

# F<sup>3</sup> FOCUS ON *Friendship & Family*

## Focus on Friendship & Family

### A Family Friendly Fandom Event

Focus on Friendship & Family (F<sup>3</sup>) is a Spring Into Arda event that focuses on themes of family and friendship for stories set in the Second and Third Age. While characters and creations can come from any part of Tolkien's Legendarium or other works, the emphasis is on Third Age (The Hobbit & The Lord of the Rings) and Second Age (Any threads of the Second Age found throughout the Appendices in The Return of the King, later portions of The Silmarillion, Histories of Middle-earth, and beyond). This includes adaptations (Films by Rankin & Bass, Bakshi, Jackson; Rings of Power; Lord of the Rings Online and other Video Games; Board, Card, Tabletop, and Book Games; etc.)

**All creations should be set in the Second Age or Third Age.**

**Ratings must be for General Audiences (safe for all).** Depictions or descriptions of violence, sexual content, nudity, emotional violence, strong language, gore, bloodiness, descriptive medical content, death, alcohol or drug abuse, or anything falling outside of the bounds of a G rating are prohibited. While romance is an allowable topic, the emphasis should be on friends and family – a story about Elrond and Celebrian raising their children may in fact have mentions of romantic gestures (Elrond bringing Celebrian breakfast in bed before informing her that their sons decided to 'help' by redecorating the Hall of Fire with fingerpaint; parenting shenanigans ensue) or terms of endearment (Celebrian calling Elrond 'sweetheart' as they spend the night scrubbing paint off the table in the Hall of Fire, then decide it's a waste, and get rid of the table—hence, no tables in the Hall of Fire), but the emphasis should not be on their romance, but on the theme of their family. If the story can be tagged Elrond & Celebrian, it's all good. If a tag of Elrond/Celebrian would not be accompanied by a tag of Elrond & Celebrian, then it probably means the emphasis leans too far into romance for this event.

This event is presented in three phases:

## Phase One: Making Friendship Chains (April 8-April 29, 2023)

Prompt clusters for the event will be submitted by creating a friendship chain or bracelet. Each participant can submit up to two (2) chains, bracelets, or one of each for a combined total of two. Each chain can include a minimum of four prompts and a maximum of twelve prompts. Prompts are limited to one, two, or three words. There are no formal DNW requests (as most DNW fall into ratings above G), however, a prompt of the maximum twelve allowed could be 'no \_\_\_'.

Friendship chains will be submitted as a single image of the chain and a text list of the prompts included on the chain. During submission, you can choose to have your identity and contact information shared with whomever claims your prompts, or to remain an anonymous surprise until the end of the event (keep in mind that for the second option, the person claiming will not be able to gift items to you until the end of the event as they will not know your identity). There will be no name/contact information listed in the gallery. This information will only be released to the person claiming your prompts prior to the end of the event, and at the end, only your name will be revealed.

Directions for creating a friendship chain are found [here](#).

Directions for creating a friendship bracelet are found [here](#).

Friendship chains are due no later than April 29th.

You may participate in Phase One and not participate in subsequent phases. You may also participate in subsequent phases without participating in Phase One.

### Submitting chains

Submit chains to [b2mem.mods@gmail.com](mailto:b2mem.mods@gmail.com)

Use the Subject: F3 Chain Prompt

Include the following information:

Your name:

If you have AO3 and it is different, please provide for gifting purposes:

Do you wish to be contacted by the person who claims your prompts? Y/N

(If yes to the above, please also include the following)

Best method for contact:

Secondary contact method (if applicable):

## Phase Two: New Creations (May 6 - June 15, 2023)

Beginning May 6th, participants are allowed to claim a friendship chain. (Additional claims may be allowed if not all chains are claimed during the initial claims.) Creators may use the prompts to produce any of the following:

- A written work (at least 100 words)
- A visual work (art, moodboard, craft)
- An audio work (podfic, music, playlist)

Creators are asked to create a chain of works – three or more items – for the chain that they claimed. This could be multiples of the same type (Three drabbles of 100 words each) or a combination of different things (a playlist, a sketch, and a moodboard). More than three items can be created if inspiration hits.

Creators of the chains are not allowed to claim one of their own chains, but they are allowed to create derivative works during phase three.

Chains can be claimed multiple times. Up to two people can claim the same chain during the first round. For subsequent rounds, all unclaimed chains must be claimed before any chains can be claimed additional times.

In the event a chain is unclaimed after the third round of claims, it will be offered to everyone to create treats for it. In that case, the rule of at least three works by a creator is not enforced.

If you are not going to be able to complete the works for the chain(s) you claimed on time, it is asked you let mods know no later than May 31st so that the chain can be moved to the treat category.

If you are unable to complete the works for chains you claimed by June 15 and do not let the mods know by May 31st that you were having issues with completion, you will not be banned from the event, but you will be limited the following year to the amount of claiming you are allowed. If you default without communication two years in a row, you may be unable to submit or claim chains in the future.

First Claims: May 6, 2023 at 8 PM UTC

Second Claims: May 7, 2023 at 8 PM UTC

Third Claims: May 8, 2023 at 8 PM UTC

Unclaimed Chains Move To Treats: May 9, 2023 at 8PM UTC

[Sign up to be a creator here](#) - sign-ups end on May 4th.

## Phase Three: Derivations (June 1 - June 30, 2023)

Beginning June First, participants are allowed to offer derivative works, either derivatives of their own works that are not part of Phase Two (a podfic of an existing story, a story written for a piece of art, a craft based on a playlist they previously created), or derivatives of works created for this event, or additional treats for chain prompts.

Scroll further for additional information on making friendship chains and friendship bracelets!

### Posting to the Collection

The AO3 collection is found at [https://archiveofourown.org/collections/TolkienF3\\_2023/profile](https://archiveofourown.org/collections/TolkienF3_2023/profile)

## Friendship Chain Instructions (Zhie)

### Step One: Assemble Supplies

To create the chain, you will need paper, adhesive (glue or tape), and something to write with.

I find that construction paper works best, but any sort of paper will do. I have a preference for Tombow liquid glue because it adheres paper quickly and does not run, but just about any glue or tape will work with patience. For use on construction paper, I prefer markers or crayons, but again, you can use just about anything.



## Step Two: Cut Paper Strips

It is easiest if all of the strips are cut the same length, but you can cut different lengths to create a more artistic chain.

All strips should be kept the same width. Between 1.5 and 2.5 cm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch) is a good size for the width. The strips for the example are nine inches in length and one inch wide (about 23 cm by 2.5 cm).

A chain needs a minimum of four prompts and is allowed a maximum of 12 prompts, but you can make your chain longer by adding spacers without prompts on them.



### Step Three: Add Prompts

Prompts should be 1, 2, or 3 words, and no more, per strip, with a maximum of 12 prompts per chain (minimum of 4). Consider how to word prompts so that they can convey additional information - in this example, Prince Thranduil clues in that this would be set in the Second Age, and Imladris places it in the second half of the Second Age.

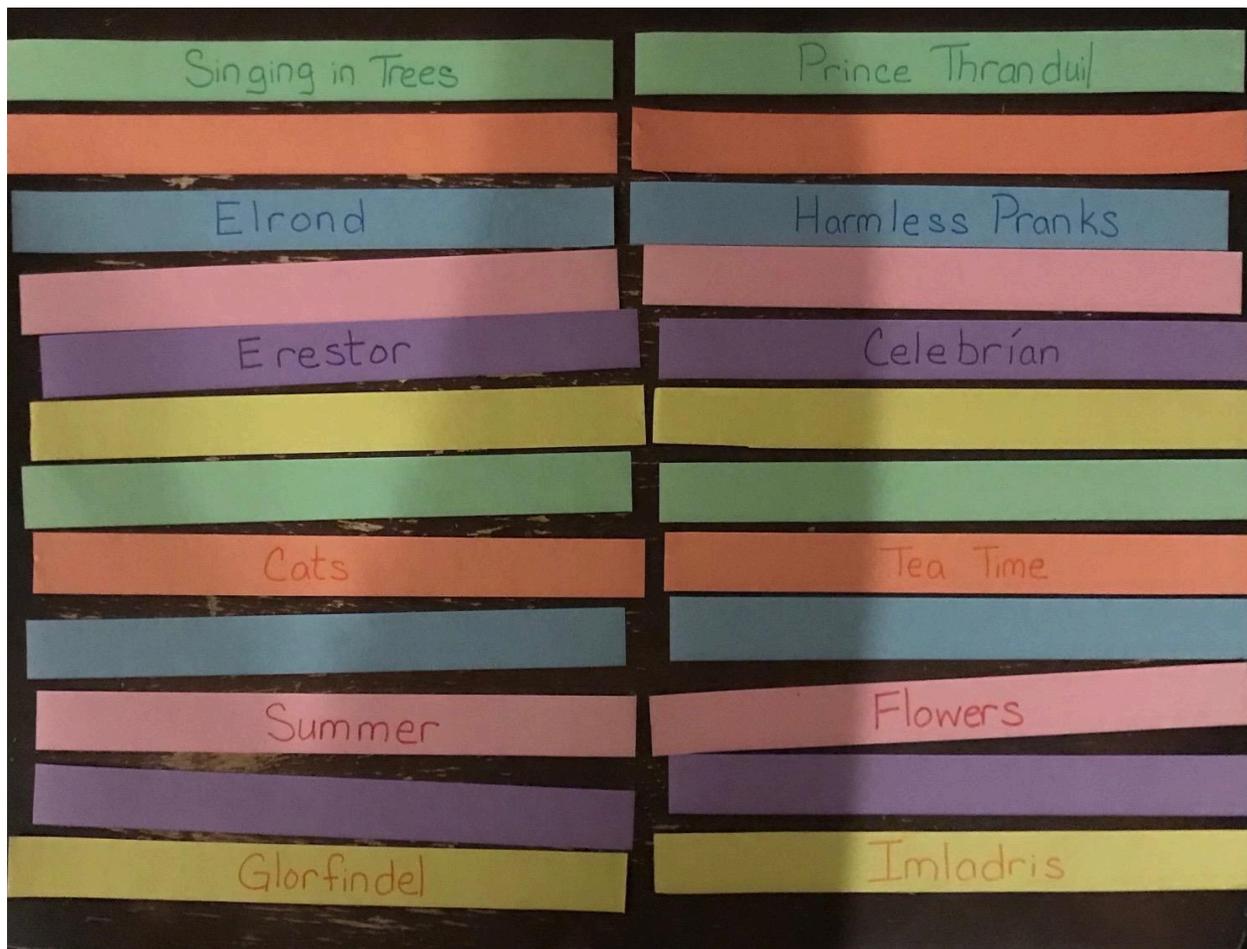
Keep in mind that creations are limited to a G rating, with a focus on the Second and Third Ages, and prompts should reflect this.



## Step Four: Get Ready To Chain Prompts

Once all of the prompts are written out, decide how to arrange them in your chain. This is all based on personal preference. As previously mentioned, you can add spacer links in your chain to make it longer than the four to twelve prompts you are including.

Make sure your prompts are facing outward on your chain as you assemble it.



## Step Five: Assemble the Chain

Using adhesive and starting with the first strip, curve it around into a loop and attach the two ends to each other. For the next loop, link it to the first by threading the strip into the loop and adhering the ends.

As you continue on, your chain will get longer. Once you get all of your strips fashioned into loops and linked together, it should look something like this:



Now you have a festive friendship chain, just in time for May Day (and this event)!

Use the event form to send a photo of your chain, as well as the text list of prompts.

## Friendship Bracelet Instructions (Shadow)

### Step One: Assemble Supplies

To make a friendship bracelet you will need three pieces of string (length will depend on the number of prompts you want to submit, but the three strings should be roughly the same length), strips of paper, adhesive (tape or glue) and something to write with.

I'm using plain writing paper here, because that is what I had on hand, but any sort of paper will do.

I recommend using sellotape, because it is the least likely to attach itself to your string, but other glue will work.

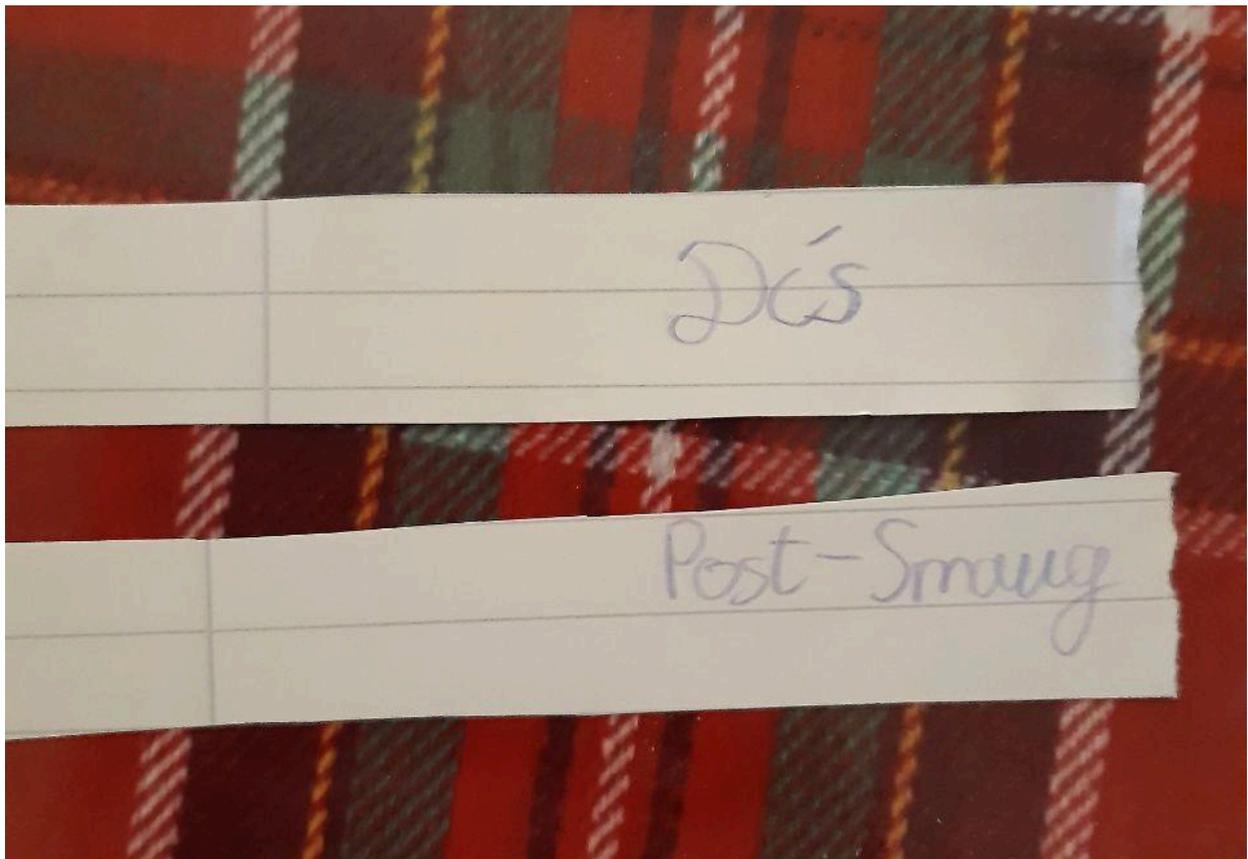


## Step 2: Add prompts

Prompts should be 1, 2, or 3 words, and no more, per strip, with a maximum of 12 prompts per chain (minimum of 4). Consider how to word prompts so that they can convey additional information - in this example, post-Smaug gives the character prompt "Dís" a time frame.

Keep in mind that creations are limited to a G rating, with a focus on the Second and Third Ages, and prompts should reflect this.

Write them close to the edge of the piece of paper, since the middle part will later be between the strings.

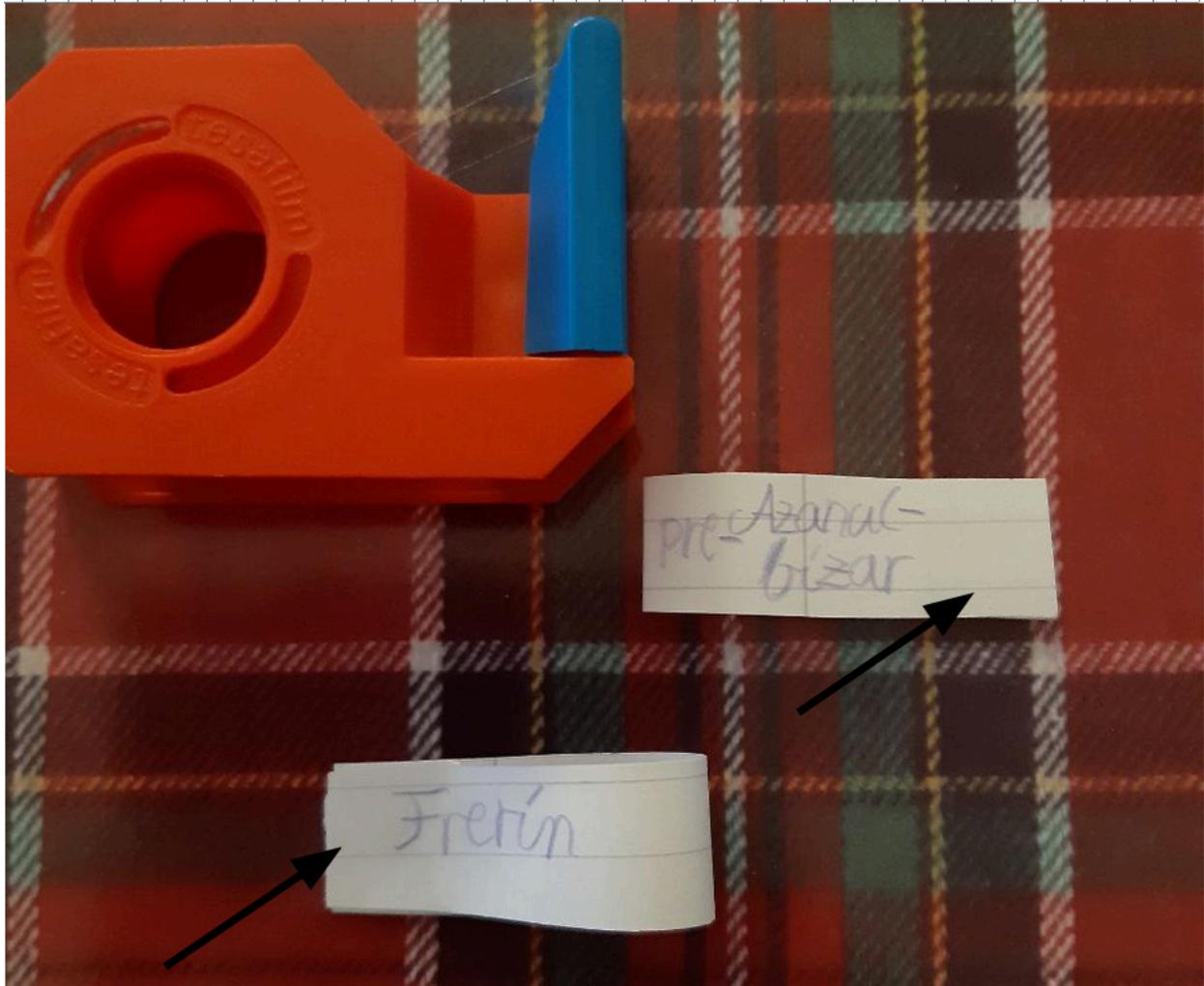


### Step 3: Get ready to braid!

Before you can add your prompts to the bracelet, you need to tape them together.

Fold the two ends of the paper strip together and wrap a piece of tape around it (arrows indicate where the strips are taped, since sellotape is not very photogenic).

Make sure that the prompt is facing the outside.



## Step 4: Braid the bracelet

Tie your three strings together on one end.

I recommend holding them in place while braiding by putting something heavy on top of the knot (a phone or a book for example).

Start a simple braid ([if you don't know how to do that, learn it here.](#))

Braid a few centimeters before slipping your first prompt on either of the strings on the outside, then continue braiding as normal.

Don't worry if it looks wonky at first. It will even out once your braid is a bit longer.

Repeat the last two steps every few centimeters, until all of your prompts are in the bracelet.

Tie off the end to make sure the braid doesn't unravel, and you have your friendship bracelet ready to go!

