

# Summer Reading Assignment:

## Honors Composition and Literature 9

*The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

DIRECTIONS: Please purchase a copy of the novel with the following ISBN: 9780618260300. As you read, make notes in the margins of anything that is interesting or confusing. Highlight or circle words with which you are unfamiliar.

Complete the following assignment and bring it with your copy of the novel to class on the first day of school. Please answer in complete sentences, writing legibly with correct spelling and observing the conventions of Standard English.

As you read, take notes on the characteristics of each of the types of creatures mentioned in the novel. Complete the chart on the last page.

Answer each of the following questions in complete sentences using legible handwriting. You may type the answers on a separate sheet of paper.

### Chapter 1: An Unexpected Party

1. Explain the purpose of the dwarves' proposed expedition. Where will they go and why are they going there? What is Bilbo's role? How do the dwarves feel about Bilbo? Why?

### Chapter 2: Roast Mutton

2. Describe Bilbo's attempt to burgle. What motivates him to do this? How is he caught? How are Bilbo and the dwarves rescued?

### Chapter 3: A Short Rest

3. Describe Rivendell's **setting** and inhabitants. What sort of feeling is created by the author's description of Rivendell? Provide two pieces of textual evidence to support your opinion.

### Chapter 4: Over Hill and Under Hill

4. Identify and explain three **conflicts** that characters face during this chapter.

### Chapter 5: Riddles in the Dark

5. Describe Gollum's appearance and character traits. What and how does the reader learn about Gollum through his behavior and speech?

## Chapter 6: Out of the Frying Pan Into the Fire

6. Explain the danger the Wargs pose to Bilbo, Gandalf and the dwarves. How does Gandalf help them escape, and how do the Wargs retaliate? Who saves Gandalf? Who saves the rest of the party?

## Chapter 7: Queer Lodgings

7. Describe the “queer lodgings” referred to in the title of the chapter: How and why are the dwarves and Bilbo warned about staying at Beorn’s home for the night? How do the dwarves and Beorn relate to one another? How does Beorn warn the group about difficulties they may face on their journey?

## Chapter 8: Flies and Spiders

8. Describe the conditions that Bilbo and the dwarves endure as they travel through the forest. Identify and explain three difficulties that the group endures during their journey through the forest. How do they manage each of these difficulties? How and why does Bilbo finally reveal his secret to the dwarves?

### Chapter 9: Barrels out of Bond

9. Explain what happens to the dwarves and how Bilbo rescues them. What is the weak point in his plan?

### Chapter 10: A Warm Welcome

10. The men of the village sometimes sing songs of Thrór and Thráin coming back one day. What will happen, according to these songs, when Thrór and Thráin return? How do you believe this may be important to the novel's future events?

### Chapter 11: On the Doorstep

11. Authors choose specific words in order to create a **mood**, or a feeling, in the reader. In this chapter, Tolkien's **word choice** helps the reader to feel a sense of helplessness and defeat. Why do the dwarves and Bilbo feel frustrated with their current situation?

Highlight the words in this chapter that support this position. Write ten words that help to create this mood below:

## Chapter 12: Inside Information

12. What chore does Thorin suggest Bilbo complete to “earn his Reward”? Who joins Bilbo? Describe how he completes this task.

## Chapter 13: Not at Home

13. Which item does Bilbo decide he would choose for his fourteenth of the treasure? Based on what you already know, why might this pose a problem?

## Chapter 14: Fire and Water

14. How do the townspeople prepare for the battle with Smaug? Describe the battle and explain how Smaug is defeated. Who do the townspeople choose as king? Why?

*The Hobbit*: Creatures of Tolkien's Middle-Earth

List at least three characteristics or qualities for each of the following creatures Tolkien mentions in the novel. These do not have to be written in complete sentences. The creatures are listed in the order they are first mentioned in the novel. The first one is done for you as an example.

1. hobbits

*enjoy eating; they are usually fat  
don't like adventures  
have hairy feet with leathery soles and don't wear shoes*

2. dwarves

3. trolls

4. High Elves

5. Gollum

6. Wargs

7. Wood-elves