

# Hobbit Study Guide Answers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 9 Comprehension Questions

1. Why, where, and how are the dwarves imprisoned? Why wasn't Bilbo imprisoned as well?  
*Wood-elves captured them while still in Mirkwood ... Bilbo escaped capture by putting on the ring.*
2. How does Bilbo get in and out of the palace?  
*He puts on the ring and becomes invisible and slips out with the Wood-elves when they leave to go on a hunt or take care of other business.*
3. How many entrances does the palace have?
4. Where is the elves' wine made?  
*"kingsfolk in the south or vineyards of Men in distant lands"*

## Discussion Questions

1. Why does the Elvenking imprison the dwarves? Why won't Thorin tell the Elvenking what his mission is? What characteristics does his refusal reveal about him? Do you think these characteristics are true for all dwarves, or are they just true for Thorin?  
*They would not tell them of their business. He didn't want anyone else to go after the treasure. This reveals greediness.*
2. Is Bilbo a burglar now? Throughout the book, does he have any ethical dilemmas about stealing? How is the connotation of the word burglar different from the connotation of thief? Is Bilbo's type of burglar different from stealing? Explain your answer.  
*Opinion answer*
3. At this point in the book do you think the dwarves have treated Bilbo fairly? Why do you think Bilbo is loyal to them? What does his loyalty reveal about his character?  
*Opinion answer*

## Vocab

1. Portcullis – *strong, iron gate – used especially in medieval castles*
2. Flagon – *a large bottle of wine*
3. Potent – *powerful, mighty ...having or exercising great power or influence*

**Hobbit Study Guide Answers** are an essential resource for students and readers alike who want to delve deeper into J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved fantasy novel, "The Hobbit." This guide not only provides answers to common questions but also helps readers grasp the underlying themes, character development, and plot intricacies that make the story a classic. In this article, we will explore various aspects of "The Hobbit," offering insights and answers that will enhance your understanding of the text.

## Overview of "The Hobbit"

"The Hobbit," published in 1937, serves as a prelude to Tolkien's more renowned work, "The Lord of the Rings." The story follows the journey of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit who is thrust into an unexpected adventure alongside a group of dwarves and the wizard Gandalf.

Their quest is to reclaim the dwarves' homeland and treasure from the dragon Smaug.

## Key Characters

Understanding the characters is crucial to comprehending the narrative. Here are some of the main characters in "The Hobbit":

1. Bilbo Baggins: The protagonist, a reluctant hero with a love for peace and quiet.
2. Gandalf: The wise wizard who initiates Bilbo's adventure.
3. Thorin Oakenshield: The leader of the dwarves seeking to reclaim their homeland.
4. Smaug: The fearsome dragon who guards the treasure.
5. Gollum: A creature who possesses a mysterious ring that Bilbo encounters.

## Plot Summary

The plot of "The Hobbit" can be divided into several key components:

1. The Call to Adventure: Bilbo's quiet life is disrupted when Gandalf and the dwarves arrive at his home, proposing a quest to reclaim the Lonely Mountain and its treasure.
2. The Journey Begins: Bilbo reluctantly joins the adventure, which leads them through various landscapes, including the Shire, the Misty Mountains, and Mirkwood Forest.
3. Challenges and Allies: Along the way, Bilbo faces numerous challenges, including trolls, goblins, and giant spiders. He also meets allies, such as the eagles and Beorn.
4. Confrontation with Smaug: Bilbo's cunning is tested when he confronts Smaug, ultimately stealing a piece of treasure and awakening the dragon.
5. The Battle of the Five Armies: The climax involves a massive battle over the treasure, where various factions, including elves, men, and dwarves, clash against Smaug and his allies.

## Themes in "The Hobbit"

Several significant themes permeate "The Hobbit," enriching the story's depth:

### 1. Heroism and Growth

Bilbo's transformation from a timid hobbit to a brave adventurer exemplifies the theme of personal growth. His experiences shape him, allowing him to discover strengths he never knew he possessed.

## **2. Friendship and Loyalty**

The bonds formed among the characters highlight the importance of friendship and loyalty. Bilbo's relationships with the dwarves deepen as they face adversity together, showcasing the strength that comes from unity.

## **3. Greed and its Consequences**

The dragon Smaug embodies the destructive nature of greed. His obsession with treasure leads to his downfall and serves as a warning about the perils of avarice.

## **4. The Struggle Between Good and Evil**

The battle between the forces of good and evil is a recurrent theme in Tolkien's works. In "The Hobbit," this struggle is evident in the characters' interactions with trolls, goblins, and Smaug.

## **Important Symbols**

Understanding the symbols in "The Hobbit" can enhance your interpretation of the story:

1. The One Ring: A symbol of power and corruption, the ring represents Bilbo's internal struggle and foreshadows the events of "The Lord of the Rings."
2. Sting: Bilbo's sword, which symbolizes his growth and courage, becomes a key tool in his adventures.
3. The Arkenstone: A symbol of rightful kingship and treasure, the Arkenstone embodies the dwarves' heritage and the conflicts that arise from greed.

## **Study Questions and Answers**

Here are some common study questions along with their answers to facilitate deeper understanding:

### **1. What motivates Bilbo to join the adventure?**

Bilbo is initially reluctant to leave his comfortable life, but his curiosity and the influence of Gandalf and the dwarves ultimately motivate him. The encounter with Gollum and the discovery of the ring also play a part in shaping his decision.

## **2. How does Bilbo change throughout the story?**

Bilbo evolves from a hesitant, comfort-loving hobbit to a clever and resourceful adventurer. He learns to embrace bravery, make difficult decisions, and take initiative, especially during critical moments like confronting Smaug.

## **3. What role does luck play in Bilbo's journey?**

Luck is a significant factor in Bilbo's journey. He often finds himself in life-threatening situations but manages to escape or find solutions through a combination of luck, quick thinking, and the support of his companions.

## **4. How does Tolkien use nature in "The Hobbit"?**

Nature plays a vital role in the narrative, reflecting the characters' challenges and growth. Different landscapes, such as the Shire's tranquility, the perilous Misty Mountains, and the dark Mirkwood Forest, symbolize the stages of Bilbo's journey and his internal conflicts.

## **5. What is the significance of the title "The Hobbit"?**

The title signifies not just Bilbo's species but also the themes of simplicity and adventure. It highlights the contrast between Bilbo's humble beginnings and the grand adventures he undertakes, suggesting that even the most ordinary individuals can achieve greatness.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, "The Hobbit" is a rich tapestry of adventure, character growth, and profound themes. Hobbit study guide answers serve as a valuable tool for readers seeking to explore the novel's complexities. By understanding the characters, plot, themes, and symbols, readers can appreciate Tolkien's masterful storytelling and the lasting impact of his work on the fantasy genre. Whether for academic purposes or personal enjoyment, engaging with these study guide answers will undoubtedly enhance your journey into the world of Middle-earth.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What themes are explored in 'The Hobbit'?**

Major themes in 'The Hobbit' include adventure, courage, friendship, and the transformative power of wealth.

## **Who are the main characters in 'The Hobbit'?**

The main characters include Bilbo Baggins, Gandalf, Thorin Oakenshield, Smaug, and Gollum.

## **What is the significance of the One Ring in 'The Hobbit'?**

The One Ring represents power and corruption; it is a pivotal object that influences characters' actions and decisions throughout the story.

## **How does Bilbo Baggins change throughout 'The Hobbit'?**

Bilbo evolves from a timid homebody to a brave and resourceful adventurer, gaining confidence and leadership skills along the way.

## **What role does Gandalf play in 'The Hobbit'?**

Gandalf serves as a mentor and guide to Bilbo and the dwarves, orchestrating their adventure and helping them face various challenges.

## **What is the significance of the title 'The Hobbit'?**

The title reflects the protagonist, Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit who embarks on an unexpected journey, highlighting the contrast between his ordinary life and extraordinary adventures.

## **What lessons can be learned from 'The Hobbit'?**

Lessons from 'The Hobbit' include the importance of bravery, the value of friendship, and the idea that even the smallest person can change the course of the future.

## **How does J.R.R. Tolkien's writing style contribute to the story in 'The Hobbit'?**

Tolkien's writing style combines rich descriptions, humor, and a sense of wonder, which immerse readers in the fantastical world of Middle-earth and make the adventure engaging.

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