

8th Grade
Reading/ELA
Summer Packet

Instructions: On loose leaf, answer the following questions, in complete sentences. You do not have to re-write the question. Please number your answers accordingly.

Staple the questions to the front of your answers. Please make sure that all questions are finished and ready to be checked the first week of school.

The Hobbit
By: J.R.R Tolkien



Chapter One: An Unexpected Party



Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What does a "hobbit-hole" represent, according to the text?
2. According to the neighbors, the Baggins family is considered "very respectable" - for what reasons? (Hint - you should find 3)
3. Describe a hobbit.
4. How old is Bilbo Baggins?
5. Describe Gandalf.
6. Find 3 pieces of evidence from the text to support the statement "Bilbo Baggins is unfailingly polite."
7. What does Gandalf do after Bilbo goes back inside?
8. Give evidence that Thorin is an important dwarf who carries authority - and maybe a little full of himself.
9. Read I Samuel 10:17-25 in the Bible. In this chapter, Saul is chosen and anointed as king of Israel. What does he do immediately after this? How is this like Bilbo's reaction to the adventure presented to him?
10. Condense Thorin's speech into one sentence in modern language.
11. Note the simile - to what is Bilbo's shriek compared?
12. What specific words does Bilbo choose in order to sound "business-like?"



Chapter Two: Roast Mutton



Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the proof that Bilbo is "not himself" the morning after the dwarves come?
2. List the specific terms of employment Thorin offers. Do you think these are fair?
3. What does Bilbo forget when he leaves the house? What could this item symbolize to him?
4. How does Bilbo recognize/identify the trolls?
5. How do the trolls catch Bilbo? What children's story/fairy tale does this echo?
6. List the three options the trolls consider concerning the dwarves.
7. Give an example of alliteration from this chapter.
8. On your "Trolls" page, fill in information about the characteristics of trolls. Include information about their appearance, speech, and habits.



Chapter 3: A Short Rest

Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. Who lives in the Last Homely House?
2. Why don't dwarves and elves like one another?
3. Describe Elrond. Include at least 3 specific details from the text.
4. What is special about the swords taken from the trolls? What are the swords named?
5. According to Elrond, how do moon-letters work?
6. What is Durin's Day? Why is it significant to the story?
7. Add information about the elves to your High Elves page.



Chapter 4: Over Hill and Under Hill

Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. Tolkien describes a thunderstorm – what does he call it? How does his use of this term enhance the story? What does Bilbo see when he “peeps out” between lightning flashes?
2. Explain why caves are dangerous.
3. Why does the Great Goblin grow angry at the sight of Thorin's sword? What do the goblins call it?
4. Tolkien uses an effective comparison to describe the sounds heard when the lights go out. Write the comparison in full.
5. What do the goblins call Gandalf's sword?



Ch. 5: Riddles in the Dark

Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. Describe the “turning point” in Bilbo's career.
2. How does he discover that his dagger is also an elvish blade?
3. The author tells us a little more about hobbits here. What new details do we learn about them? Enter these on your “Hobbit” page.
4. Give one example of onomatopoeia and one example of alliteration from this chapter. Cite the page numbers.
5. In this chapter, we meet Gollum. Describe him using at least three details from the text.
6. Tolkien uses a simile to describe Gollum's eyes. To what does he compare them?
7. Gollum gets his name from a noise that he makes. -- but what does he call **himself**?
8. As you read, pay attention to the small details we learn about Gollum's past. What do you know about his history so far? (You will need these details for a writing assignment, so be specific!)
9. What is special about the ring Bilbo found?
10. In his anger, Gollum calls Bilbo a thief. Explain the irony of this statement.



Chapter 6: Out of the Frying Pan



Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is Bilbo's "uncomfortable thought" as the chapter opens?
2. Compare Bilbo's "uncomfortable thought" to the dwarves' claim that Bilbo is "more trouble than use." What does this tell you about the difference between Bilbo and the dwarves? (This answer should be at least three sentences.)
3. Write the sentence indicating that Bilbo has begun to keep secrets from the dwarves.
4. How does Gandalf plan to fix the new goblin entrance and make it safer again?
5. Write down three similes found in this chapter.
6. How does Bilbo know what wolves sound like?
7. What phrase becomes a proverb later? How does this relate to the chapter title?
8. How do the dwarves escape?
9. Describe Bilbo's dream at the end of the chapter – what do you think it symbolizes?
10. Describe the eagles – what do you know about them from information given in this chapter? Record at least three specific details. Enter them on your "Eagles" page.



Chapter 7: Queer Lodgings



Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the polite thing to say among eagles? What is the correct reply?
2. Why is Gandalf planning to leave the company of travelers?
3. What is the great rock called? Why?
4. Gandalf gives the dwarves a warning – what is it?
5. In a paragraph with a topic sentence, describe Beorn.
6. Gandalf is strategic in his conversation with Beorn – he softens the facts as he tells the story. Give three specific examples where his words are carefully chosen.
7. Bilbo realizes how clever Gandalf has been – what effect does Gandalf's interrupted story have on Beorn?
8. At dinner, Beorn and the dwarves take turns talking. Explain how their basic interests are very different.
9. Beorn finds a goblin and a Warg – what does he do with them? Based on this incident, what can we conclude about Beorn? (Hint: the author tells us).
10. What advice does Beorn give the dwarves concerning Mirkwood Forest?
11. What is Gandalf's final instruction?



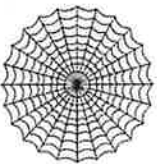
Chapter 8: Flies and Spiders



Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. Describe the setting of Mirkwood. Include at least 5 specific details.
2. **"...all the trees leaned over them and listened!"** This is an example of what type of figurative language?
3. Why does the company give up on having a fire?
4. Explain how Bilbo begins to develop as a leader in this chapter. What specifically forced the dwarves to rely on him in this section?
5. How does Bombur cause a problem for the dwarves?
6. Describe Bombur's dream.
7. How many times do the dwarves leave the path to follow the twinkling lights? What always happens when they do? (Note that the lights are described as red in the beginning).
8. Bilbo experiences a defining moment in this chapter. Write the sentence where he realizes that he has changed.
9. What does Bilbo name his sword?
10. What happens to Thorin in all the choos?
11. What is the elf-king's weakness?
12. How are the Wood Elves different from the High Elves of the West (Elrond's people)?



Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



Chapter 9: Barrels out of Bond

1. Describe the Elvenking.
2. Explain the consequences of the dwarves' rude behavior to the Wood Elves and their king.
3. How does Bilbo get in/out of the palace?
4. Describe Bilbo's escape plan. How do the dwarves respond to his idea?
5. What is the weak point in Bilbo's plan?

Chapter 10: A Warm Welcome

Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe Lake Town. What is unusual about it?
2. How do the people of Dale respond to Thorin and Company?
3. With what does the Master of the Town concern himself?
4. What does the Elvenking suspect the dwarves will attempt?
5. Who is the only unhappy person at the end of the chapter? Why?





Chapter 11: On the Doorstep

Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. Sketch a picture of a scene from the Lonely Mountain. Use specific details from the chapter, and include a quote or two on the sketch to demonstrate where you got your ideas.



2. Who is left to guard the ponies and supplies?
3. What happens when the dwarves try to open the secret door?
4. What does Bilbo suddenly remember?



Chapter 12: Inside Information

Write your answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. In one sentence, summarize Thorin's speech in the first paragraph.
2. What is the bravest thing Bilbo ever did?
3. Describe the dragon and his lair - use at least 5 specific details from the text.
4. What does Bilbo steal from the dragon-hoard?
5. What is Smaug's one thought when he wakes?
6. What is the weak point in the dwarves' plan?
7. How does Bilbo become the real leader of the adventure?
8. How did Bilbo's encounter with Gollum prepare him for his meeting with Smaug?
9. How does Smaug plant doubts in Bilbo's mind?
10. Smaug describes himself in a sentence using multiple similes and metaphors. Write the sentence here.
11. Thorin reaffirms his promise to Bilbo - write the exact sentence where he guarantees Bilbo his share of the spoils. Cite the page number in parentheses.
12. Describe the Arkenstone of Thrain.



Chapter 13: Not at Home

Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.



1. What does Bilbo take from the dragon-hoarded while Smaug is gone? How does he justify this action?
2. The author states that even good dwarves can be affected by the thought of gold and jewels. How does he say they can (and do) change?
3. Describe the gift Thorin bestows on Bilbo.
4. How does Bilbo "measure" the time spent inside the mountain? (Hint: he thinks in these terms often!)
5. Give three characteristics of the food "cram."



Chapter 14: Fire and Water



Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Who is the grim-voiced man? Why is he important to the story?
2. How does Bard know where to aim his black arrow?
3. How are the people of Lake Town behaving like a mob in this chapter?
4. Describe the troubles of the people of Lake Town after the attack by Smaug. Cite three specific details and include the page numbers. Do you think their situation qualifies as legitimate suffering?



Chapter 15: The Gathering of the Clouds



Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What does Thorin notice indicating that "something is afoot?"
2. Which type of bird can speak to the men of Dale? Which type of bird can speak to the dwarves? Why do you think Tolkien chose to pair these specific birds to his characters? (You may need to quickly look up the birds to find out their characteristics).
3. What advice does the raven give Thorin?
4. Why is Bilbo discouraged by the dwarves' song?
5. List the three claims Bard presents to Thorin. Do you feel he has a just claim? Does Thorin have an equally legitimate claim? Why or why not?
6. What do Bard's messengers ask of Thorin? What was his response?



Chapter 16: A Thief in the Night



Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What does Thorin swear at the beginning of the chapter?
2. Bombur is annoyed with Thorin – what does he say about him? What does this mean?
3. How does Bilbo convince the guards to let him speak to Bard – what natural human desire does he appeal to in order to persuade them? (Hint: it's a major theme of the novel).
4. What is Bilbo's plan? Why does he choose to move forward with this idea?



Chapter 17: The Clouds Burst



Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. To what does Thorin believe the "new tidings" from Bard refer? What is the actual news?
2. Explain why Gandalf says that Thorin is "not making a very splendid figure as King under the Mountain."
3. Describe Dain's army of dwarves. Give at least 5 specific details and cite the page numbers.
4. Who are the good guys and bad guys as the chapter opens? What happens to change this?
5. Name the Five Armies.
6. Where does Bilbo choose to fight? Why does he make his stand with these particular people?



Chapter 18: The Return Journey



Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What/who turned the tide of the battle? (There are two parts to this answer.)
2. When Bilbo wakes up, he feels that "Sorrow seemed to be in the air." What do we learn that supports this truth?
3. What part of the treasure does Bilbo agree to take?
4. How does Beorn change in the years after the battle?



Chapter 19: The Last Stage



Write the answers in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Where had Gandalf been while he was away? What was he doing?
2. Why were Bilbo's goods being auctioned when he returned home?
3. How have both Bilbo and Balin changed when they meet years later? (You should cite specific physical details). What do these details indicate about their lives after the adventure?
4. What happened to the old Master of Lake Town? What message do you think Tolkien is giving his readers by including this detail?