

Summer Reading Packet
8th Grade Pre~AP Language Arts

the hobbit

by: J.R.R. Tolkien



Reading Assignment: chapters 1-6 *The Hobbit*



Resources Needed:

- *Map Colors/Colored Pens
- *Large Post-it Notes (summaries)
- **The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

For the first six chapters of *The Hobbit*, the annotations will be specifically focused on the following: **summary, characterization, setting, conflict, details, and literary terms**. Each literary technique will be color coded for organization and clearer grading. This handout will explain the annotation expectations for each of the first six chapters.

Chapter 1: “An Unexpected Party” ~

Summary/Characterization/Setting/Details/Conflict

- *Underline all new characters/characterization in RED. Box/Circle the name of each character/species and then underline additional characteristics that are given for each. For each additional chapter, continue to highlight NEW information, characteristics, or important events that are addressed for each main character.
- *Underline/Highlight each new setting in PURPLE.
- *Underline/Highlight any important details/events in YELLOW.
- *Underline/Highlight the main conflict in BLUE. In the margin or on a post-it note, explain the conflict or discuss the possibility of its resolution.
- *On a post-it note, write a brief summary of Chapter 1 and place it on the first page of the chapter. Write in complete sentences. Feel free to add post-it notes with additional information or notes.

Chapter 2: “Roast Mutton”

Tone/Summary/Characterization/Setting/Details/Conflict

- *Find an example of Slapstick Comedy and highlight/underline in GREEN. On a post-it note, explain why this is an example of slapstick comedy.
- *What is the tone of this chapter? (Highlight evidence in ORANGE and write the tone in the margin or on a post-it note; provide an explanation for why you chose that tone; consider the possibilities of tone shifts throughout the chapter.)
- *Underline all new characters/species/characterization in RED.
- *Underline each new setting in PURPLE.
- *Underline any important details/events in YELLOW.
- *Underline/Highlight the main conflict in BLUE. In the margin or on a post-it note, explain the conflict or discuss the possibility of its resolution.
- *On a post-it note, write a brief summary of the chapter. Write in complete sentences. Feel free to add post-it notes with additional information or notes.

Chapter 3: “A Short Rest”

Summary/Characterization/Setting/Details/Conflict

- *Underline all new characters/species/characterization in RED.
- *Underline each new setting in PURPLE.

*Underline any information pertaining to the map/moonletters in YELLOW. On a post-it note, explain the significance of the moonletters to the plot of the story. Continue to highlight any other important details/events in YELLOW.

*Underline/Highlight the main conflict in BLUE. In the margin or on a post-it note, explain the conflict or discuss the possibility of its resolution.

*On a post-it note, write a brief summary of the chapter. Write in complete sentences. Feel free to add post-it notes with additional information or notes.

Chapter 4: “Over Hill and Under Hill”

Literary Elements/ Summary/Characterization/Setting/Details/Conflict

*Find an example of the following literary elements

(Make a color key on a post-it note and place at the front of the chapter.)

1) Alliteration (2 examples) - BLUE

2) Imagery (2 examples/each a different sense; label the sense described) - RED

3) Personification (2 examples) - PURPLE

4) Mood (1 – must write what the mood is if not stated) - YELLOW

5) Foreshadowing (1 example) - ORANGE

6) Onomatopoeia (2 examples) - GREEN

7) Simile (2 examples) – BROWN

*Underline all new characters/species/characterization in RED.

*Underline each new setting in PURPLE.

*Underline any important details/events in YELLOW.

*Underline/Highlight the main conflict in BLUE. In the margin or on a post-it note, explain the conflict or discuss the possibility of its resolution.

*On a post-it note, write a brief summary of the chapter. Write in complete sentences. Feel free to add post-it notes with additional information or notes.

(If needed, refer to Lit Term Definitions at: <http://hobbisummerreading.wikispaces.com/home>)

Chapter 5: “Riddles in the Dark”

Summary/Characterization/Setting/Details/Conflict

*Underline Riddles in Yellow. What significance did the riddle competition play in developing Bilbo’s character? (answer on a post-it note)

*State a theme (on a post-it note) and highlight evidence within the chapter for support in ORANGE.

*Underline all new characters/species/characterization in RED.

*Underline each new setting in PURPLE.

*Underline any important details/events in YELLOW.

*Underline/Highlight the main conflict in BLUE. In the margin or on a post-it note, explain the conflict or discuss the possibility of its resolution.

*On a post-it note, write a brief summary of the chapter. Write in complete sentences. Feel free to add post-it notes with additional information or notes.

Chapter 6: “Out of the Frying-Pan, Into the Fire”

Plot/ Summary/Characterization/Setting/Details/Conflict

*Underline Conflict in BLUE. Find and underline one example for each type of conflict. LABEL EACH EXAMPLE as one of the following.

1) *Man vs. Man*

2) *Man vs. Nature*

3) *Man vs. Himself*

4) *Man vs. Society*

*Underline all new characters/species/characterization in RED.

*Underline each new setting in PURPLE.

*Underline any important details/events in YELLOW.

*On a post-it note, write a brief summary of the chapter. Write in complete sentences. Feel free to add post-it notes with additional information or notes.

(If needed, refer to Conflict Types at: <http://hobbitsummerreading.wikispaces.com/home>)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The assignment for Chapters 1-6 is to be completed over the Summer Break, prior to returning to class on August 26. *The Hobbit* is a classic, but a challenging, lengthy novel that is a requirement for all 8th grade students in Pre-AP Language Arts, district-wide. In order to finish the novel in a timely manner, have time for more discussion/activities, as well as cut down on the outside reading load during the 1st six weeks, summer reading is a necessary and essential resolution.

REQUIREMENTS:

*Students must **READ** and **ANNOTATE** the first **SIX CHAPTERS** of *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien by the first day of school, August 26.

*During the first week of school, students will receive a reading schedule for the remainder of the book to be completed before the **novel assessment during the week of September 16** that will consist of short answer, multiple choice, and group essay.

***VOCABULARY REQUIREMENT** for *The Hobbit*: Students need to create a free account for www.vocabulary.com. They will then need to locate the Hobbit Vocabulary list, "Hobbit All Chapter (702)" to study and practice over the summer. A Vocabulary Test will be given over this list during the same week of September 16.

*Students can access vocabulary lists, examples, literary terms, and other resources at the following website: <http://hobbitsummerreading.wikispaces.com/home>.

*The study guide questions for *The Hobbit* are **optional**. Study questions can assist students in focusing and organizing their thoughts as they read. Study guides can also help students to practice their critical thinking skills, make meaningful connections, and increase their comprehension of the text. This is a challenging novel that might require re-reading for full understanding. It is recommended to read the chapter once, then to go back and re-read/annotate during the 2nd reading. Students cannot afford to procrastinate on starting this assignment. It is best to spread it out of the summer to ensure plenty of time to complete the assignment.

Name: _____ (optional)

The Hobbit: CHAPTER 1-3 QUESTIONS

Chapter 1: An Unexpected Party

1. What is a hobbit? List characteristics that describe and define this being?
2. What role does “respectability” play in the narrator’s assessment of Bilbo?
3. Bilbo is described as a bit different from other hobbits. How is he different? Will this help or hinder him in the proposed adventure?
4. What evidence can you find that demonstrates Bilbo to be an excellent choice for this journey?
5. How many dwarves arrive at Bilbo’s house? How does he tell them apart? Who is Thorin? What is the significance of Thorin’s key and his map?
6. Record what is revealed about the dwarves through their song. What is Bilbo’s reaction to this song and their singing?
7. Briefly describe Smaug and list the general characteristics most dragons have in common.
8. What is the significance of Dale?
9. This story is mainly told by a Third-Person Narrator. The narrator is recording the actions of the story, but occasionally the narrator or author breaks away from the story to speak directly to the reader. Find an example of Tolkien doing this. What does this add to the story?

chapter 2: Roast Mutton

1. What two items does Bilbo forget in his rush to meet the dwarves at the Green Dragon Inn? What do you think forgetting these items tell the reader about Bilbo's willingness to go on this adventure?
2. Describe Bilbo's physical and emotional state at the onset of his journey.
3. Describe the trolls.
4. How does Bilbo manage to sneak up on the trolls? Why does Bilbo decide to try to pick the trolls' pockets?
5. Find an example of slapstick comedy in this chapter.
6. What did the dwarves remove from the cave?
7. What hobbit qualities are challenged in these chapters?
8. "Fantasy" is a work of fiction, which does not represent the known world. List two characteristics of the world Tolkien creates in *The Hobbit* that qualify this novel as a fantasy.

chapter 3: A Short Rest

1. Describe the elves and briefly discuss Bilbo's relationship with them. What insights can you offer about both through their relationships?
2. Describe Elrond and discuss in what ways he advances the plot of this story.
3. What do the dwarves and elves think of each other?
4. What are the names of the swords captured from the trolls, and what do they signify?
5. What is the legend about moon-letters? What riddle do they reveal to Elrond? What is Durin's Day?
6. One overall theme in this story is the conflict between good and evil. What qualities does Elrond possess which makes him a good leader for his people? How does the author depict both good and evil in physical terms?
7. Another theme is the idea of free will. Do you agree or disagree that Bilbo came on this mission of his own free will? What elements of freedom are present in Elrond's kingdom which support the idea that free will is important for a person to be happy?
8. *The Hobbit* was originally written for children. It contains many of the elements of a fairy tale including goblins, wizards, dwarves and other imaginative characters. There are also life lessons or generalizations about life imbedded in the story. State a generalization about life using the following passage from the story.

"Now it is a strange thing, but things that are good to have and days that are good to spend are soon told about, and not much to listen to; while things that are uncomfortable, palpitating, and even gruesome, may make a good tale, and take a deal of telling anyway."

Chapter 4: Over Hill and Under Hill

1. "...and he (Gandalf) knew how evil and danger had grown and thrived in the Wild, since the dragons had driven men from the lands, and the goblins had spread in secret after the battle of the Mines of Moria. Even the good plans of wise wizards like Gandalf and of good friends like Elrond go astray sometimes when you are off on dangerous adventures over the Edge of the wild..." (Pg. 56)

State a generalization about life based on the above quotation.

Use the following passage to answer the next two questions.

"The end of their argument was that they sent Fili and Kili to look for a better shelter. They had very sharp eyes, and being the youngest of the dwarves by some fifty years they usually got these sort of jobs (when everybody could see that it was absolutely no use sending Bilbo). There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something (or so Thorin said to the young dwarves). You certainly usually find something, if you look, but it is not always quite the something you were after. So it proved on this occasion." (Pgs. 57-58)

2. State a generalization about life based on this passage.
3. Find an example of foreshadowing in this quotation. Explain it.
4. What are Biter and Beater? Why does the fact that Thorin has Biter make the Great Goblin fly into a rage? How does Gandalf use Beater to escape from the goblins?
5. Who/what are the goblins? What do they add to this story? Describe them thoroughly and assess what their song reveals about them.
6. Gandalf is a wizard of many talents. Describe some of the ways in which he has helped Bilbo and the dwarves and then describe some of what he can't or won't do and explain why.

1. Find an example of foreshadowing at the beginning of this chapter when Bilbo is alone in the tunnel.
2. Tolkien is a master of language. Even though *The Hobbit* is written mostly in prose, Tolkien includes many songs and sentences with poetic elements. Sometimes they have meter like the lines in a poem. Find a short passage in this chapter that illustrates his poetic writing style.
3. One of the most memorable characters in all of fairy literature is Gollum. Define what it is that makes Gollum so memorable. What is most important to him? What do his appearance and his “home” reveal about him? Why does he converse with his “precious” and why does he refer to himself as “We”? What was the only beautiful thing in his dismal existence?
4. What was Gollum like before finding the ring? Describe Gollum’s corruption through its power. Find a passage that explains the transformation.
5. What is revealed about Bilbo and Gollum respectively through the riddles each of them asks? Why does Bilbo win the riddle game? What stops Bilbo from killing Gollum?
6. Many critics believe the character Gollum represents Tolkien’s idea of evil. Cite incidents from this chapter to support or refute this idea.
7. What are the rules Bilbo and Gollum agree to, concerning the riddle contest?
8. Under what conditions can someone wearing the ring be seen?
9. In what way is Bilbo’s eventual escape from the caves an example of irony?
10. One of the characteristics of a hero is a sense of fair play. In what way does Bilbo demonstrate this trait in this chapter?

chapter 6 – Out of the frying pan, into the fire

1. Having escaped the goblins, Bilbo is momentarily quite alone. Do these thoughts express a crucial change in him? Why or Why not? What does this say about the change that Bilbo is undergoing as a character?
2. What do you think of the dwarves' reluctance to go back into the caves to find Bilbo?
3. Why do you think Bilbo fails to tell Gandalf and the dwarves about his magic ring?
4. What are the Wargs? Why are they gathering in the forest clearing? How does Gandalf try to fight the Wargs?
5. When dwarves and Bilbo fear a pack of evil howling wolves (Wargs), what do they do to protect themselves?
6. Describe the ordeal Bilbo and dwarves have to endure at the hands of the goblins before they are rescued by the eagles.
7. How do the Eagles and the goblins feel about each other?
8. The last line of this chapter states that Bilbo dreams about his own house. In that dream he is wandering around his house "looking for something that he could not find nor remember what it looked like." (Pg. 110) What do you suppose Bilbo is looking for in his dream?