



LEGENDARY

THE LORD OF THE RINGS — STAR WARS



The power of the Ring

Places and
Forms of
Power

'All the same,' said Frodo, 'even if Bilbo could not kill Gollum, I wish he had not kept the Ring. I wish he had never found it, and that I had not got it! Why did you let me keep it? Why didn't you make me throw it away, or, or destroy it?'

5 'Let you? Make you?' said the wizard. 'Haven't you been listening to all that I have said? You are not thinking of what you are saying. But as for throwing it away, that was obviously wrong. These Rings have a way of being found. In evil hands it might have done great evil. Worst of all, it might
10 have fallen into the hands of the Enemy. Indeed it certainly would; for this is the One, and he is exerting all his power to find it or draw it to himself.

'But why not destroy it, as you say should have been done long ago?' cried Frodo again. If you had warned me, or even
15 sent me a message, I would have done away with it.' 'Would you? How would you do that? Have you ever tried?' 'No. But I suppose one could hammer it or melt it.' 'Try!' said Gandalf. Try now!

Frodo drew the Ring out of his pocket again and looked at
20 it. It now appeared plain and smooth, without mark or device that he could see. The gold looked very fair and pure, and Frodo thought how rich and beautiful was its colour, how perfect was its roundness. It was an admirable thing and altogether precious. When he took it out he had
25 intended to fling it from him into the very hottest part of the fire. But he found now that he could not do so, not without a great struggle. He weighed the Ring in his hand, hesitating, and forcing himself to remember all that Gandalf had told him; and then with an effort of will he made a movement, as
30 if to cast it away – but he found that he had put it back in his pocket.

Gandalf laughed grimly. 'You see? Already you too, Frodo, cannot easily let it go, nor will to damage it. And I could not
35 "make" you – except by force, which would break your mind. But as for breaking the Ring, force is useless. Even if you took it and struck it with a heavy sledge-hammer, it would make no dint in it. It cannot be unmade by your hands, or by mine. There is only one way: to find the Cracks of Doom in the depths of Orodruin, the Fire-mountain, and
40 cast the Ring in there, if you really wish to destroy it, to put it beyond the grasp of the Enemy for ever.'

'I do really wish to destroy it!' cried Frodo. 'Or, well, to have it destroyed. I am not made for perilous quests. I wish I had never seen the Ring! Why did it come to me? Why was I
45 chosen?' 'Such questions cannot be answered,' said Gandalf. 'You may be sure that it was not for any merit that others do

not possess: not for power or wisdom, at any rate. But you have been chosen, and you must therefore use such strength and heart and wits as you have.'

'But I have so little of any of these things! You are wise and powerful. Will you not take the Ring?' 50

'No!' cried Gandalf, springing to his feet. 'With that power I should have power too great and terrible. And over me the Ring would gain a power still greater and more deadly.' His eyes flashed and his face was lit as by a fire within. 'Do not
55 tempt me! For I do not wish to become like the Dark Lord himself. Yet the way of the Ring to my heart is by pity, pity for weakness and the desire of strength to do good. Do not tempt me! I dare not take it, not even to keep it safe, unused. The wish to wield it would be too great, for my
60 strength. I shall have such need of it. Great perils lie before me.'

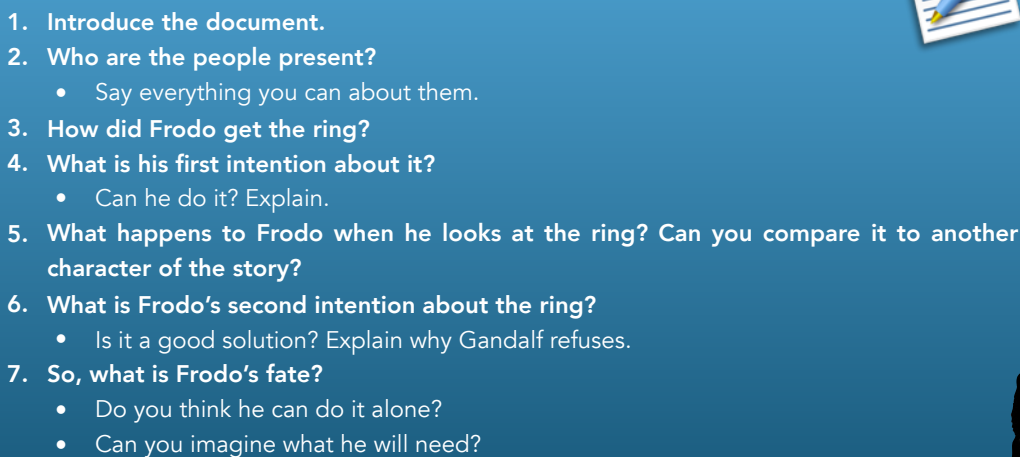
He went to the window and drew aside the curtains and the shutters. Sunlight streamed back again into the room. Sam passed along the path outside whistling. 'And now,' said the wizard, turning back to Frodo, 'the
65 decision lies with you. But I will always help you.' He laid his hand on Frodo's shoulder. 'I will help you bear this burden, as long as it is yours to bear. But we must do something, soon. The Enemy is moving.' 70

J.R.R. Tolkien,
The Lord of The Rings, 1954



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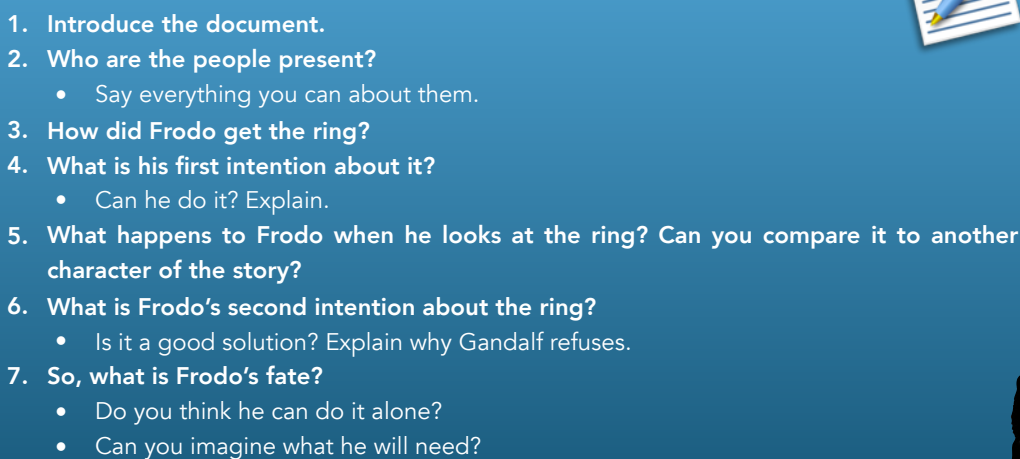
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 2. Who are the people present?
 - Say everything you can about them.
 3. How did Frodo get the ring?
 4. What is his first intention about it?
 - Can he do it? Explain.
 5. What happens to Frodo when he looks at the ring? Can you compare it to another character of the story?
 6. What is Frodo's second intention about the ring?
 - Is it a good solution? Explain why Gandalf refuses.
 7. So, what is Frodo's fate?
 - Do you think he can do it alone?
 - Can you imagine what he will need?



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