

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Kamrass

Sci Fi and Fantasy; The Hobbit study guide



**Directions:** Answer all questions in sentence form on a separate sheet of paper.

### **Chapter One-- An Unexpected Party**

1. Who is Bilbo Baggins?
2. Give a brief description of a hobbit.
3. Discuss the significance of the name Belladonna.
4. What did Gandalf claim to be looking for when he arrived on Bilbo's doorstep?
5. What does Gandalf do with the spike on his staff just before leaving Bilbo's home?
6. Who began to arrive at Bilbo's home the next day for tea?
7. Give proof that Gandalf has knocked very hard on Bilbo's front door.
8. What indication is there that Thorin is the leader of the dwarves?
9. Explain why Bilbo lets out a horrible shriek and begins to shake like jelly.
10. What does Gandalf threaten to do if the assembled dwarves refuse to accept his choice of Bilbo Baggins as the fourteenth man for their expedition?
11. According to Thorin what had happened to his family's wealth?

### **Chapter Two-- Roast Mutton**

1. What evidence is there that Bilbo Baggins hasn't just been dreaming about a party?
2. What indication is there in the note left by Thorin and Company that the adventure or quest may prove to be perilous for Bilbo?
3. Who do the dwarves notice has gone missing?
4. Describe what Bilbo Baggins sees as he approaches the red light.
5. Explain the humour in the expression, "I . . . cook better than I cook."
6. Explain what happens to the dwarves as they come to Bilbo's aid.
7. How does Gandalf use his powers on Bert and Tom and William?
8. How did Gandalf finally manage to open the big stone door leading to the trolls' cave?
9. What did Gandalf and Thorin each take from the cave?

### **Chapter Three-- A Short Rest**

1. According to Gandalf, what lay hidden somewhere not too far ahead of the travellers?
2. Who was Elrond?
3. Explain moon letters.
4. What is Durin's Day?

### **Chapter Four-- Over Hill and Under Hill**

1. Explain how the dwarves and the hobbit were able to find their way up the treacherous mountain.
2. What did Tolkien mean by a thunder-battle?
3. Describe what the stone-giants were doing.
4. What indication is there that the cave might not be safe?
5. Summarize Bilbo's dream that evening.

6. Why was it fortunate that Bilbo had accompanied the dwarves into the cave?
7. What happened when the crack in the wall snapped shut?
8. Explain how the horses, ponies and donkeys all disappeared.
9. Why were the Great Goblin and many of his soldiers so upset when they saw Thorin's sword?
10. Who came to the rescue of the dwarves and what weapon did they use?
11. What happens to Bilbo at the end of this chapter?

#### **Chapter Five-- Riddles in the Dark**

1. Why was Bilbo so frightened when he regained consciousness?
2. What does Bilbo find as he crawls blindly along the floor of the tunnel?
3. Why was Bilbo comforted by his dagger or small sword?
4. How was Bilbo able to see in the darkness?
5. Why was Bilbo reluctant to wade in the water?
6. Who is Gollum and where does he live?
7. Explain the basic rules of the riddle game.
8. Explain the power of Gollum's ring.
9. Why did Gollum hurry right past Bilbo?
10. Explain how Gollum unexpectedly aids the hobbit in his escape.
11. Why are the goblins reluctant to pursue Bilbo Baggins once he is outside?

#### **Chapter Six-- Out of the Frying-Pan into the Fire**

1. What did Bilbo Baggins intend to do if he was unable to find Gandalf or the dwarves?
2. What did the dwarves want to do when there was no sign of Bilbo?
3. How might you use the power of the golden ring if you possessed it?
4. Why did Gandalf encourage the adventurers to hurry on their way?
5. What noise did they hear as they stepped into the clearing?
6. Explain the significance of the title of this chapter.
7. Why would the ring not protect Bilbo from the wolves (Wargs)?
8. Who helped Bilbo escape into the tree?
9. Why did the wolves alert the goblins to the adventurers who are hiding in the trees?
10. Who rescued the party of adventurers from their perilous position in the trees?

#### **Chapter Seven-- Queer Lodgings**

1. Why did Bilbo pinch the eagle?
2. What announcement caused the dwarves to moan and Bilbo to weep?
3. According to Gandalf what are two possibilities explaining the origin of Beorn?
4. How does Gandalf prove himself to be a great manipulator when he is talking to Beorn?
5. What information did Beorn glean in his travels to the wolf-glade?
6. What gruesome sight did Beorn reveal to the adventurers when asked by Bilbo what had happened to the captured wolf and goblin?
7. What warning does Beorn give the travellers about proceeding through Mirkwood?
8. What shadowy form did Bilbo think he had seen on the third evening of their journey?
9. What were Gandalf's final cautionary words as he bade farewell to the dwarves and Bilbo?

#### **Chapter Eight-- Flies and Spiders**

1. Why were the travellers unable to cross over the stream by bridge?
2. Describe what happened to Bombur as he was about to step into the boat.
3. Explain how Bombur's unfortunate incident slowed their travels.
4. Explain why Bilbo and the dwarves strayed from the path.
5. What did Bilbo discover was happening to him when he awoke?
6. Explain the transformation of Bilbo Baggins' character as he renames his sword Sting.
7. Why is Bilbo horrified when he stumbles upon the dwarves in a dark part of the Mirkwood forest?

8. Explain why Bilbo was so adroit at throwing stones.
9. Summarize Bilbo's rescue of the dwarves.
10. What do the dwarves discover when they take a headcount?

#### **Chapter Nine-- Barrels Out of Bond**

1. Where did the Wood-elves take their captives?
2. How did the dwarves react to their interrogation by the Elvenking?
3. What does the Elvenking order his men to do?
4. How did Bilbo learn that Thorin was being kept captive in the dungeon?
5. Who played a key role in the escape of the dwarves from prison?
6. Briefly describe their final departure from the palace.

#### **Chapter Ten-- A Warm Welcome**

1. Describe the scene as Bilbo approaches the region where the trees ended.
2. Describe the strange town at the mouth of the Forest River.
3. What strange *creatures* inhabited the town?
4. Why did the guards at Lake-town not keep a very careful watch?
5. Why were the raft-men elves so astonished at the appearance of the dwarves?
6. Why does the Master relinquish his own great chair to Thorin despite the fact that he is not completely convinced that the dwarf is who he claims to be?
7. How appropriate is the title of this chapter?
8. How did the Elvenking respond to the news of the dwarves' plans to slay the dragon, Smaug, and capture his treasure.
9. Who was the only person thoroughly unhappy the day of the departure?

#### **Chapter Eleven-- On the Doorstep**

1. Why did the men of the town refuse to stay overnight where the dwarves disembarked?
2. Describe their surroundings as the adventurers moved nearer to the Mountain.
3. Which dwarf informs Bilbo that he was in the Dale the day the Dragon attacked?
4. What did Bilbo and his companions see on their scouting expedition?
5. Explain how Bilbo begins to take a leadership role in their quest.
6. How does Bilbo finally unlock the riddle and the secret door?

#### **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 Mountain?

### **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?

<http://www.nt.net/~torino/phobbit.html>

Created by: Brian Thornton, Capo Creations, Box 1411, Haileybury, Ontario, CANADA POJ IKO

### Major Characters

**Bilbo Baggins:** The main character and protagonist of the tale. For unknown reasons, it is Bilbo that Gandalf chooses to be the fourteenth member of the journey to Lonely Mountain. Although the tale is about a journey, it is also about the slow change of Bilbo from a provincial hobbit into a world-weary hero. It is his bravery and wisdom that rescues the dwarves on multiple occasions and makes it possible for them to make it to the end of their journey. Early in the tale, he finds a magic ring that makes him invisible. This ability helps Bilbo become brave. He frees the dwarves from the spiders and wood-elves. He is the only one of the party with the gall to face the dragon. Although he lapses momentarily into greed, his thoughts ultimately return to serving his friends in the best way he can, even if it is against their wishes. Bilbo is profoundly altered by his journey, but when he returns home again, he is happy to live a simple life.

**Gandalf:** Gandalf is the wizard of the tale. He is an enigmatic figure and the conductor of the entire affair. He not only gives Thorin the map and the idea to return to the mountain, but he also strangely couples thirteen dwarves with a hobbit who has never left his region before. Gandalf saves the group when they are in trouble, until he leaves them for other missions. Even though he is strong, he is not invincible. He cannot fight all the wards and goblins alone. At the end of the tale, he stops the dwarves from fighting the men and elves and turns their attention to the coming hoards. The tale ends as it began, with Bilbo and Gandalf alone.

**Thorin Oakenshield:** Thorin is the leader of the dwarves and heir to the title 'King under the Mountain.' He has not seen Lonely Mountain since his people were pushed from it when he was but a child. Although the dwarves look to him for leadership, he really provides very little until the end. It is Gandalf and Bilbo that lead the group across the world to Lonely Mountain. Thorin shows himself to be nothing but stubborn. He refuses to make good with the Elvenking. When they get to the mountain, he wants Bilbo to go in first and does not enter the lair himself until he sees that everyone else is all right. His worst moments come near the end of the tale, when he refuses to make a treaty with the men and elves, and he threatens Bilbo. It is only in death that he sees the error of his ways and apologizes.

**Smaug:** Smaug is the dragon of Lonely Mountain and the antagonist of the tale. He is the feared end of the journey. Although he is not present for most of the story, his existence looms. His attack on Lonely Mountain displaced an entire people and several towns. His death comes at the hands of Bard, a noble descendant of the people of Dale. His conversations with Bilbo expose him as an arrogant and hateful beast who loves treasure only for the sake of having it.

### Minor Characters

**Dwalin:** The first of the fourteen dwarves to come to Bilbo's house. He is the third most important of the dwarves after Thorin and Balin.

**Balin:** Balin is the second in command of the dwarves. Whenever Thorin is not present, he makes the decisions.

**Kili:** One of the two youngest dwarves, Kili is almost always shown doing something alongside Fili. The pair are practically inseparable. They die together in the battle at the end of the novel.

**Fili:** Another of the two youngest dwarves, Fili is almost always shown doing something alongside Kili. The pair are practically inseparable. They die together in the battle at the end of the novel. Fili has the best sight of all the dwarves. He is the one who throws the hook at the end of the rope when they must cross the stream in Mirkwood.

**Dori:** Another of the dwarves, Dori is the one who drops Bilbo while carrying him in the tunnels of the misty mountains. The rest blame Dori for losing Bilbo. When they are caught by the Wargs in the trees, it is Dori's legs that Bilbo grabs.

**Nori:** Another of the dwarves.

**Ori:** Another dwarf.

**Oin:** Yet another dwarf.

**Gloin:** One of the thirteen dwarves.

**Bifur:** One of the thirteen dwarves who is almost caught by Smaug when he bursts from Lonely Mountain.

**Bofur:** Another of the dwarves who is almost caught by Smaug when he bursts from Lonely Mountain.

**William the Troll:** William is the leader of the trolls that the travelers encounter early on in the tale. Bilbo tries to steal something from his pocket and is caught. Unlike the other trolls, William wants to release Bilbo. He dies when the dawn comes early.

**Elrond:** Elrond is an old elf who lives in Rivendell. In this tale he always plays the part of a gracious host. Elrond reads the moon letter on the map that no one detected previously. These instructions make it possible for the dwarves to enter the mountain.

**Great Goblin:** Great Goblin is the leader of the goblins in the Misty Mountains. He allegedly imprisoned and killed Thorin's father. Gandalf kills the goblins king and helps the travelers escape from an almost certain doom. It is this murder that causes the goblins to gather and plan to pursue the dwarves.

**Gollum :** The underground creature Bilbo meets after he gets lost in the tunnels of the Misty Mountains. It is Gollum's ring that Bilbo finds on the ground when he first wakes up. Bilbo wants Gollum to show him the way out, but Gollum gets increasingly more interested in eating Bilbo. He tells the Hobbit that he received the ring as a birthday present. The two have a riddle contest and Bilbo wins. He follows Gollum out of the caverns.

**Beorn:** The skin-changing man who lives near the edge of Mirkwood. He gives the travelers shelter and supplies when they show up at his home. He investigates their story and when he finds out that it is true, he offers them more help. He appears at the end of the tale and bursts into the battle to kill Bolg, the leading goblin. Bilbo and Gandalf travel east with him at the end of the tale.

**Bombur:** Bombur is the fat dwarf who is often messing things up. In Mirkwood, he falls into the stream of forgetfulness and falls to sleep for many days. His companions must carry him. When he wakes, he has forgotten everything since they left the home of Bilbo. He is almost caught by the dragon when it bursts from the mountain.

**Elvenking:** He is the king of the wood-elves. He has a natural distrust of dwarves and refuses to release the travelers until they tell him exactly why they are traveling through Mirkwood. At the end of the tale, he helps the lake-men after Smaug has destroyed their city, and he leads an army to Lonely Mountain to claim a part of the treasure. He wants to delay the battle when Bard wants to begin. In the end, he wants Bilbo and Gandalf to come and stay at his home, but Bilbo does not want to re-enter Mirkwood.

**Master of the town:** He is the leader of Esgaroth. He doesn't really believe Thorin's tale, but he humors him to make the people happy. When the dragon has destroyed the town, he tries to shift the blame onto the dwarves. He ends up dying with a great amount of treasure that he had stolen from the Lake-men.

**Bard:** Bard is a descendant of the royal line of Dale. He does not appear until Smaug attacks the town, but he makes a brave stand with a small group of townspeople. He understands the words of the thrush, and slays the dragon. Afterwards, the people want to make him king, but Bard does not want to start trouble, so he stays quiet. He leads an army of men with the Elvenking to Lonely Mountain. He fights well in the war, and ends the tale by re-establishing Dale.

**Roac:** The old Raven who carries the message to Thorin that Smaug has died. For the rest of the tale, Roac serves as a messenger for the dwarves, even though he vocally disagrees with their plans. He is the chief of many messenger Ravens.

**the Old Thrush:** The bird that fulfills a part of the omen read by Elrond. It is with his knocking that Bilbo realizes it is the time to find the keyhole and open the tunnel door. He also observes Bilbo telling the dwarves about the dragon's weak spot. He carries this information to Bard in Esgaroth. After he tells Roac that Smaug is dead and Roac tells the dwarves.

**Dain:** Thorin's cousin who leads an army of dwarves from a week's march away to help the other dwarves. His entrance changes Bard's thoughts on the state of the conflict. Without the dwarves, the goblins may have overcome everyone else. Dain becomes king after Thorin dies, and is a very gracious leader. He gives a portion of the treasure to the men and elves.

**Lord of the Eagles:** The leader of the eagles who helps the travelers escape from the Wargs. He also brings them as far as the Carrock. At the end of the tale, he appears with an army of eagles to help them fight the goblins.

**Bolg:** The son of the Great Goblin, he seeks revenge against Bilbo and party, who killed his father. He comes with an army of goblins seeking treasure and revenge. Despite being grossly outnumbered, the party is saved at the last minute by Beorn, the skin-changing man who lives near the edge of Mirkwood.

#### Objects/Places

**Hobbit:** A Hobbit is a small creature half the size of a man. They have no beards and hairy feet with a tendency for rotund stomachs. They tend to be farmers and rarely go on adventures. Beyond the borders of their people, few have ever heard of them.

**the Hill:** A wealthy section of Hobbiton in which the Baggins family has lived for many generations. It is an enviable place to live. So enviable, that Bilbo's relatives rush to auction his possessions and take his home after he has been gone a year.

**Hobbiton:** The name of the region in which the hobbits live.

**Took:** Bilbo's mother's maiden name. The Took family is a more adventurous and daring family than the Baggins. The family has old ties with Gandalf.

**Dwarf:** Dwarves are swarthy and stocky people about 75 percent as tall as humans. Their features are more thick and in different proportions than men. They live for hundreds of years and grow very long beards. They are known for their ability in forging jewelry and weapons, as well as mining.

**Lonely Mountain:** The mountain in which Smaug makes his lair. It was once the palace of a dwarf king. This is the goal of their journey. Inside is a great hoard of treasure stolen from the region around it.

**Mirkwood:** A great forest over the Misty Mountains. It is thick and dark and full of evil creatures. There are two paths through it: an old road that is no longer passable, and a dark elf trail. Mirkwood represents the darkest part of the traveler's journey. They almost starve and die in it. It is so unpleasant, that Bilbo refuses to pass through it on his return journey.



**Dragons:** Dragons are great serpentine beasts with wings. They shoot fire from their mouths. They are capable of speech and are known to be fairly intelligent. A dragon's goal is to accumulate a large amount of treasure and sleep on it.

**Dale:** The town in the shadow of Lonely Mountain. It was a prosperous trading community until Smaug came and destroyed it. Bard, a heir to the city, rebuilds it after the death of Smaug.

**Key:** Gandalf gave Thorin a key with the map to Lonely Mountain. The key opens the secret entrance that leads to the dragon's lair.

**Goblin:** A goblin is a hideous creature that is a head or two taller than a man. It has mottled skin with vicious claws and teeth. They lurk in tunnels and mountains. As a general rule, they make treaties with no creatures but wargs.

**Misty Mountains:** A mountain range that runs north-south. It must be passed over in order to approach Mirkwood, a forest that must be passed through to get to the Lonely Mountain.

**Rivendell:** A valley near the Misty Mountains where elves have made a sanctuary. It is warmer and prettier than the land around it. In it, Elrond resides with many others. Bilbo stops here twice during the book to rest.

**ring:** Bilbo finds a magic ring in a cave in the Lonely Mountains. It figures into the rest of the tale. It is the instrument of his increased bravery. Gollum lusts after its return.. It is the main object in Tolkein's trilogy, The Lord of the Rings.

**Wargs:** Wargs are intelligent and oversized wolves with generally evil intentions. They have rough treaties with goblins to help them raid and terrorize other species.

**Carrock:** The Carrock is a large freestanding and flat topped stone constructed in the middle of a forest by Beorn.

**Long Lake:** The lake that extends from Esgaroth to a day or so walk from Lonely mountain.

**Esgaroth:** The town at the southern end of Long Lake that is destroyed by Smaug. It is here that the dwarves get fed and outfitted before the last leg of their journey.

**Arkenstone:** An immense white gem, treasured by dwarves and guarded by Smaug, the dragon. Bilbo finds this gem and stores it in his pocket; after Smaug's death the dwarves search all over the mountain for this famous gem. Bilbo sneaks out and gives the Arkenstone to Bard and the Elvenking to use as barter with the stubborn Thorin, who refuses to give up any treasure or leave the mountain.