

EN 2 Honors – Survey of British Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Instructions

- Text #1: - Read the Introduction to *Beowulf*, translated by Seamus Heaney
- Text #2: - Read and annotate *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Define each vocabulary word
- Respond to the guide questions as you read
- Use complete sentences
- Responses must be on a separate sheet of paper and handwritten in ink
- Due the first day of class

Chapters 1 and 2

hearth scone haughty flummoxed purloined
blighter plunder incantations replenishing

1. What does Gandalf have to do with this part of the story?
2. What is in the note that Thorin leaves for Bilbo?
3. Why do the dwarves send Bilbo to investigate the light rather than going themselves?
4. What does Gandalf say to suggest that his reason for involving Bilbo in the adventure is more than a joke?

Chapters 3 and 4

drear gullies ravines bogs
rummaged gnashed dumfounded quaff

1. Where are the elves when Bilbo first sees them?
2. What kinds of work are goblins good at?
3. Why is Bilbo sad when he thinks about the activities that are going on near his home?
4. What does Gandalf mean by his remark that “Valleys have ears, and some elves have over merry tongues”?

Chapter 5

subterranean throttled chestnuts
galled menacingly giddy

1. How did Gollum get his name?
2. Why does Gollum not attack Bilbo when they first meet?
3. What can you conclude from the fact that Gollum, who once lived above ground, lost all his friends and was driven under-ground?
4. What might the way the magic ring slips on and off Bilbo’s finger lead you to suspect about the ring?

Chapters 6 and 7

dells sorrel marjoram brackenfronds
yew unimpeachable clotted cream harts

1. What are the dwarves and Gandalf discussing when Bilbo finds them after his escape from the tunnel?
2. Why does Beorn, who does not like company, allow the adventurers into his home?
3. What reason might Bilbo have for not telling the dwarves about his magic ring?
4. Why does Gandalf warn Bilbo never to mention the word “furrier” to Beorn?

Chapters 8, 9 and 10

Bulbous hind hoard thongs hewn
ominous promontory surly vagabond quays

1. Why do the adventurers leave the forest path even though they have been warned not to?
2. Does the Elvenking believe in the dwarves' errand?
3. In what ways are the Wood-elves better than the goblins?
4. As the company leaves Lake-town to travel toward the Lonely Mountain, why is Bilbo the "only person thoroughly unhappy"?

Chapters 11 - 13

waning marauding lintel helms mouldered
draught antiquated strategems smote

1. Who is the only dwarf to volunteer to go part of the way with Bilbo on his first trip down the dragon's tunnel?
2. How does Bilbo get to see the bare spot on Smaug's chest?
3. When Bilbo first sees the treasure, he feels "the desire of dwarves". What is meant by this phrase?
4. Why does Bilbo come to suspect that the dwarves may not keep their bargain with him?

Chapter 14

forging foreboding quench mirth
throes imperishable deposed recompense

1. Why are the citizens of Lake-town happy when they first catch sight of the dragon's fire?
2. Where did Bard get the arrow with which he shoots Smaug?
3. What can be inferred about the thrush's feelings for Smaug from the events in this chapter?
4. What does the Elvenking mean when, believing Thorin to be dead, he says, "It is an ill wind... that blows no one any good"?

Chapter 15, 16 and 17

decrepit carrion birds quarries parley tarry
succoured (succored) hauberk mattocks shod

1. Why are the ravens friendly to the dwarves?
2. Name the five armies in the Battle of Five Armies.
3. Why does Bilbo call the Arkenstone "the heart of Thorin"?
4. Why is Bilbo overjoyed when the eagles arrive at the battlefield?

Chapters 18 and 19

rent(v.) dislodged gloaming alder auction effects memoirs

1. What does Bard do with his share of the treasure?
2. Which of the dwarves comes to visit Bilbo some years after the adventure and what happens at that meeting?
3. To what is Bilbo referring when he says he has taken advantage of the Elvenking's hospitality?
4. What does Balin mean when he says that the Old Master of Lake-town caught the dragon-sickness?