth as an ecological entity, a scene for metaphysical speculation, an arboreal depository of cultural memory and a reflection of real-world natural and imperialistic processes.

leaf by niggle analysis: *Tolkien's Sacramental Vision* Craig Bernthal, 2014-06-14 One of Tolkien's great appeals to readers is that he offers a world replete with meaning at every level. To read and reread Tolkien is to share his sense of wonder and holiness, to be invited into the presence of a beauty beyond the circles of the world. It is to fall in love with a universe that has a beginning and an end, where good and bad are not subjective choices, but objective realities; a created order full of grace, though damaged by sin, in which friendship is the seedbed of the virtues, and where the greatest warriors finally become the greatest healers. A correspondent once told J. R. R. Tolkien that his work seemed illumined by an invisible lamp. That lamp is the Church, and its light is the imaginative sensibility that we live in a sacramental world. This new book by the author of *The Trial*

of Man examines in depth the influence of Catholic sacramentality on the thought and work of Tolkien, with major emphasis on *The Lord of the Rings*, but including his literary essays, epistolary poem *Mythopoeia*, short story *Leaf by Niggle*, and *The Silmarillion*. Here is a signal contribution to a deeper understanding of Tolkien, whose mythological world is meant to recover the meaning of our own as a grace-filled place, pointing toward its Creator.

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