

The Inklings: Literary Comparison

1. The Writing Styles 🖋️



J.R.R. Tolkien

- **World-building:** Extremely detailed. He created thousands of years of history, family trees, and maps before writing the story.
- **Language:** He was a linguist and invented complete, working languages (like Elvish) for his characters to speak.
- **Tone:** Elevated, serious, and mythic. It reads like an ancient legend or history book.
- **Descriptions:** Long, beautiful descriptions of nature, landscapes, and travel.



C.S. Lewis

- **World-building:** Spontaneous and magical. He mixed different mythologies (like Greek fauns and Father Christmas) together.
- **Language:** Simple, clear, and accessible. He focused on the story moving forward rather than invented words.
- **Tone:** Conversational. The narrator often "breaks the fourth wall" to speak directly to the reader like a friend.
- **Descriptions:** Cozy and relatable. He often describes magical things by comparing them to ordinary, everyday objects.

2. Style Sorting Activity 🔍

Read each stylistic feature below. Based on what you learned about the two authors, place a checkmark (✓) in the column of the author it best describes.

Writing Feature	Tolkien	Lewis
1. The narrator frequently talks directly to the reader.		

1. Characters speak in completely invented, structured languages.		
1. Spends three paragraphs describing the ancient history of a mountain.		
1. Mixes talking animals and cozy tea parties with epic battles.		
1. Reads like a translation of a serious, ancient historical document.		

3. Analyzing Excerpts



Read the two original passages below. They were written in the style of our two famous authors. Use your knowledge to analyze them!

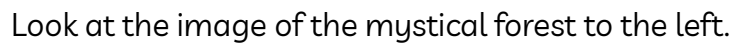
Passage A

The jagged crags of Mount Eredor loomed overhead, their snow-capped peaks piercing the heavy, gray clouds. For three thousand years of the Second Age, the stone-kings of old had guarded this treacherous pass, leaving deep, ancient runes carved into the granite walls. The wind whispered in a long-forgotten tongue as the travelers pulled their heavy cloaks tighter against the bitter frost.

Passage B

If you have ever had afternoon tea with a Badger, you will know perfectly well that they are quite fussy about their marmalade. "Step inside, humans, and wipe your boots!" grumbled Mr. Paws, pointing a furry finger toward a remarkably clean doormat. Inside, the burrow smelled wonderfully of baking bread and the sort of magic that makes you feel entirely safe.

1. Which author's style does **Passage A** imitate? Provide at least two pieces of **evidence** from the text to support your answer.



- **If you choose Tolkien:** Focus on the ancient history of the trees, the serious atmosphere, and perhaps invent a name for the forest.
- **If you choose Lewis:** Talk directly to the reader, describe a cozy but magical creature living there, and use everyday comparisons.

[illegible]

Answer Key

2. Style Sorting Activity

1. Lewis
2. Tolkien
3. Tolkien
4. Lewis
5. Tolkien

3. Analyzing Excerpts

Answer:

Tolkien. Evidence includes: focus on ancient history ("three thousand years", "Second Age"), detailed and serious landscape descriptions ("jagged crags"), and mention of ancient languages/runes.

Answer:

Lewis. Evidence includes: conversational narrator speaking to the reader ("If you have ever..."), mixing magic with cozy/domestic details (tea, marmalade, doormats), and talking animals (Mr. Paws the Badger).

4. Creative Application

Answer:

Answers will vary based on author chosen, but should clearly demonstrate the specific stylistic markers outlined in the prompts above.