

ANSWER KEY: SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - The Hobbit

Chapter 1

1. List 10 characteristics of hobbits.

half our height, no beards, no magic, fat stomachs, dress in bright colors, feet have leathery soles and hairy tops, good natured faces, long brown fingers, plain & quiet folk, no use for adventure, love to eat smoke & blow smoke rings, used to tunneling, do not lose sense of direction underground, move quietly, hide easily, recover from falls and bruises, have wisdom and wise sayings, love to eat frequently

2. Identify):

Bilbo Baggins The story is about Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, and his adventures as he helps some dwarves get to Lonely Mountain to regain their kingdom.

Belladonna Took was Bilbo's mother. She was the daughter of Old Took.

Bungo Baggins was Bilbo's father.

Gandalf is a wizard. He wears a tall, pointed, blue hat and immense black boots, and he has a long beard and bushy eyebrows. He chooses Bilbo to go with the dwarves.

Dwalin - dwarf, blue beard, golden belt, bright eyes, dark green hood, plays violin, Balin's brother

Balin - dwarf, old looking, white beard, scarlet hood, plays violin, Dwalin's brother

Kili & Fili - dwarves, blue hoods, silver belts, yellow beards, bag of tools and a spade, played fiddles, sharp vision

Dori - dwarf, purple hood, played flute, carried Bilbo a lot

Nori - dwarf, purple hood, played flute

Ori - dwarf, gray hood, played flute

Oin - dwarf, brown hood

Gloin - dwarf, white hood

Bifur - dwarf, yellow hood, played clarinet

Bofur - dwarf, yellow hood, played clarinet

Bombur - dwarf, pale green hood, fat & heavy, played drum

Thorin - dwarf, sky blue hood, long silver tassel, last name Oakenshield, golden harp, The trip is to regain his family's kingdom from Smaug, the dragon.

3. What was unusual about the Took's?

There was something un-hobbit like about them; they were adventurous.

4. Why did Gandalf visit Bilbo Baggins?

Gandalf came to tell Bilbo about an adventure he had planned.

5. Who was Bilbo expecting for tea?

Bilbo was expecting Gandalf.

6. What about his uninvited guests irked Bilbo?

They came right in and made themselves at home, placing orders for food and drink.

7. What effect did the dwarves' singing have on Bilbo?

It awoke the Took in him, his adventurous spirit.

8. State Gloom's opinion of Bilbo Baggins.

He thinks Gandalf has made a mistake, that Bilbo is a coward, not a brave burglar.

9. Gandalf showed the dwarves something that belonged to Thorin's grandfather. What was it?

It was a map of the Mountain, showing a secret entrance. He also had a key.

10. Identify Dale.

Dale was a dwarf-town in ruins in the shadow of the mountain.

11. Identify Smaug.

Smaug was the name of the dragon that overtook the dwarves' mountain kingdom, the surrounding area, and the riches therein.

12. What story did Thorin tell Bilbo?

He explained that his grandfather was King of the Mountain and had vast riches. The dragon Smaug came from the North, destroyed his kingdom, killed the dwarves, took the treasure, and moved into the mountain.

13. How did Gandalf get the map and key?

Before he left, Thorin's father gave it to him to give to Thorin.

14. Identify Azog the Goblin.

He killed Thorin's grandfather, Thrór.

Chapter 2

1. Why did Bilbo leave his Hill in such a hurry to go to the Green Dragon Inn?

He was late to meet Thorin and Company to begin the adventure.

2. What had Bilbo forgotten to bring with him, and how was it remedied?

He forgot his hat, walking stick, money, handkerchief, provisions, and clothing. He came with only himself and the clothes on his back. Dwalin gave him a dark green cloak and hood. The dwarves had provisions. Later we learn that Gandalf brings a few things for Bilbo, including his pipe and tobacco.

3. When did Bilbo first wish that he were back home?

The travelers had passed through the hobbit lands and had gone into the Lone-lands where roads were bad, castles had an evil look, and the weather had turned cold and wet. He was tired and cold and wet.

4. Identify William, Bert, and Tom.

They were the trolls Bilbo found when he got to the red firelight.

5. What did William catch Bilbo doing?

Bilbo was trying to pick William's pocket.

6. Who saved Bilbo, Thorin, and company from the trolls? How?

Gandalf mimicked their voices and got them arguing with each other long enough for the sun to come out and turn them to stone.

7. What did Gandalf, Thorin, and Bilbo take from the trolls' cave?

Gandalf and Thorin each took swords with jeweled hilts. Bilbo took a knife in a leather sheath.

Chapter 3

1. What kind of creatures inhabited the valley of Rivendell and helped the travelers find the

Last Homely Home? What did Bilbo and the dwarves think of them?

The creatures were elves. Bilbo liked them but was a little frightened of them.

The Dwarves didn't get on well with them they thought the elves were foolish.

2. Identify Elrond.

Elrond was the Elvenking who ruled the valley of Rivendell and lived in the Last Homely Home.

3. What important information did Elrond give the travelers?

1) He identified the swords Gandalf and Thorin had taken from the trolls' cave as being very old swords made by the High Elves of the West, his kin, for the Goblinwars. Thorin's sword was named Orcrist, the Goblin-cleaver. Gandalf's was named Glamdring, the Foe-hammer, and was once worn by the King of Gondolin. 2) Elrond read the moon-letters to reveal the way to open the secret door on the side of the mountain.

4. What was Durin's Day?

It was the first day of the New Year for dwarves.

Chapter 4

1. Why did the travelers go into the cave?

They wanted shelter from the storm.

2. What did Bilbo dream in the cave?

He dreamed that the crack in the wall got bigger and bigger and the floor of the cave gave way.

3. Bilbo and Thorin & Co. had a nasty surprise in the cave. What was it?

Goblins grabbed them and took them underground into their cavern.

4. Did the goblins get Gandalf?

No.

5. List several characteristics of goblins.

cruel, wicked, bad-hearted, make no beautiful things (but clever ones & instruments of torture), keep prisoners and slaves, hate everyone and everything (particularly orderly & prosperous), special grudge against Thorin's people because of the Goblinwars.

6. What caused the Great Goblin to become enraged?

One of the goblins showed the Great Goblin the sword Thorin carried—Orcrist.

7. How did the travelers escape from the Goblins' cavern?

Gandalf rescued by making the fire blow up in smoke & sparks, which burned the goblins and caused great confusion. The Great Goblin was slain by Gandalf and the travelers fled in the confusion.

8. What were Biter and Beater?

They were the goblin names for Orcrist and Glamdring, the swords.

9. Goblins run faster than dwarves. How did the travelers escape the pursuit of the goblins?

Gandalf and Thorin turned and used Orcrist and Glamdring against them. They killed some goblins and the rest ran in fear of Beater and Biter.

10. What happened to Dori and Bilbo?

Sneaky goblins came up behind them and grabbed Dori. Bilbo fell from Dori's shoulders, hit his head on a stone, and became unconscious.

Chapter 5

1. When Bilbo awoke after falling off of Dori's shoulders when the goblins grabbed Dori, what was strange about his surroundings?

He was in total darkness.

2. While groping around on the floor, what did Bilbo find and put in his pocket?

A ring.

3. How did Bilbo know his knife was an elvish blade, too?

It glowed, showing goblins were near—but not too near.

4. Identify Gollum.

He was a small, slimy creature, dark as darkness (except for his two big, round, pale eyes), had large feet, and long fingers. He was quick and quiet. He hissed as he spoke, called himself “precious,” and liked riddles. He lost the ring that Bilbo found.

5. Gollum and Bilbo made a deal. What was it?

They would ask each other riddles. The first to be stumped would lose. If Bilbo won, Gollum would show him the way out. If Gollum won, he would eat Bilbo.

6. How did Bilbo win the riddle game with Gollum?

He had some good luck, pretended to be bolder than he felt, and the final question he asked wasn't really a riddle, but he got away with it. Gollum didn't know what was in Bilbo's pockets.

7. Where was Gollum's lost birthday present?

It was in Bilbo's pocket.

8. How did Bilbo discover the power of the ring?

Gollum suspected Bilbo may have his ring, so he kept asking what Bilbo had in his pockets. That made Bilbo more curious about what he had. Gollum got angrier and came after Bilbo, who slipped the ring on his finger while feeling it in his pocket. Bilbo tripped trying to escape from Gollum, and Gollum went right by him, as if he were not there. Gollum talked to himself aloud, saying he was afraid the goblins would get Bilbo and the ring and use it to become invisible and get him.

9. How did Bilbo find the way out of Gollum's land?

Gollum thought Bilbo already knew the way out, so he hurried to catch him. Bilbo, wearing the ring, followed Gollum to the exit and jumped right over him to escape.

10. Why didn't Bilbo kill Gollum?

He felt sorry for him.

11. What gave Bilbo away to the goblins as he tried to escape out the door?

They saw his shadow.

12. Why did the goblins give up looking for Bilbo?

Goblins don't like the sun; it makes their legs wobble and their heads giddy, so they went back where they had come from rather than stay in the sunlight.

Chapter 6

1. Why did the dwarves have a better opinion of Bilbo Baggins when he rejoined them after his adventures with Gollum and the goblins?

First, he managed to sneak by Balin, their best watch guard. Then Bilbo told them how he had escaped from Gollum and the goblins. After hearing his story, they thought he was clever, brave, and a good burglar after all.

2. What detail about his adventures with Gollum did Bilbo leave out when he told the dwarves the story?

He didn't tell them about the ring.

3. Where were the travelers after the goblin adventures?

They were through the Misty Mountain, on the edge of the Land Beyond.

4. Why did the travelers climb up into the trees?

They climbed up into the trees to escape the wolves.

5. Who saved Bilbo from the wolves?

Dori saved him.

6. Identify wargs.

That's what the evil wolves over the Edge of the Wild were named.

7. Why were the wargs at the clearing?

They were supposed to conspire with goblins there, but the goblins were late.

8. How did Gandalf try to get rid of the wargs and goblins?

He lit pine cones on fire with his wand and threw them at the wargs. It worked to cause confusion and to get rid of some of the wolves, but it also set the woods on fire.

9. Who or what saved the travelers from the wargs, goblins, and fire?

Eagles did. They picked them up and flew them to safety.

10. Describe the Eagles.

Some eagles were not kindly but were cowardly and cruel. The eagles that rescued the travelers, however, were from the North, and they were proud, strong, and noblehearted. The goblins hated and feared them.