

## Mythlore Style Sheet for all types of submissions

- **Scholarly articles** should be about 5,000 to 10,000 words and will be double-blind peer reviewed by at least one referee.
- **Notes and Letters** may be as short as 500 words and are not refereed. Notes and Letters are generally of a factual or speculative nature, or express opinions or responses to material in *Mythlore*, in contrast to scholarly articles.
- **Full-length reviews** should be 1,000 to 7,000 words. They are not peer-reviewed.
- **Briefly Noted reviews** may be as short as 500 words.

### MLA Style

All in-text citations and your works cited list should conform to **MLA style**. See the *MLA Handbook* 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (2016) for complete details. (Will be updated to 9<sup>th</sup> ed. [2021] for Spring 2022 issue.)

- Use **parenthetical in-text citations** rather than footnote or endnote citations:
  - “It needs but one foe to breed a war,” said Éowyn (Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings* VI.5.937). (Note the punctuation after the citation, and for the preferred style for citing *LotR* by volume, book, and page, see additional details below.)
  - For **block quotes** (quotations that take up over three lines and are indented from the rest of the text), the punctuation goes at the end of the quote, *before* the parenthetical citation.
- **Abbreviations or short titles** are acceptable in in-text citations but should be spelled out the first time used:
  - (Lewis, *The Horse and His Boy* [HB] 32); subsequently, (HB 32).
  - (Tolkien, “Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics” [“Monsters”] 10); subsequently, (“Monsters” 15).
- See the *MLA Handbook* for further guidance on shortening subsequent in-text citations and standardized abbreviations for Shakespeare and the bible.

### Works Cited/Bibliography

In MLA style, short citations in the text refer the reader to a **bibliography** at the end of the work. Any full citations in your text should be replaced with abbreviated citations and moved to your bibliography. Use MLA format (with year at the end rather than after the author) for works cited list. MLA 8<sup>th</sup> no longer requires the place of publication for most publishers, and has changed the abbreviations used in citing periodical articles:

- **Example of a book:**  
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings*. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ed., Houghton Mifflin, 2004.
- **A journal article:**  
Gaarden, Bonnie. “‘The Golden Key’: A Double Reading.” *Mythlore* vol. 24, no. 3/4 (#93/94), 2006, pp. 35-52.
  - Also please note that all articles from *Mythlore* should be cited following this pattern, with both volume/issue number and whole issue number.
- **A book section:**  
Lewis, C.S. “De Descriptione Temporum.” *Selected Literary Essays*, edited by Walter Hooper, Cambridge UP, 1969, pp. 1-14.

- *A web site:*  
Pratchett, Terry. "Words from the Master." *The L-Space Web*, 2002,  
<http://www.co.uk.lspace.org/books/apf/words-from-the-master.html>.
- *An episode of a television show:*  
"The Doomsday Option." *Good Omens*. Dir. Neil Gaiman. Perf. David Tennant, Michael Sheen, et al. Episode 5. BBC Worldwide, 2019.

## Footnotes

Use **footnotes**, not endnotes. Use Arabic numerals. In Word, use the "Insert reference" function to insert your footnotes in proper format. In MLA, footnotes expand on a point in the text, rather than providing the citation for something in your text. Citations within footnotes should also be in MLA format, and cited materials should appear in your bibliography.

## Additional Mythlore style points

- Use **US English** spelling and punctuation except when quoting original text that uses other spelling and punctuation styles.
- Titles should be *italicized*, not underlined.
- Commas and periods generally go **inside quotes**; colons and semicolons outside. All go after parentheses in most cases. Use "curly" quotes, not "straight" quotes.
  - "Up Eorlingas! Fear no darkness," he shouted (*LotR* V.6.840). This was Théoden's 'battle-cry'; it struck fear into the Southrons.
- Parentheses nested inside parentheses should be replaced with **brackets**.
  - Tolkien enjoyed Haggard's thrillers (and Lewis is known to have liked them too ["Haggard" 97]).
- When you leave words out of a quotation, replace them with **ellipses enclosed in brackets**. Ellipses that are in the original should be spaced out.
  - "Why, it's like a young cathedral. [...] How big is your parish, then?" (Sayers, *Nine Tailors* 7).
  - "[D]ear me! have you any luggage? . . . Ah! down at Frog's Bridge?" (Sayers 6).
- Use the serial or **Oxford comma** after the next-to-last item in a series:
  - Tolkien, Lewis, and Williams; Dickens, Austen, or Twain
- For the **possessive of a name ending in s**, add 's:
  - Lewis's, Williams's, James's
- *Mythlore* does not use spaces between the **initials** of an author's name:
  - J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, *but* H. Rider Haggard
- Use the **em-dash** with no spaces to indicate a dash between words:
  - Chesterton— who enjoyed his pint— wouldn't begrudge a drink . . .
- Also use the em-dash to indicate **additional works** by the same author in the works cited:
  - Tolkien, J.R.R. *Farmer Giles of Ham*.  
— . *Leaf by Niggle*.
- Citing **websites**: use black text and remove hyperlink and underlining.
  - <http://www.mythsoc.org>.
- **Preferred editions** and specialized citation formats:
  - The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary one-volume edition of *The Lord of the Rings* (2004 and later printings) is our preferred edition. For in-text citations, cite your quotations including the book and chapter number so we can easily change them to this

edition if you use a different one. For example, *LotR* VI.5.937 refers to Book 6, Chapter 5 “The Steward and The King,” page 937 in the edition cited.

- **Tolkien’s Letters:** Because the print and electronic editions have different methods for indicating what letter is being cited, our preference for in-text citations is: Cite by page AND letter number (i.e., *Letters* 51, #43). List in bibliography under Tolkien, not Carpenter.
- For important standard fantasy texts like the **Narnia** books, *The Hobbit*, *Alice in Wonderland*, the **Harry Potter** books, Lewis’s **Space Trilogy**, and so on that are available in multiple editions with different pagination, please **include the chapter number** for the page you cite. It is especially crucial to do this if you are citing from a Kindle or other electronic edition. For example, *Hobbit* XIII.150, *Voyage of the “Dawn Treader”* 5.55.
  - “[T]hey can make as much noise as they like” (*Roverandom* 2:20).
- Similarly, in in-text citations, cite a **scene number** from a movie or TV show wherever possible. Generally a time stamp is NOT required, but may be added if appropriate, for example, in close analysis of a single scene.

Proofreading tips before final submission (**you will be expected to correct these yourself** if your submission is accepted in spite of not adhering to our style):

- If you own or consult multiple editions of a text, **settle on one** for your citations and make sure your bibliography cites that edition only and your page citations match. (Your editor finds it *particularly* frustrating when an author carelessly mixes citations to multiple editions.)
- Pay particular attention to the rules above for **book-chapter-page citation** requirements.
- Make sure your submission is in **MLA format** and your footnotes are NOT just the citations for your quotations.
- Make sure any sources cited in your footnotes appear in your bibliography.