



J.R.R. TOLKIEN'S

THE HOBBIT

Guided Reading Questions

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL HELP TO GUIDE
YOUR READING OF *THE HOBBIT*.

AS A MINIMUM, YOU MUST SELECT 2 QUESTIONS
FROM EACH CHAPTER TO ANSWER, AND RECORD
YOUR RESPONSES IN THIS BOOK.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU ANSWER EACH QUESTION
WITH A DOT-POINT, AND BY THE END OF THE
BOOK YOU WILL HAVE AN EXCELLENT SUMMARY
OF THE EVENTS IN EACH CHAPTER AND THE
CHANGES THE CHARACTERS UNDERGO.



Name: _____

Class: _____

Due Date: _____

Chapter 1: An Unexpected Party



1. How is Bilbo's 'hobbit hole' described?
2. By do the other hobbits consider the Bagginses to be respectable?
3. What does a hobbit look like?
4. What does the narrator mean when he talks about the "Tookish" side of Bilbo?
5. How is Gandalf introduced to us, and what impression do we gain of him?
6. How are the dwarves able to find Bilbo's house?
7. What is Bilbo's reaction when he's told about the dangerous nature of the adventure?
8. Why do the dwarves begin to doubt Gandalf's choice of Bilbo as their 'burglar'?
9. What quest are the dwarves planning to undertake?
10. Why does Bilbo change his mind and follow the dwarves on their adventure?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 2: Roast Mutton



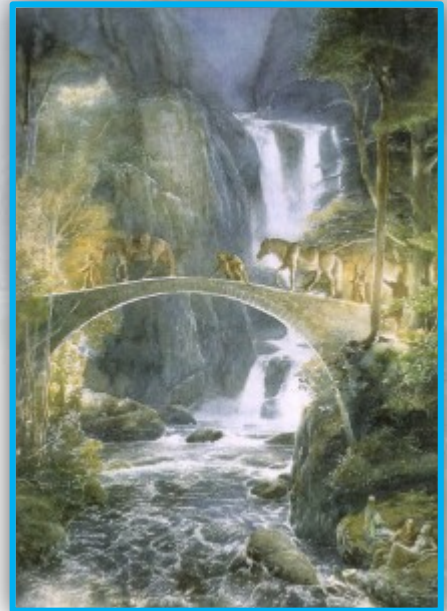
1. How does Bilbo feel when he discovers the dwarves are gone?
2. How does Bilbo find out that the dwarves are waiting for him?
3. What does Bilbo forget in his rush to join the dwarves?
4. What time of year is it in this chapter?
5. What does the party expect to find when they see the light in the forest?
6. What trait do hobbits have that would be of use to a burglar?
7. What are the trolls arguing about when Bilbo arrives?
8. How does Bilbo get caught?
9. What do the trolls plan to do to Bilbo?
10. How do the dwarves get captured?
11. How does Gandalf trick the trolls?
12. What happens to the trolls?
13. What does the party find in the troll's cave?
14. What useful traits does Bilbo demonstrate in this chapter?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 3: A Short Rest

1. Where is Gandalf taking the party?
2. How would you describe the elves?
3. What is the atmosphere like in Elrond's house?
4. What does Elrond tell Gandalf, Thorin and Bilbo about the weapons they have taken from the trolls?
5. What are 'moon letters' and what do they tell the party?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 4: Over Hill and Under Hill



1. Why does the party need to find shelter, and where do they go?
2. What instructions did Gandalf give the dwarves before they set up camp, and what do the dwarves report?
3. What does Bilbo do then he sees the goblins?
4. What angers the Great Goblin when he is questioning Thorin?
5. How does Gandalf save the party?
6. How does Bilbo get separated from the rest of the party?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 5: Riddles in the Dark

1. What does Bilbo discover?
2. How is Gollum described?
3. What is Gollum's cave like and how is he able to survive there?
4. What does Gollum get if he wins the riddle contest? What does Bilbo get if he wins the riddle contest?
5. What is Gollum referring to when he says "my precious" and "my birthday present"?
6. Who wins the riddle contest and how do they do so?
7. How is Bilbo able to escape Gollum and the goblins?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 6: Out of the Frying - Pan, into the Fire

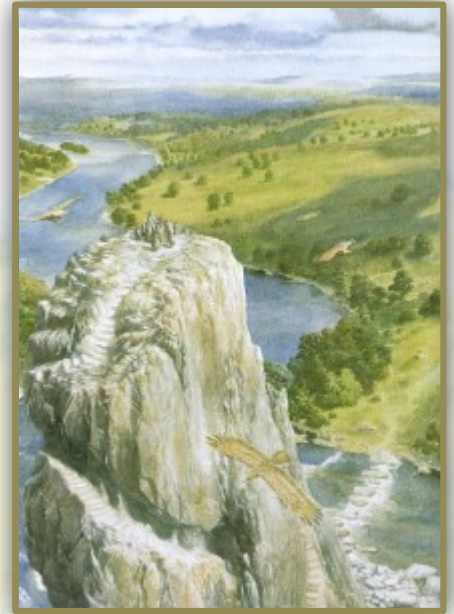


1. What trick does Bilbo play on the dwarves?
2. What are 'Wargs'?
3. Why does the party climb up to the top branches of the trees?
4. What does Gandalf do to enrage the Wargs?
5. How are Gandalf and the party saved?
6. What do we learn about the eagles?
7. Why is the Lord of the Eagles willing to help Gandalf?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 7: Queer Lodgings



1. Where do the eagles leave the party?
2. Who is Beorn?
3. How is Beorn's home described?
4. What does Gandalf tell the party about Beorn, and what is his plan for asking Beorn for help?
5. What does Bilbo hear outside during the night?
6. What help does Beorn give the party?
7. What is the one rule that the party is given about crossing Mirkwood?
8. What news does the party receive just before they enter Mirkwood?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 8: Flies and Spiders

1. How is the Forest Path described?
2. How would you describe the atmosphere of Mirkwood, and how does the author create this feeling (pay attention to comparisons and descriptions)?
3. Why were the nights even worse than the days?
4. One of Bilbo's special traits are his "sharp and inquisitive eyes". How does Bilbo demonstrate this special ability?
5. Why does Bombur fall into an enchanted sleep, and how does the party respond?
6. How do the dwarves lose all their arrows?
7. What mistake does Bilbo make when he climbs the tree to see how far they have left to travel?
8. How do the dwarves respond to Bilbo's report?
9. Why did Bilbo and the dwarves leave the path?
10. How does Bilbo rescue the dwarves?
11. What does Bilbo name his sword?
12. What important changes in Bilbo's character have we seen in this chapter?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 9: Barrels Out of Bond

1. Why are the dwarves so easily captured by the Wood-elves?
2. How is Bilbo able to escape capture?
3. How are the Elvenking and his hall described?
4. How do the dwarves react to the Elvenking's questioning?
5. What does Bilbo discover is being kept in the basement?
6. What is the 'other' entrance to the caves used for?
7. What is Bilbo's plan to escape?
8. What important thing did Bilbo forget in his escape plan?
9. What role has Bilbo's magic ring played in this part of the quest?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 10: A Warm Welcome



1. What has happened to this land since the dwarves last dwelt in the mountains?
2. How is Lake-Town described?
3. How do the people of Lake-Town remember the time when the dwarves lived in the mountain?
4. How do the people of Lake-Town react to the dwarves?
5. What is the dwarves' attitude towards Bilbo at this point in their journey?
6. How does the Elvenking respond to the news of the dwarves' plan to slay Smaug and reclaim the treasure?
7. Why does the Master think that Thorin is a fraud?
8. Are the people of Lake-Town happy to see the party leave? Why/why not?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 11: On the Doorstep

1. Why did the men from Lake-Town refuse to stay overnight with the party?
2. How is the landscape described as the party travels towards the Lonely Mountain?
3. What is Dale and how is it described?
4. How does Bilbo solve the riddle of the secret door?
5. In what ways does Bilbo begin to take a leadership role amongst the party?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 12: Inside Information



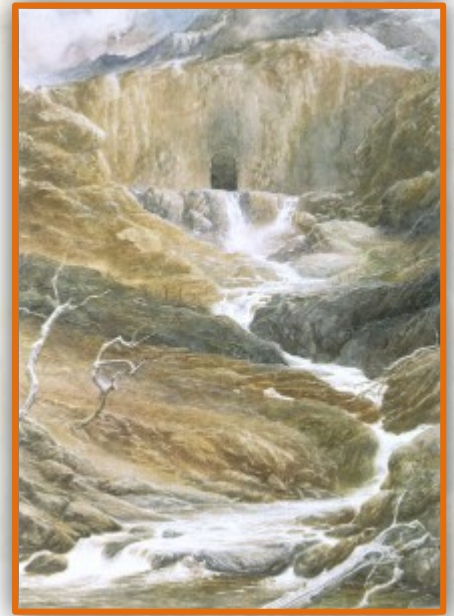
1. What do the dwarves expect Bilbo to do once the door is open?
2. What is different about this tunnel when compared to the tunnels in the goblin cave or the wood-elves hall?
3. What does Bilbo's decision to keep moving down the tunnel reveal about his character?
4. How are Smaug and his lair described?
5. What does Bilbo steal from Smaug?
6. How does the party escape from the dragon?
7. How does Smaug greet Bilbo when he returns?
8. In what manner does Bilbo talk to Smaug (how would you describe his tone)?
9. What clue does Bilbo let slip to the dragon about the people who helped them reach the mountain?
10. How does Smaug try to put doubt in Bilbo's mind about the dwarves' plan for the treasure?
11. How does Bilbo get Smaug to reveal his weak spot, and what is this weak spot?
12. Bilbo is very unhappy and uneasy after his escape. What is Bilbo uneasy about, and what does he convince the dwarves to do?
13. What is the Arkenstone?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 13: Not at Home

1. Why does Bilbo offer to go down the tunnel a third time?
2. How does Bilbo justify keeping the Arkenstone, rather than giving it to Thorin?
3. What do the dwarves start to think about once they realise that Smaug is no longer in the cave?
4. How are the dwarves being presented to us now that they have Smaug's treasure? Is Bilbo shown to be different?
5. What does Thorin give Bilbo as the first part of his reward?
6. How is the Great Chamber of Thrór described?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 14: Fire and Water

1. Why does Smaug attack Esgaroth ('Lake-Town')?
2. Who leads the defenders of Esgaroth?
3. What important information does the old thrush bring to Bard, and where did the thrush learn this?
4. Who kills Smaug and how do they do this?
5. Who is blamed for the dragon's attack, and why does the Master try to blame them?
6. What differences are there between Bard and the Master, both in how they acted during and after Smaug's attack?
7. How does the Elven-King hear of Smaug's death?
8. Why does the Elven King turn away from the Lonely Mountain (and Smaug's treasure) and instead go to the ruins of Esgaroth?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 15: The Gathering of

the Clouds



1. What does Balin tell Bilbo about ravens?
2. Who is Roac and what news does he bring to Thorin?
3. Which of the lake men does Roac tell Thorin he can trust?
4. What do the dwarves do once they learn about the events in Esgaroth?
5. What is Bard's message to Thorin and what reasons does he give for his request?
6. Why did the dwarves not accept the reason and wisdom of Bard's offer?
7. How does Thorin answer the messengers who deliver the second declaration from Bard and the Elves?
8. How do Bilbo's feelings towards the dragon's treasure differ to those of the dwarves?

Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 16: A Thief in the Night

1. What does Thorin vow to do to anyone who keeps the Arkenstone from him?
2. What news, advice and warnings does Roac bring to the dwarves?
3. What does Bilbo give Bard the Arkenstone?
4. How does the Elven-King react to Bilbo's offer?
5. Who is the "old man wrapped in a dark cloak" that Bilbo meets as he leaves?



Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 17: The Clouds Burst

1. How does Bard use the Arkenstone when bargaining with Thorin?
2. How does Thorin react when he learns of Bilbo's involvement in taking the Arkenstone?
3. How does Bilbo justify his actions to Thorin?
4. What does Thorin offer in return for the Arkenstone?
5. How are the dwarves of Dain described?
6. Which five armies are involved in the battle?
7. Who comes to the rescue as the Goblins and Wargs are threatening to overwhelm the men, dwarves and elves?
8. Where is Bilbo during the Battle of the Five Armies?

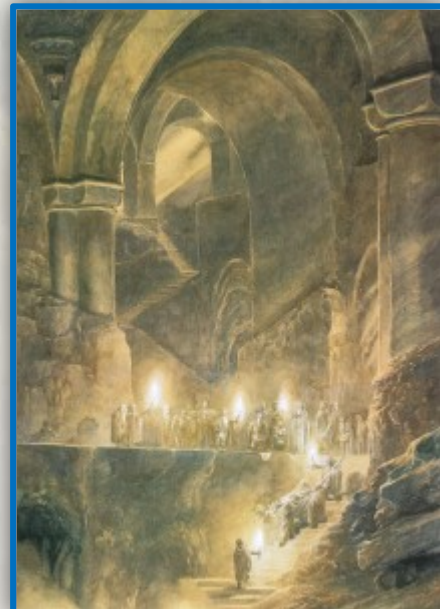


Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 18: The Return Journey

1. Why is Bilbo so difficult to find after the battle?
2. What has happened to Thorin, and what does he tell Bilbo?
3. Even with the help of the eagles, the battle is almost lost. Who saved the day?
4. What happens to the Arkenstone?
5. How much treasure is Bilbo persuaded to accept?
6. What season is it when Gandalf and Bilbo leave Beorn and head home to The Shire?

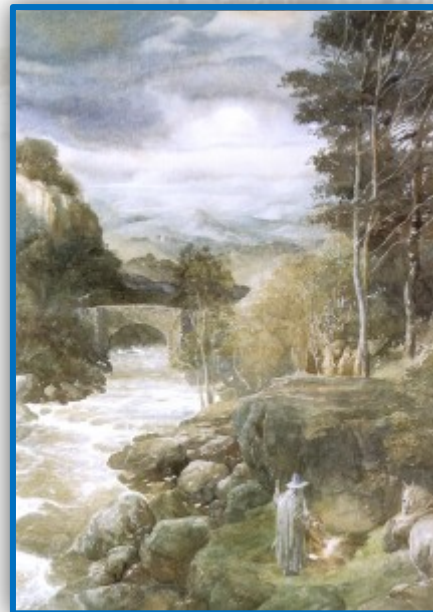


Question: _____

Question: _____

Chapter 19: The Last Stage

1. Where did Gandalf go when he left the party at Mirkwood, and what was he doing?
2. What do Bilbo and Gandalf do with the trolls' gold?
3. What is Bilbo's reaction when he sees his home?
4. What is happening at Bag-End when Bilbo returns home?
5. How has Bilbo changed since he left home, and how do the other hobbits now view him?
6. Who comes to visit Bilbo after several years, and what news does he bring?



Question: _____

Question: _____

There and Back Again: A map of Bilbo's journey through Eriador and Rhovanion

Angmar



Other Notes:

ARE YOU FEELING STUCK WITH *THE HOBBIT*?

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- * If you find the story a bit slow, remember that it takes a little while to get going – you need to get into the Misty Mountains before the action really starts!
- * A good audio-book can be useful for people who are struggling with reading the story. Just make sure you read along with the book as you listen!
- * If you have a lot of trouble keeping track of the story, there is a graphic novel version that may help you to understand the plot (adapted by Charles Dixon, illustrated by David Wenzel). Copies can be borrowed from the CRC.
- * Don't trust the movie! It includes a lot of information, events and character that do NOT appear in the novel (and it only covers the first third of the book – the best parts are still to come!)
- * Don't leave reading the novel until the last minute (or week of the holidays...). It is a long story with many adventures, so pace yourself and set yourself a schedule if you need one!

Created and edited by Matthew McDonald, St Leonard's College, 2013.

References:

Illustrations by Alan Lee, accessible at: <http://alan-lee.narod.ru/Hobbit.htm>

Some questions are adapted in part from: http://bompacrazy.com/the_hobbit.php

