**MY FAVOURITE BRITISH AND AMERICAN AUTHOR**

**British author: John Ronald Reuel Tolkien**

* (3 January 1892 – 2 September 1973)
* English writer, poet, philologist, university professor, linguistic expert
* Author of the high fantasy works (The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings trilogy or The Silmarillion)
* German ancestors - tolkkühn („bloodhardy“) → Tolkien (interested in Germanic languages)
* Born in South Africa (Bloemfontein), parents Arthur and Mabel, younger brother Hilary
* Accident with a spider – inspiration, influence?
* Father‘s death, moving back to the UK (Birmingham), when he was 3 years old
* Mother‘s death – foster care, at the age of 12
* Early age – interested in languages, created his own
* King Edward‘s School, then Exeter College (English Language and Literature) – graduated with first class honours
* World War I – pilot, at the Somme
* After War – academic career, Oxford English Dictionary (history and etymology of words of Germanic origin beginning with the letter W), translations (e.g. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight)
* One of his most significant lectures → Beowulf: Monsters and Critics
* Internationally respected linguistic expert
* Wife Edith Mary Bratt, 4 children (John, Michael, Christopher and Priscilla

**The Lord of the Rings**

* Best-known work, trilogy, written 1937-1949, one of the bestselling novels ever
* The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers and The Return of the King
* Should have been a fictional mythology of England
* Also made into films (directed by Peter Jackson)
* Epic struggle between Good and Evil, a journey to destroy the One Ring, many characters, complicated plot
* Main characters: Frodo Baggins, Gandalf (the Grey/the White), Aragorn, Samwise Gamgee, Gollum …

**American Author: Dan Brown**

* Born June 22, 1964 (age 48), Exeter, New Hampshire, U.S.
* American author of thriller fiction
* Best known for The Da Vinci Code (the 2003 bestselling novel)
* Novels – set in a 24-hour time period, themes: cryptography, keys, symbols conspiracy theories, mystery, wit and humour, strong female characters, interesting locations
* His books have been translated into over 40 languages
* The Da Vinci Code and Angels & Demons adapted into films
* Born and raised in Exeter, NH, U.S., the eldest of three children
* Grew up on the campus of Phillips Exeter Academy
* Young Brown spent hours working out anagrams and crosswords puzzzles
* After graduating from Phillips Exeter, he attended Amherst College
* Wanted to be a songwriter and pop singer (released a self-titled CD Dan Brown)
* On holiday in Tahiti 1993 decided to become a writer
* Controversial topics
* Digital Fortress, Angels & Demons, Deception Point, The Da Vinci Code, The Lost Symbol (his last book – 2009)

+ own opinions (reasons)