

Ring of the Nibelung

In this essay it will cover the adventures of two books that have many similarities but also a bounty of differences. It will be looking into ideas and themes of *The Ring of the Nibelung* and *Lord of the Rings*. This will be dissecting the similarities that they have and the differences they have in a short to the point way. Hopefully by the end you will want to read both of these books and learn a few things on the way. Warning spoilers ahead if you are planning to read these.

In *The Ring of the Nibelung* there were some similarities that were hard to miss if you have read the *Lord of the Rings* as well. One of the main ones being, there is a ring in both books that was forged to allow the wearer to rule the world. The ring would ensue greed to the person that had been in possession of it. Some other similarities include; a sword in both of the books. In *The Ring of the Nibelung* there was a sword called Nothung, this is a sword that only one who has never learned fear could reforge it. It is an all powerful sword able to defeat even the most powerful of foes. It is a lot like Aragorn's sword from *Lord of the Rings* only this one was called Andúril, this was a sword reforged by master smiths that was able to fell Sauron the main antagonist of the series. It also allows for the control of the undead army in the third installment of *Lord of the Rings*.

Besides the Ring itself, one of the more substantial similarities is the environment of both of the stories. The environments of both worlds that the books take place in are quite similar. They are mountainous terrains in the area of the world where Norse would have lived. In *ring of the Nibelung* the world is set in a world that spans forests, plains, large expanses of water, and mountains that encase the world. In *Lord of the Rings* there is primarily the same thing, the world is set in a harsh Norse climate surrounded by mountains. This area is Named Middle Earth.

There are differences in the books though. The themes of both books are based off of different things. *The Ring of the Nibelung* has no particular base because it was the first book like it, published in 1876. *The Lord of the Rings* was heavily influenced not only by *The Ring of the Nibelung*, but World War II. Many parts in the book are reminiscent of the attacks during that time including D-day. In *The Ring of the Nibelung* there are Norse gods that rule over mortals from Valhalla. In *Lord of the Rings* there are no such things.

In conclusion these two books have striking similarities in some areas, but are completely different in others. When you really analyze the details of both titles, there lies a frame that is built with the same nuts and bolts, but a different frame. Both books are really quite interesting and both would be recommended.