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# J. R. R. Tolkien[[1]](#footnote-1)

This author is most famous for a series of high fantasy books he wrote which were made into hugely popular movies. These are *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Perhaps you are familiar with or have seen these movies. If you have not, I recommend that you do, as they are delightful stories fairly true to Tolkien’s novels, and if you have, then I would suggest that you try reading *The Hobbit* in English.

The stories are about Hobbits[[2]](#footnote-2) and one Hobbit in particular, Bilbo Baggins. What I remember most of the story is that the Hobbits enjoyed the comfort of their homes more than anything. These days I sometimes feel like a Hobbit in that sense because I have come to enjoy staying at home more than going out. In my youth I traveled extensively, often looking for adventure, so that is perhaps why now I no longer desire to travel or have new experiences. I guess my attitude now could be summed up by the common English expression: “been there; done that”.

In Japan autumn is associated with the time for reading, and while it is true that a good book in the autumn always is a good way to pass the time, summer is also a good time to read when it is too hot to go outside and you find yourself indoors with little to do.

The traditional first day of autumn [立秋] fell on August 8 this year, but the autumn equinox [秋分の日] is not until September 23, so we still have more than a month of summer left. This means the days are still longer than the nights, but gradually becoming shorter until the autumn equinox when days and nights are the same length. After that the days will become shorter and the nights longer and hopefully cooler, too!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September and hearing about how you spent your summer holiday.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._R._R._Tolkien> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hobbit> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)