

The Hobbit Chapter Questions

Chapter 7

1. Identify Beorn.

Beorn was the Bear-Man who was hospitable to the weary travelers. he gave them food and drink, a place to rest, and provisions for the next part of their journey. He was kind and gentle but could also be fierce. He cared for animals and ate no meat.

2. Why did Gandalf introduce the dwarves a few at a time to Beorn?

He knew Beorn would never accept so many visitors all at once. By telling their story, he gained Beorn's interest and respect, and by introducing the dwarves a few at a time throughout the story, he gained Beorn's acceptance of the whole group.

3. What news did Gandalf bring the dwarves about Beorn's whereabouts?

He told them Beorn had been out checking out their story. Gandalf had followed the bear tracks to the Warg clearing.

4. Beorn warned them about some things in Mirkwood. What?

Beorn warned them about a black stream that crosses the path. He said it causes enchantment, a great drowsiness, and forgetfulness. He also warned them not to leave the path.

5. How do we know Beorn liked the travelers?

He gave them food and lodging, let them borrow his ponies, and lurked around them watching out for them on their way.

6. Why did Gandalf leave Thorin & Co.?

He had pressing business in the South.

7. What were Gandalf's parting words to the travelers as he left them at the edge of Mirkwood?

He told them not to leave the path for any reason.

Chapter 8

1. Describe Mirkwood (forest)

dark, tangled boughs and matted twigs, queer noises, dark and thick cobwebs, still and stuffy, yellow and green eyes shine at night, bats

2. How did the travelers cross the black water?

They attached a hook to a rope and threw it to a boat they saw on the other side, to retrieve the boat. Then they took turns crossing in the small boat.

3. What happened to Bombur at the black river crossing?

He fell in and the spell of the black water took effect on him. He fell asleep and had to be carried.

4. What did Bilbo see from the top of the oak tree in Mirkwood?

There were sun and wind and butterflies above the canopy—and no end to the forest in sight.

5. Why did the travelers leave the path?

They were attracted to the lights in the forest, thinking there would be food at a camp fire. They were very hungry.

6. What happened when they entered the ring of light to beg for food?

It all disappeared.

7. How did Bilbo get separated from the others in Mirkwood?

When the firelight from the woodland gathering disappeared, he got separated from the others in the darkness and confusion.

8. What made Bilbo feel fierce and bold?

Bilbo killed a spider and freed himself without the help of a wizard or anyone else.

9. Identify Sting.

That's the name Bilbo gave his sword after he killed the spider.

10. How did Bilbo rescue the dwarves from the spiders?

He put on the ring to sneak in and see what was going on. He killed several spiders by throwing stones at them, then he drew them away from their prey (the dwarves) by taunting them. Leaving the spiders astray, he sneaked back to free the dwarves. When the spiders returned, he used Sting to fight them off. He killed many and led others away from the dwarves again. The spiders grew afraid of Sting and eventually gave up the chase.

11. Who was missing after the travelers were rescued from the spiders?

Thorin was missing.

12. How did Thorin get separated from the others?

In the circle of light, he fell asleep. The wood elves tied him up and took them to their king.

Chapter 9

1. Why were the travelers actually glad to be captured by the wood elves?

They were sick and tired and starving. Although they were prisoners, they at least received food and drink.

2. How did Bilbo keep from getting captured by the wood elves?

He slipped on the ring.

3. How did Bilbo rescue Thorin & Co. from the Elvenking?

He took the keys to the cells from the drunken guards, freed the others and put them in empty barrels. The empty barrels were unloaded through the trap doors and floated away.