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Tolkien Studies for Advanced Readers
***Smith of Wootton Major* Group Exercise**

Working together as a group, respond to the topics assigned below. Remember to save this exercise for possible inclusion in your Final Portfolio.

Group 1

- ***Relationships to “On Fairy-stories”:*** Make a list of ways in which Tolkien’s story *Smith of Wootton Major* connects to or reflects ideas Tolkien discusses in his essay “On Fairy-stories.” Determine the two most significant relationships between these texts and be prepared to share these with the rest of the class. (~7 minutes)

- ***Contradictions to “On Fairy-stories”:*** Make a list of ways in which Tolkien’s story *Smith of Wootton Major* seems to contradict or alter ideas Tolkien discusses in his essay “On Fairy-stories.” Determine the two most significant contradictions between these texts and be prepared to share these with the rest of the class. (~7 minutes)

Group 2

- ***Similarities to Farmer Giles of Ham:*** Make a list of ways in which Tolkien’s story *Smith of Wootton Major* is similar to that of *Farmer Giles of Ham*. Determine the two most significant similarities between these texts and be prepared to share these with the rest of the class. (~7 minutes)

- ***Differences from Farmer Giles of Ham:*** Make a list of ways in which Tolkien’s story *Smith of Wootton Major* is different from that of *Farmer Giles of Ham*. Determine the two most significant differences between these texts and be prepared to share these with the rest of the class. (~7 minutes)

Group 3

- ***Similarities to The Silmarillion and/or Unfinished Tales:*** Make a list of ways in which Tolkien’s story *Smith of Wootton Major* is similar to that of *The Silmarillion and/or Unfinished Tales*. Determine the two most significant similarities between these texts and be prepared to share these with the rest of the class. (~7 minutes)

- ***Differences from The Silmarillion and/or Unfinished Tales:*** Make a list of ways in which Tolkien’s story *Smith of Wootton Major* is different from *The Silmarillion and/or Unfinished Tales*. Determine the two most significant differences between these texts and be prepared to share these with the rest of the class. (~7 minutes)

Blog About It (after class)

Select at least one idea discussed by a group other than your own and write a blog posting in which you expand upon, disagree with, or otherwise discuss that idea.