

What 'The Rings of Power' Criticism Really Shows

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1 – Should modern (film, tv) adaptations of literature be constrained by the writer's original vision and values, or is it ok to update literature to reflect (or critique) current societal values and issues? Is updating a piece of literature in this way wronging the author in some sense? How so? If modern adaptations stay true to the original values, but these values are in conflict with society's current values (for instance, if they display sexism or racism), does this have the potential to harm viewers? In what way(s)?

2 – Who gets to interpret what the author's original vision and values might have been? What if different people disagree about what the author meant to convey?

3 – What message might it send to viewers, and particularly people of color, if all of the actors playing elves in 'The Rings of Power' are white? Why might this be problematic?

4 – Is casting a person of color as a character typically believed to be white (or even described as white) different/more problematic than casting a person with blonde hair as a character who was described as having red hair? Why or why not?