



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

THE HOBBIT

BY J. R. R. TOLKIEN



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Written by Stacey Pusey

Name: _____

Date: _____

Character Growth Chart (Cont.)

CHAPTER/PAGE	EVENT	CHANGE IN BILBO

The Hobbit

Style Chart

Diction

A. Type of language	Conversational English lots of adjectives and adverbs
B. Vocabulary Level	easy
C. Imagery	nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole; a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted green, with a shiny yellow brass knob in the exact middle.
• Figurative Language	simile: “like a porthole” foreshadowing: “you will see if he gained anything in the end”
• Tone	folksy, friendly

Sentences

A. Length	long, many repeated words
B. Type	Compound-complex
• Punctuation	em-dashes, colons, parentheses
C. Form	narrative
D. Rhetorical Devices	hyperbole: “time out of mind”

Activity 2

Rewrite your passage using a different style for a specific effect or purpose. You may change point of view, alter sentence structure, remove imagery, etc.

Note to Teacher: Possible ideas include newspaper article, brochure, opinion piece, picture-book, or personal ad, depending on the chosen passage. Students should be encouraged to take their passage and adapt it for a certain use.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter II

Compare/Contrast

Objective: Understanding how comparing and contrasting can affect your understanding of character and setting

Activity 1

Reread the passage on Pages 29-30—when Bilbo leaves for his journey in a hurry. Compare the passage with what you know of Bilbo's character. Create a travel itinerary and a list of what he should take on the journey. Don't forget that Bilbo must pretend to be a burglar; what might he include to pose as a successful burglar?

Activity 2

Once Bilbo and the dwarves leave, the tone of the novel immediately changes. Find the adjectives and phrases on Pages 31-32 used to describe the Lone-lands.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IV

Conflict

Objective: Understanding conflict.

Activity 1

The dwarves and Gandalf have different visions about their journey and how they should proceed. The dwarves dream only of treasure, while the wizard thinks about the hardships they will face along the way. This causes tension with Bilbo, since he wants the gold, but is afraid of what else the group might encounter. Create groups of three containing a Thorin, a Bilbo, and a Gandalf. Thorin and Gandalf must each present their argument to the Bilbo for how the journey should continue. Once the group's Bilbo makes the decision, Bilbo must present a rationale based on the cases presented by the teammates.

Activity 2

Create a chart of the action in this chapter. Include key plot points for the introduction of the conflict, the rising action, falling action, and climax—there can be more than one high and low in the chapter and even plateaus.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VII

Character Introduction

Objective: Understanding the different ways an author can introduce a character to a story

Activity 1

Rather than using the narrator to describe Beorn, the author uses Gandalf to give us our first impression of him. Based on Gandalf's description, write a dialogue for Beorn before you meet him. Include how he will greet Gandalf, his reaction to Bilbo, whether or not he will support the adventurers, and how he does or does not invite them into his house.

Activity 2

The Hobbit is full of many interesting characters that only briefly touch the adventurers' lives. Write a short background story for Beorn that explains why he would help Gandalf.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IX

Story within a Story

Objective: Exploring how a chapter can contain all elements of a novel, including plot, character, conflict, and theme

Activity 1

Just as the adventurers deviated from the path in the previous chapter, the author strays from the main story to give Bilbo another chance to prove himself worthy of being a leader and a hero. In addition, it is a diversion from the heaviness of the constant battles. The argument can be made, though, that the previous incident with the spiders already illustrated Bilbo's heroism. Pretend you are Tolkien's editor and write him a letter explaining why you want to cut this chapter.

Activity 2

This chapter could be a novel itself. Imagine that you are creating a new jacket for a book based on this chapter only. Write the new title, the jacket blurb, chapter headings, and a brief outline of the new book.

Activity 3

Bilbo's plan for getting out of the dungeon is very similar to a video game. Make a premise for a video game based on this chapter of the book. Name the characters, devise the scoring, plan out and explain ways to win, etc.

Chapter XII

Narrator

Objective: Understanding the purpose of the narrator

Activity 1

Up until this point, the narrator has remained impartial, favoring neither Bilbo nor the dwarves. Instead, his comments have often foreshadowed future events. Now, he offers his opinion of the dwarves.

“The most that can be said of dwarves is this: they intended to pay Bilbo handsomely for his services; they had brought him to do a nasty job for them, and they did not mind the poor little fellow doing it if he would; but they would have all done their best to get him out of trouble, if he got into it, as they did in the case of the trolls at the beginning of their adventures before they had any particular reasons for being grateful to him. There it is: dwarves are not heroes, but calculating folk with a great idea of the value of money; some are tricky and treacherous and pretty bad lots; some are not, but are decent enough people like Thorin and Company, if you don't expect too much.” (Pg. 213)

Have a group discussion and answer these questions:

- Why does the narrator offer his opinion now?
- What do you think he is foreshadowing, if anything?
- Do you think his opinion reflects Bilbo's? Gandalf's?
- Would you feel differently about the events of the novel if the narrator had voiced his opinion earlier?

Activity 2

The narrator acts like a Greek Chorus in *The Hobbit*, offering commentary on events to give the reader character insight and inside information on what's really happening in the book. Choose a fable, such as Aesop's *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, and write narration for the fable. Identify on a separate piece of paper the narrator's tone, for example sympathetic, sarcastic, supportive etc.

Activity 3

Rewrite Bilbo's confrontation with Smaug from Smaug's point of view. Make the narrator sympathetic to the dragon.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XIV**Persuasion****Objective:** Understanding persuasion**Activity 1**

Smaug attacks Lake-town because he thinks Bilbo may be from there. After the dragon burns the town, the Master decides that the town deserves the treasure as damages owed to them. The reader can infer, though, that Thorin will not easily give up the treasure. Pretend you are a lawyer presenting a case to a civil court and that the Master and Thorin are suing each other over ownership of the treasure. Use facts from the book to make your case.

Activity 2

Trace the psychological journey of the people of Lake-town from this chapter. Explain why they are so easily swayed by the Master and Bard.

Event	Resulting Emotion

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XVI**Bilbo Baggins**

Objective: Understanding the character development of Bilbo Baggins

Activity 1

Answer the following questions after reading the chapter.

1. Name at least three things Bilbo does that make him a true thief.
2. Why is Bilbo ready to make peace with the humans and Wood-elves?
3. Who surprises Bilbo, and what does he foreshadow?
4. Name at two things Bilbo does that can be described as quintessentially Hobbit-like.

Activity 2

Bilbo's personality has changed from the first chapter to this one. Tolkien described Bilbo's appearance in the first chapter as a way to discover Bilbo's personality. Draw or write about Bilbo as you see him now.