Wagner & Lord of The Rings Lesson 2- Most Students

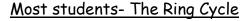
All Students - The Ring Cycle



Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung) or The Ring Cycle is a complex plot which includes gods, giants, dwarves and nymphs. They all struggle for world power through owning a ring made from gold from the river Rhine. A curse has been placed on the ring. Returning the ring to the Rhine River will lift the curse. After spending four years writing the stories for his four-opera cycle, Wagner began composing the music in 1853.

Almost 100 years later in 1937, J.R.R Tolkien began writing a book based on the same legend. This book was Lord of the Rings which became one of the best-selling books ever written.

- 1. All students- What creatures are featured in the operas The Ring Cycle?
- 2. All students- Why is the ring important?
- 3. All students- What is wrong with the ring?
- 4. All students- When did Wagner start composing the music?
- 5. All students- What does libretto mean?
- 6. All students- How long did it take Wagner to write the series?
- 7. All students- What is the name of the first opera in the series?
- 8. All students- What is the name of the third opera in the series?
- 9. All students- When did Tolkien start writing Lord of the Rings?
- 10. All students- Why is Lord of the Rings an important book?



Wagner wrote the <u>libretto</u> (script) and music over the course of about twenty-six years, from 1848 to 1874. The four parts that constitute the *Ring* cycle are, in sequence:

- 1. <u>Das Rheingold</u> (The Rhinegold)
- 2. Die Walküre (The Valkyrie)
- 3. Siegfried
- 4. <u>Götterdämmerung</u> (Twilight of the Gods)

Even though the stories were written in reverse, Wagner composed for them in narrative order over the next twenty years. The first instalment was *The Rhinegold* completed in 1854 and the next segment (*The Valkyrie*) was finished in 1856. He began the third part (*Siegfried*) but stopped for several years to write *Tristan and Isolde* (1859) and *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg* (1867). These two productions were not part of *The Ring Cycle*.

- 11. Most students- How long did it take to write the Ring Cycle?
- 12. Most students- Which opera is the first in the sequence?
- 13. Most students- Why did Wagner stop composing the Ring Cycle in 1859?
- 14. Stretch & Challenge- Why is important to have a break from a project sometimes? What are the advantages and disadvantages?



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R	S	S	L	0	R	L	В	N	M	R	T	Ε	В
Ε	T	N	L	D	G	R	N	Α	Ε	Y	Ι	L	W
N	Ε	D	Ι	R	Ι	Ι	I	T	N	Н	S	С	Α
U	R	N	В	G	Α	G	I	S	Υ	R	0	Y	L
R	S	Ι	R	0	N	0	R	Ι	M	Ε	L	С	K
E	Ι	R	Ε	S	T	D	F	R	P	S	D	R	U
M	N	Н	T	Α	S	S	L	T	Н	S	E	В	R
В	G	I	T	Α	R	S	T	Ε	S	U	٧	N	Ε
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R	R	Ε	N	N	W	Α	G	N	Ε	R	S	Α	Ε
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