

Answers To The Hobbit Study Guide

The Hobbit Study Guide

The interpretation of the riddles is sometimes obvious, sometimes obscure; but the descriptive power of the poetry is often high, and the imagery is fresh and picturesque.²

Riddles can be confusing—and fun—because they commonly use the literary techniques of epithet and metaphor.³

An *epithet* is “an adjective or adjectival phrase used to define a distinctive quality of a person or thing,” often “an identifying phrase that stands in place of a noun.”⁴ For example, “the yellow, wheel-footed beast” might be an unhappy but poetic student’s epithet for a school bus!

A *metaphor* is a comparison in which one thing (sometimes called “the tenor”) is described in terms of a second, often dissimilar thing (sometimes called “the vehicle”).⁵ For example, the prophet Isaiah writes, “Surely the people *are* grass” (Isaiah 40:7c, emphasis added). The “tenor”—the Babylonian exiles—is described in terms of the “vehicle” of grass. The metaphor suggests that the weary, disheartened captives are as frail and feeble as withering grass.

A metaphor differs from a *simile*. While both metaphors and similes compare things, a simile does so by means of the words “like” or “as”—for example, Isaiah 40:6: “All men are *like* grass, and all their glory is *like* the flowers of the field” (emphasis added).

Although Bilbo’s and Gollum’s riddles do not, medieval riddles often end with the phrase, “Tell me what I’m called.”⁶

1. Identify each of the following passages as using *epithet*, *metaphor*, or *simile*:

- a. “Fly away little birds! Fly away if you can! Come down little birds, or you will get roasted in your nests!” _____
- b. “He is a liar, O truly tremendous one!” _____
- c. “He was watching Bilbo now from the distance with his pale eyes like telescopes.” _____
- d. “[The elves] had called it Orcrist, Goblin-cleaver, but the goblins called it simply Biter.” _____

ANSWERS TO THE HOBBIT STUDY GUIDE PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF J.R.R. TOLKIEN’S BELOVED NOVEL, “THE HOBBIT.” THIS FANTASY CLASSIC NOT ONLY CAPTIVATES READERS WITH ITS ENCHANTING TALE AND RICH WORLD-BUILDING BUT ALSO SERVES AS AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND ENTHUSIASTS ALIKE. THE STUDY GUIDE TYPICALLY INCLUDES QUESTIONS ABOUT CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT, THEMES, PLOT POINTS, AND SIGNIFICANT SYMBOLS, ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF THE TEXT. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE STUDY GUIDE AND PROVIDE ANSWERS TO SOME COMMON QUESTIONS, ENHANCING YOUR GRASP OF THIS LITERARY MASTERPIECE.

PLOT SUMMARY

“THE HOBBIT” FOLLOWS THE JOURNEY OF BILBO BAGGINS, A HOBBIT WHO ENJOYS A QUIET AND COMFORTABLE LIFE IN THE SHIRE. HIS ADVENTURE BEGINS WHEN THE WIZARD GANDALF AND A GROUP OF THIRTEEN DWARVES, LED BY THORIN OAKENSHIELD,

INVADE HIS HOME AND ENLIST HIS HELP TO RECLAIM THEIR HOMELAND AND TREASURE FROM THE DRAGON SMAUG. AS BILBO TRAVELS THROUGH PERILOUS LANDS, HE ENCOUNTERS TROLLS, GOBLINS, ELVES, AND GIANT SPIDERS, ULTIMATELY DISCOVERING HIS OWN COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS.

Key Plot Points

1. **BILBO'S RELUCTANCE:** AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY, BILBO IS CONTENT WITH HIS PEACEFUL LIFE AND RESISTS THE CALL TO ADVENTURE.
2. **THE UNEXPECTED PARTY:** GANDALF AND THE DWARVES ARRIVE AT BILBO'S HOME, MARKING THE START OF THEIR QUEST.
3. **THE TROLLS:** BILBO'S FIRST TEST COMES WHEN HE ATTEMPTS TO PICKPOCKET A GROUP OF TROLLS, LEADING TO A DANGEROUS ENCOUNTER.
4. **RIDDLES IN THE DARK:** BILBO MEETS GOLLUM IN THE GOBLIN CAVES AND ENGAGES IN A RIDDLE CONTEST, DISCOVERING THE ONE RING.
5. **THE BATTLE OF FIVE ARMIES:** THE CLIMAX OF THE STORY OCCURS WITH A SIGNIFICANT BATTLE INVOLVING DWARVES, ELVES, MEN, AND GOBLINS.

Character Analysis

UNDERSTANDING THE CHARACTERS IN "THE HOBBIT" IS ESSENTIAL FOR GRASPING THE NARRATIVE'S DEPTH. EACH CHARACTER PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN BILBO'S JOURNEY AND DEVELOPMENT.

Main Characters

- **BILBO BAGGINS:** THE PROTAGONIST, WHOSE GROWTH FROM A TIMID HOBBIT TO A BRAVE ADVENTURER IS CENTRAL TO THE STORY.
- **GANDALF:** THE WISE WIZARD WHO GUIDES BILBO AND THE DWARVES, REPRESENTING WISDOM AND FORESIGHT.
- **THORIN OAKENSHIELD:** THE LEADER OF THE DWARVES, WHOSE DETERMINATION TO RECLAIM HIS HOMELAND OFTEN BRINGS HIM INTO CONFLICT WITH OTHERS.
- **SMAUG:** THE DRAGON WHO HOARDS THE DWARVES' TREASURE, SYMBOLIZING GREED AND DESTRUCTION.
- **GOLLUM:** A TRAGIC FIGURE REPRESENTING THE CORRUPTING NATURE OF THE ONE RING.

Character Relationships

- **BILBO AND GANDALF:** GANDALF SERVES AS A MENTOR TO BILBO, ENCOURAGING HIS GROWTH AND BRAVERY.
- **BILBO AND THORIN:** THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS COMPLEX, WITH BILBO'S CLEVERNESS OFTEN SAVING THE DWARVES, CREATING A BOND OF RESPECT.
- **BILBO AND SMAUG:** BILBO'S ENCOUNTER WITH SMAUG ILLUSTRATES HIS GROWTH AS HE CONFRONTS DANGER DIRECTLY.

Themes

THE THEMES IN "THE HOBBIT" PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO ITS MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNINGS.

Key Themes

1. **COURAGE AND GROWTH:** BILBO'S TRANSFORMATION FROM A HESITANT HOBBIT TO A COURAGEOUS HERO HIGHLIGHTS THE THEME OF PERSONAL GROWTH.

2. GREED AND DESTRUCTION: THE DRAGON SMAUG EMBODIES THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF GREED, AFFECTING NOT ONLY HIM BUT ALSO THOSE AROUND HIM.
3. FRIENDSHIP AND LOYALTY: THE BONDS FORMED BETWEEN BILBO AND THE DWARVES DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF CAMARADERIE AND LOYALTY IN OVERCOMING ADVERSITY.
4. HOME AND BELONGING: BILBO'S LONGING FOR HOME CONTRASTS WITH THE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT OF THE DWARVES, PROMPTING REFLECTIONS ON THE MEANING OF HOME.

SYMBOLS

SYMBOLS ENRICH THE NARRATIVE AND ADD LAYERS OF MEANING TO THE STORY.

KEY SYMBOLS

- THE ONE RING: REPRESENTS POWER AND CORRUPTION; IT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTS THOSE WHO POSSESS IT.
- STING: BILBO'S SWORD SYMBOLIZES HIS TRANSFORMATION; IT IS A TOOL OF PROTECTION AND A SYMBOL OF HIS BRAVERY.
- THE ARKENSTONE: A SYMBOL OF THORIN'S HERITAGE AND DESIRE FOR POWER, LEADING TO CONFLICT AMONG THE CHARACTERS.

IMPORTANT QUOTES AND ANALYSIS

QUOTATIONS FROM "THE HOBBIT" CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF ITS THEMES AND CHARACTERS. HERE ARE A FEW SIGNIFICANT QUOTES WITH ANALYSES:

1. "IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND THERE LIVED A HOBBIT."
 - THIS OPENING LINE INTRODUCES BILBO'S SIMPLE LIFE AND SETS THE STAGE FOR THE CONTRAST BETWEEN HIS MUNDANE EXISTENCE AND THE GRAND ADVENTURE AHEAD.
2. "I FOUND IT IN THE DARK, AND I WILL KEEP IT."
 - THIS QUOTE REFLECTS BILBO'S POSSESSION OF THE ONE RING AND FORESHADOWS THE CHALLENGES HE WILL FACE AS HE GRAPPLES WITH ITS POWER.
3. "THERE IS NOTHING LIKE LOOKING, IF YOU WANT TO FIND SOMETHING."
 - BILBO'S STATEMENT EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF CURIOSITY AND ADVENTURE, THEMES CENTRAL TO THE NARRATIVE.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HERE ARE SOME DISCUSSION QUESTIONS THAT CAN DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF "THE HOBBIT":

1. HOW DOES BILBO'S CHARACTER CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE STORY?
2. WHAT ROLE DOES FATE PLAY IN THE EVENTS OF THE NOVEL?
3. IN WHAT WAYS DOES TOLKIEN USE NATURE TO REFLECT THE CHARACTERS' EMOTIONS AND JOURNEYS?
4. HOW DOES THE CONCEPT OF HEROISM DIFFER BETWEEN BILBO AND THORIN?

CONCLUSION

ANSWERS TO THE HOBBIT STUDY GUIDE NOT ONLY ENHANCE YOUR COMPREHENSION OF THE TEXT BUT ALSO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSING ITS BROADER IMPLICATIONS. BY EXAMINING THE PLOT, CHARACTERS, THEMES, SYMBOLS, AND SIGNIFICANT QUOTES, READERS CAN APPRECIATE THE INTRICACIES OF TOLKIEN'S WORK. "THE HOBBIT" REMAINS A TIMELESS

TALE OF ADVENTURE, COURAGE, AND FRIENDSHIP, INVITING READERS TO EMBARK ON THEIR JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY. WHETHER FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES OR PERSONAL ENJOYMENT, THIS GUIDE SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO DELVE DEEPER INTO THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF MIDDLE-EARTH.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN QUEST OF BILBO BAGGINS IN 'THE HOBBIT'?

BILBO BAGGINS' MAIN QUEST IS TO HELP A GROUP OF DWARVES RECLAIM THEIR HOMELAND AND TREASURE FROM THE DRAGON SMAUG.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY THAT BILBO JOINS?

THE COMPANY CONSISTS OF THORIN OAKENSHIELD, FILI, KILI, DWALIN, BALIN, DORI, NORI, ORI, OIN, GLOIN, AND THE WIZARD GANDALF.

HOW DOES BILBO FIRST ENCOUNTER GOLLUM?

BILBO FIRST ENCOUNTERS GOLLUM WHILE LOST IN THE DARK TUNNELS OF THE MISTY MOUNTAINS AFTER BEING SEPARATED FROM THE DWARVES.

WHAT SIGNIFICANT OBJECT DOES BILBO FIND DURING HIS ADVENTURE?

BILBO FINDS A MAGICAL RING THAT GRANTS HIM THE POWER OF INVISIBILITY, WHICH HE LATER LEARNS IS THE ONE RING.

WHAT LESSON DOES BILBO LEARN ABOUT COURAGE THROUGHOUT HIS JOURNEY?

BILBO LEARNS THAT COURAGE CAN COME IN MANY FORMS AND THAT BEING BRAVE ISN'T THE ABSENCE OF FEAR, BUT THE WILLINGNESS TO FACE IT.

WHAT ROLE DOES SMAUG PLAY IN 'THE HOBBIT'?

SMAUG IS THE MAIN ANTAGONIST OF THE STORY, A POWERFUL DRAGON WHO HOARDS THE TREASURE OF THE LONELY MOUNTAIN AND POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE CHARACTERS.

HOW DOES BILBO'S CHARACTER DEVELOP FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF THE STORY?

BILBO EVOLVES FROM A TIMID AND HOME-LOVING HOBBIT INTO A CLEVER AND RESOURCEFUL HERO WHO CONFIDENTLY FACES CHALLENGES AND DANGERS.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARKENSTONE IN THE STORY?

THE ARKENSTONE IS A PRECIOUS GEM THAT THORIN SEEKS AS A SYMBOL OF HIS HERITAGE, BUT IT ALSO BECOMES A POINT OF CONFLICT AMONG THE CHARACTERS.

HOW DOES THE STORY OF 'THE HOBBIT' CONNECT TO 'THE LORD OF THE RINGS'?

THE EVENTS OF 'THE HOBBIT' SET THE STAGE FOR 'THE LORD OF THE RINGS,' PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ONE RING AND CHARACTERS LIKE BILBO AND GANDALF.

WHAT THEMES ARE PROMINENT IN 'THE HOBBIT'?

PROMINENT THEMES INCLUDE THE HERO'S JOURNEY, FRIENDSHIP, THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME AND BELONGING.

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