

Chapter Twelve-- Inside Information

1. How did the dwarves respond when Bilbo asked for volunteers to accompany him into the Mountain?
2. What took away Bilbo's breath?
3. Describe the dragon.
4. What did Bilbo carry back to the dwarves?
5. How do we know that Smaug kept close tabs on his treasure?
6. What analogy does the author use when describing the dragon's rage?
7. What indication is there that Bilbo is turning into a real leader?
8. What can no dragon resist?
9. What was Bilbo pleased to see when he tricked the dragon into displaying his underside?
10. Why does Bilbo regret his comment about the Barrel-rider to Smaug?
11. Why does Bilbo throw a stone at the thrush?
12. How did the band of adventurers become trapped in the Mountain?

Chapter Thirteen-- Not at Home

1. Explain the significance of the title of this chapter.
2. Why do the dwarves finally relent and make their way down the dark tunnel to Smaug's lair?
3. What does Bilbo confiscate from the mound of treasure?
4. How does Tolkien use the treasure to portray the dwarves in a negative light?
5. What does Thorin offer Baggins as a reward for his assistance?
6. In addition to the gems and gold, what else did the dwarves confiscate?
7. Why did Thorin offer to lead the group of adventurers to the Front Gate?

Chapter Fourteen-- Fire and Water

1. How do the townspeople taking a stroll on the quays, interpret the flickering light at the northern end of the lake?
2. Conduct your own research to discover what a bard was.
3. How do the townspeople react to the initial warnings from the Bard?
4. How does the Bard save the day?
5. What important role does the thrush play in the demise of the dragon?
6. Why does the Master grind his chattering teeth?
7. How does the Master redirect the crowds anger?
8. What did the Elvenking think had happened to Thorin and the dwarves when he received news of Smaug's death?
9. Who came to the Bard's assistance thus enabling the townspeople to survive the approaching winter?

Chapter Fifteen-- The Gathering of the Clouds

1. Why would the presence of carrion birds suggest that a battle is imminent?
2. Who is Roac?
3. What news does Roac bring to the dwarves?
4. What course of action did Thorin choose after hearing the news?
5. How does the Bard justify his claim and also that of his men to Smaug's treasure?
6. What conditions did Thorin insist on before he would negotiate any terms of settlement with the Bard?

Chapter Sixteen-- A Thief in the Night

1. What does Thorin vow to do to anyone who withholds the Arkenstone?
2. Who was the "thief in the night"?
3. How was Bilbo able to escape?
4. Why did Bilbo give the Arkenstone to the Bard?
5. Who delights Bilbo with his presence just as the hobbit is preparing to depart the camp for his return to the

Chapter Seventeen-- The Clouds Burst

1. How does Bilbo defend himself against Thorin's accusation that he has stolen the Arkenstone?
2. Why were Dain's people refused entry to the Mountain?
3. Why did the dwarf attack against the Bard and the Elvenking end as quickly as it had begun?
4. What role does the hobbit play in this fierce battle?
5. What is the "gleam in the gloom" and how does it turn the tide of the battle?
6. What happens to Bilbo at the end of this chapter?

Chapter Eighteen-- The Return Journey

1. Who has sent a man in search of Bilbo?
2. Who has been mortally wounded?
3. What protagonist from earlier in the story reappears to do battle with the forces of evil?
4. Describe Thorin's final resting place.
5. How do we know that Bilbo was *well guided and well guarded* on his way home?

Chapter Nineteen-- The Last Stage

1. Explain why Gandalf had to leave the party of adventurers near Mirkwood?
2. What did Gandalf and Bilbo do with the troll's gold?
3. Explain the commotion that Bilbo discovers as he arrives at his home.
4. Gandalf tells Bilbo he is not the hobbit he once used to be. Do you agree or disagree? Defend your response.
5. How does Bilbo Baggins still make use of his magic ring?