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Review of *John Ronald's Dragons : The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien* by Caroline McAlister

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John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien
McAllister, Caroline
Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler
New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017

John Ronald loved stories, strange words, and above all, dragons. Unfortunately, while attending school or while making up pretend languages with his cousin, Mary, John Ronald could only tell stories about dragons, not actually meet them. After his mother died, John Ronald dealt with an angry mean aunt, but still didn't see any dragons. He lost his connection to dragons for a while after falling in love, fighting in a terrible war, and starting his career as a teacher. One day, John Robert began to write a story about a creature named a hobbit, and it was through this hobbit's adventurous tale that John Robert was finally able to meet the dragon that he always dreamed about. This story is a very simple account of J.R.R. Tolkien's life, but the simple language makes the story very approachable to children. The full-page, colorful illustrations are arresting and beautiful and add depth to the simple language. This book would be a welcome addition to any biography unit, and the notes and bibliography in the back could provide an interesting introduction to research for elementary school children.

Recommended

Erin Kloosterman, Centennial Library Intern