

The Hobbit - Part One - Chapters One & Two

Chapter One - An Unexpected Party		
1	What made the hall a comfortable place?	'a very comfortable tunnel <u>without smoke</u> , with panelled walls, and floors tiled and carpeted, provided with polished chairs, and lots and lots of pegs for hats and coats...'
2	Why do you think the hobbit's house did not have an upstairs?	<i>Take any answer so long as they can justify their answer by referring maybe to the description of hobbits a little bit further on. Example - they were perhaps not very fit as 'they are inclined to be fat in the stomach'.</i>
3	Explain what 'time out of mind' means in this context. Why do you think the author used this phrase?	Time out of mind - means forever and ever'. The author chose to use this phrase to give the impression that the hobbits and this story is like a traditional tale/fantasy.
4	Why did this Baggins lose the respect of his neighbours?	'...people considered them very respectable...because most of them were rich, but also because they never had any adventures or did anything unexpected. The Bagginses were boring. They toed the line and behaved sensibly. They never did anything that could be construed as odd or silly.
5	What are the physical attributes of hobbits? (try and get them to work out what this means by themselves and some cues from you if they don't understand)	Physical only - 'fat in the stomach...feet grow natural leathery soles and thick warm brown hair...like the stuff on their heads...long brown fingers. <i>Good natured faces is not a physical attribute it's a characteristic or reveals their temperament if you like, as does the deep fruity laughs.</i>
6	What was so special about Bilbo's mother?	She was a Took! 'It was often said that long ago one of the Took ancestors must have taken a fairy wife...there was still something not entirely hobbit-like about them, and once in a while members of the Took-clan would go and have adventures.
7	'Long ago in the quiet of the world, when there was less noise and more green'. Explain what the author means by this.	Hopefully the children will understand that this means before the advent of machines and cars and pollution when there were less people and there were more forests and less buildings and roads - something like that. <i>Ensure they explain their thoughts and ideas clearly and let everybody give their ideas.</i>
8	Why is the second time Gandalf is mentioned followed by an exclamation mark and given its own sentence?	To show just what an amazing, outstanding, fantastic person or thing Gandalf was. Too wonderful a person to be able to say anything but his name. That was all that needed to be said. It's like underlining his name.
9	Why might Gandalf have a Took as his friend?	We know about the Tooks from when we learned about Bilbo's mother, so it is not surprising that Gandalf would be friends with a family who might have a fairy in their ancestry and who tended to go off and have adventures!
10	Why did Bilbo Baggins 'scuttle inside...as quickly as he dared'?	He was thoroughly confused by all he heard. If you look back he 'got quite uncomfortable and even a little cross' when he was just stared at. And then, he knew who Gandalf was and remembered all the wonderful stuff that had happened. Look at what he says 'Bless me, life used to be quite inter-' What do you think he was going to say? And then he remembered that he was a hobbit and liking all that sort of stuff would not be respectable. He got a bit scared at how excited he felt about Gandalf and yet scared about what Gandalf wanted him to do - go on an adventure with him - so he ran inside to get away from temptation and get back to being a boring sensible hobbit.
11	Why did Bilbo say 'Thank you!'?	The phrase ' <i>they have begun to arrive</i> had flustered him badly'. He had a suspicion that something had started and he had to run with it. He didn't want to reveal he hadn't a clue what was going on and so he just responded politely while his mind was frantically whizzing around.
12	How did the visitors seem to know the contents of Bilbo's larder? Why did it take Bilbo so long to realise this?	They're dwarves. Of course they have some degree of magic to be able to see in his larder! Bilbo was so flustered and flummoxed by all the arrivals and demands for food and drink and was so confused about what was going on that he didn't add two and two together for quite a while until he realised that everything he was asked for was there in his larder!

The Hobbit - Part One - Chapters One & Two

13	Explain what confusticate means. Look at its use in the context.	<p>Definition:to confuse or confound con·found</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to perplex or amaze, esp. by a sudden disturbance or surprise; bewilder; confuse: <i>The complicated directions confounded him.</i> 2. to throw into confusion or disorder: <i>The revolution confounded the people.</i> 3. to throw into increased confusion or disorder. 4. to treat or regard erroneously as identical; mix or associate by mistake: <i>truth confounded with error.</i> 5. to mingle so that the elements cannot be distinguished or separated. 6. to damn (used in mild imprecations): <i>Confound it!</i> <p>Look at it. It's clear he's saying something like (you will need to rephrase these!!!!!!!) 'bugger the dwarves, bloody dwarves. He wants them to go away and be gone, so no 6 definition is the best fit really. See what the kids come up with, even if they can't quite explain it clearly. That's what you're there for to help turn their ideas into a sensible sentence.</p>
14	How many dwarves turned up then? Their names? Do you notice anything?	<p><i>Don't let them include Gandalf as it clearly says in the book that he is a wizard. Dwalin, Balin, Kili, Fili, Dori, Nori, Ori, Oin, Gloin, Bifur, Bofur, Bombur & Thorin - thirteen all told. The names rhyme or alliterate, according to their arrival.</i></p>
15	What happened to Bilbo when the dwarves sang?	<p><i>'Then something Tookish woke up inside him, and he wished to go and see the great mountains, and hear the pine-trees and the waterfalls, and explore the caves, and wear a sword instead of a walking-stick.' Make sure the children can explain in their own words. They can read it from the book but they must be able to put it into their own words.</i></p>
16	What was Thorin's style?	<p><i>Self-important and using six words when one would do and using more complicated words when simpler ones were perfectly OK. Very formal and proper, no playground language, no informal language. See what the children can come up with.</i></p>
17	Explain what the author meant about Bilbo's shriek.	<p><i>It just erupted. The author describes it as 'like the whistle of an engine coming out of a tunnel' because it was all of a sudden how Bilbo just started shrieking. He just lost it and it happened immediately, just like in a tunnel the noise of a train whistle is muffled but as soon as it emerges from the tunnel it blasts your ears off!</i></p>
18	Why did Bilbo break down?	<p><i>All this talk and songs about magic and gold and dragons, etc was just too much for a hobbit who was trying to lead a respectable life but was also drawn into all this excitement against his own will. His brain was going round and round and getting so full of thoughts that it finally just blew!</i></p>
19	'As for little fellow bobbing on the mat it almost made him really fierce.' Why?	<p><i>Bilbo didn't like the idea of being described like some little toy. The 'bobbing on the mat' made him seem very undignified and hurt his dignity. It made him sound not at all like a description of a nice respectable hobbit and he got angry about being described as something unrespectable.</i></p>
20	Why might the hidden passage still be a secret?	<p><i>Because it will have been unused for years and years and was too small for Smaug the dragon to use himself ('Smaug could not creep into a hole that size'). The local population would not have gone near it for years for fear of the dragon.</i></p>
21	Why are heroes scarce in this neighbourhood?	<p><i>'Swords in these parts are mostly blunt, and axes are used for trees, and shields as cradles or dishcovers'. They are not needed. Look at what else it says 'dragons are comfortably far-off', which means that heroes are not needed. Life just goes on normally and heroes are not needed to fight dragons. The place is just full of normal people going about their day-to-day lives.</i></p>

The Hobbit - Part One - Chapters One & Two

22	Why was Bilbo so obstinate?	Because he wanted to understand exactly what he had to do and where and how and although the dwarves had been talking about it for a long time it had all been mixed up with other tales and songs and it hadn't been talked about plainly and openly. Bilbo needed somebody to lay it all out simply for him so he knew what his job was and where he had to go to achieve the task. He also wanted to know what he was going to get from going off with them.
23	What brought the dragon?	All the wealth that Thorin's ancestors was collecting attracted the dragon (as it would since they like stealing gold and jewels and are greedy for it).
24	Why does the author use a simile to describe the arrival of Smaug?	To make the reader realise what a huge thing was his arrival. He didn't just turn up and people began to realise he was there, oh no, he arrived suddenly and everybody was aware straightaway that he had arrived and that his arrival was not good for them. A hurricane is a powerful thing that begins devastation and destruction and death with it and this was what Smaug would bring with him too.
25	Why had it taken so long for Gandalf to hand over what really belonged to Thorin?	'Well, your father gave me this to give to you...your father could not remember his own name when he gave me the paper, and he never told me yours... How could he find him straightaway if he hadn't a clue who had given him the paper and who he had to give it to?
Chapter Two - Roast Mutton		
26	Why did Bilbo say 'but' so many times?	He had woken up in the morning as the normal respectable Bilbo Baggins and thinking sensible thoughts so when he was told he had to go now he was very reluctant to get Tookish again and just wanted to stay where he was being his own Bilbo.
27	Why did Bilbo feel that it wouldn't be so bad after all?	Because he and they were having such a gay old time as they went along. 'They went along very merrily, and they told stories or sang songs...' He also got fed regularly and had his own handkerchiefs and pipe and tobacco. He was a happy man with all that.
28	What might castles with an evil look, look like? Describe them	<i>Take answers from the children but encourage them to really think about what features and evil castle might have that would make them look so to Bilbo.</i>
29	What was wrong with the trolls' language?	'...was not drawing room fashion at all...' It was not polite at all. In fact it was very rude and involved lots of swearing. It was also very bad grammatically. It's real informal playground language. <i>They should be able to deduce that just by reading what the trolls say.</i>
30	How did Gandalf save the day?	He threw his voice pretending to be the trolls and so causing dissent and unrest in the ranks (he made them argue with each other and waste time). The time passed so swiftly because of this that the dawn came up without the trolls noticing and as all people know, trolls turn to stone in daylight.

The Hobbit - Part Two - Chapters Three and Four

Chapter Three - A Short Rest		
1	Why had they stopped singing and telling stories?	'They had begun to feel that danger was not far away on either side.' They had been so careless that it had been easy for the trolls to capture them. Now they knew there was danger all around and needed to be on their guard and alert at all times to ensure something like that did not happen again. If they sang and told stories they would not be concentrating on looking out for anything dangerous.
2	'The far bank was steep and slippery.' A very simple sentence but what does it hide? Why has the author kept it simple?	Look at it and around it. The phrase is clearly an understatement. They clearly took some time to get up it and had had to get off their ponies too - it says 'when they got to the top if it...' The author wants us to use our imagination and our own knowledge of getting up steep slippery slopes. It would have been hard work and difficult and muddy, and the ponies would have been difficult to get up and reluctant to get up too. <i>Sometimes too much description makes it too easy for the reader and they won't necessarily imagine it because it has all been done for them!</i>
3	Why is the word 'The' in italics?	Emphasis: by saying 'the mountain', it shows that Bilbo only has one mountain on his mind, the one with Smaug hiding in it, lying on treasure.
4	Why did Bilbo feel so tired?	Balin had just reminded him just how far they had to go to reach Smaug and the end of their journey. Bilbo realised how tiring it would be and just how much work there was still ahead of them. He had suffered with lack of food, rain, mud, trolls. What more might he have to find? How much more might he have to suffer?
5	Why was Bilbo a little frightened of the elves?	<i>Take any answer so long as they can justify it.</i> I reckon that it was probably because elves mean magic and a hobbit meeting an elf is not being a respectable hobbit and we know he really wants to be respectable. Elves and magic mean all sorts of adventurous and possibly scary things could happen. Bilbo liked to know exactly what went on and when and where. Who know what might happen while they were with the elves?
6	Why did the river flow 'fast and noisily'?	'sun has been all day on the snow far up above'. The sun higher up in the mountains will melt the snow lying up there still and the water will run down to the streams and so into the river making the level high and increase the amount of water rushing down, making it noisier and wilder.
7	What does the sentence beginning 'Now it is a strange thing..' mean?	Good things happening to you make you want to tell everybody about them straightaway, but then they are done and life moves on, whereas disasters and bad accidents get repeated again and again because you tell them over and over to show how you escaped or how you managed to survive or how you felt. You can remember all the details months later and still retell it in detail. Good things are over too soon and bad things last longer, or so it seems. <i>Take ideas from the kids and make them think carefully from their own experience about what the author has written.</i>
8	Explain the swords' names.	Goblin-cleaver. Cleaver - a heavy, broad-bladed knife or long-bladed hatchet, esp. one used by butchers for cutting meat into joints or pieces, or someone who cleaves - splits things. So Goblin cleaver means something that butchers goblins (chops them up nastily!). Foe-hammer - foe means enemy, so it means something that hits hard against the enemy. Both names show what vicious weapons they are and how successful.
9	Why did Elrond say that it was 'likely to be granted soon enough in the mountains'?	There were goblins in the mountains and the group were bound to come upon them soon enough and have to fight for their own lives and safety. Goblins are clearly not a nice race!
10	Why was Elrond helping them with the map - he did not approve of 'dwarves and their love of gold'?	'he hated dragons and their cruel wickedness, and he grieved to remember the ruin of the town of Dale and its merry bells...' Although he didn't like the dwarves' greed for gold, he remembered the horrific arrival of Smaug and the death and destruction that came with the dragon so he was willing to help the dwarves to get rid of the dragon.

The Hobbit - Part Two - Chapters Three and Four

11	What might moon-letters have been used for?	To keep secrets. To pass information on in code so others might not know it was there. <i>Listen to the children's ideas and encourage to think about how difficult it would be to see these moon-letters unless you knew they were there and were looking for them.</i>
12	Why was the message revealed, still of no help to the group?	Because no one could work out nowadays when Durin's Day would be. Look at what Thorin says - 'it passes our skill in these days to guess when such a time will come again.' No-one anymore had the skills or understanding to be able to work out the timing of Dorin's Day on a calendar.
13	Why were 'their hearts ready for more adventure'?	They had had a good rest, been treated well. Everybody had fed well, enjoyed their stay and received many kindnesses from Elrond. The horrible travelling and events before their arrival had faded and they were looking forward to the enxt stage and the gold that was waiting for them.
Chapter Four - Over hill and under hill		
14	What might have happened to the band if Elrond had not helped them find the way?	'Most of the paths were cheats and deceptions and led nowhere or to bad ends. And most of the passes were infested by evil things and dreadful dangers.' They would have gone round and round in circles or got completely lost, as in a maze. They might have met their end (death) there because of the 'evil things' and not being ever able to make their way back out.
15	Why does the author repeat the word 'long'?	He is emphasising, for the reader, just how difficult it still was, despite Elrond helping them with directions. They travelled for hours, all day, every day (1 st 'long'), and the path just went on and on and on for miles and miles (2 nd 'long')
16	How did their mood soon change?	They were soon feeling gloomy again, despite having left in a good, uplifting mood. The cold and the silence made them feel a little frightened. 'the echoes were uncanny...silence seemed to dislike being broken...the others were thinking equally gloomy thoughts. They were thinking about what they were missing back in the safety of their own homes.
17	Why had Gandalf not said anything when they had talked about getting there soon?	He wanted the dwarves and Bilbo to do what they had set out to do - win back the gold that belonged to Thorin's ancestors and destroy Smaug. He wasn't going to say anything that might put the group off!
18	What indication is there that the cave might not be safe?	'...who knew that caves up in the mountains were seldom unoccupied...you don't know how far they go back...or where a passage may lead to, or what is waiting for you inside.' <i>We, the readers, are given a great big hint that the cave is not a safe place but we can clearly read that the group did not know this and thought it was a safe haven, so we wait expectantly for something happen while the author talks about the group settling down quietly and drifting off to sleep thinking they are safe!</i>
19	What was fortunate about the attack by the goblins?	Fortunately Gandalf was able to repel the goblins and stay the right side of the crack in the cave, so hopefully he could do something to rescue them. '...there was a terrific flash like lightning in the cave, a smell like gunpowder, and several of them fell dead.'
20	What does the song tell the reader about goblins?	A lot and it is all nasty! Look at the words they use and the glee with which they sing these words. We know they are vicious and sadistic (enjoy hurting). <i>Get the children to look at all the evidence in the song.</i>
21	Why was it the last time they saw their animals?	'For goblins eat horses and ponies and donkeys...'
22	What was special about the goblin swords?	'...the bent swords that they use'.
23	Do they make the weapons themselves?	'...they make very well, or get other people to make to their design, prisoners and slaves...'
24	Why was it a problem that Thorin was with the group?	'...they had a special grudge against Thorin's people, because of the war which you have heard mentioned...'

The Hobbit - Part Two - Chapters Three and Four

25	Why was it 'true enough' that they had no intention of 'inconveniencing goblins'?	Would you? The dwarves knew exactly how nasty goblins are, remember they have fought battles with them, so it is hardly likely that the dwarves would have deliberately gone looking for trouble with dwarves.
26	Why were the Great Goblin and many of his soldiers so upset when they saw Thorin's sword?	'It had killed hundreds of goblins in its time...'
27	'Yammering'. Explain what this means.	1. to whine or complain. 2. to make an outcry or clamour. 3. to talk loudly and persistently. <i>Make them look at the word that goes with yammering (yells) and they should be able to work out roughly what it means. They will find it more difficult turning their ideas into an actual answer in sentences and may need your support.</i>
28	Why has the author used so much alliteration in writing about the noise that followed the lights going out?	<i>Take any answer so long as the children can justify their answers or discuss them sensibly. Alliteration is about the initial sounds of letters and the words describe the sounds in the darkness. Repetition of initial letters emphasises the sound and volume of those sounds.</i>
29	Why did the goblins start fighting each other?	They were so bewildered and confused by all the noise and sparks that when bumping into each other they thought they were being attacked, and so attacked the person they bumped into, thinking it was the enemy.
30	Why might it 'be worse' and yet 'might be a good deal better'?	There were 14 of them still; some of them might have died. That would have been worse. If they had ponies and food and knew where they were and the goblins were gone - that would be a good deal better than as it was with no ponies, no food, lost, and still hunted by goblins!

The Hobbit - Part Three - Chapters Five and Six

Chapter Five - Riddles in the dark		
1	Why was Bilbo so frightened when he regained consciousness?	'No one was anywhere near him...He could hear nothing, see nothing, and he could feel nothing... Think about what was happening to them all before. Now he hadn't a clue where he was and what would strike next. There could be <i>anything</i> in that dark poised to do nasty things to him!
2	What was a turning point in Bilbo's career?	'...till suddenly his hand met what felt like a tiny ring of cold metal lying on the floor of the tunnel.'
3	Why was he thinking of food in such a situation?	He's a hobbit, and hobbits like their food! He was hungry! '...for he could feel inside that it was high time for some meal or other...'
4	Why was Bilbo comforted by his dagger?	He was proud of having such a splendid blade and one that had been involved in the famous goblin-wars which so many people had sung about. 'He had noticed that such weapons made a great impression on goblins that came upon them suddenly.' He realised that the goblins might well be scared of his dagger and it could give him the chance to somehow escape if caught again.
5	How was Bilbo able to see in the darkness?	'...by the glimmer of his sword'. Look back to the previous questions text, where it says it shone pale and dim.
6	Why was Bilbo reluctant to wade in the water?	He imagined all sorts of horrible things living in it! '...he thought, too, of nasty, slimy things, with big, bulging blind eyes, wriggling in the water', etc.
7	Who created the tunnels?	The goblins only widened what was already there. They are ages old. 'The original owners are still there in odd corners, slinking and nosing about.' It doesn't say clearly who they are but we do know they slink and nose around! It doesn't say that Gollum made the tunnels.
8	Why were the fish blind?	There was nothing but darkness so the fish had no need for eyes!
9	Why could he throttle the goblins so easily?	Look at his description - he's 'small', so easily not noticed. He is also as dark as darkness. Even with the light of the torches the goblins brought with them he could easily not be seen if he stood in the shadows and unlit areas and so could easily creep up.
10	Why did the goblins hardly ever visit the lake?	Two reasons: '...they had a feeling that something unpleasant was lurking down there...' '...there was no reason to go that way...'
11	Describe Gollum.	Dark as darkness Thin face Two big, round eyes Large feet Long fingers Eats fish, meat, inc goblin Pale eyes like telescopes, pale eyes sticking out... Makes a horrible swallowing noise in his throat Calls himself 'my precious' Speaks to himself all the time Likes riddles Has six teeth <i>All this is spread out over three pages.</i>
12	Why did Bilbo jump 'nearly out of his skin' when Gollum hissed?	He thought he was alone in the darkness. It was a horrible shock to know, not only was there someone else, but that they were that close to him he could easily put out his hand and touch them, and that they had crept up so easily to him without him noticing!
13	Why did Gollum become a little friendlier?	Bilbo told him what sort of sword it was and so he knew about its power and history, he probably knew something about what it could do

The Hobbit - Part Three - Chapters Five and Six

14	Explain the basic rules of the riddle game.	It had to be a competition. If Gollum asked a question and the other person couldn't answer then Gollum could eat the other person. If the other person asked a question and Gollum couldn't answer then the he had to do what the other person wanted. <i>All this is in the text.</i> Not really fair?
15	'Bilbo...was still thinking uncomfortably about eating.' Explain.	It wasn't that he was hungry and thinking about food that he could eat. Look at what it says about him before he spoke his first riddle - '...nearly bursting his brain to think of riddles <u>that could save him from being eaten.</u> ' He was thinking about Gollum eating him, no wonder it was taking up quite a lot of his thoughts!
16	Why did the 'aboveground everyday sort' of riddle make him tired and bad-tempered?	Two reasons. One - he had to dredge memories from far back in his life when he lived up above ground with his grandmother. He had to think very hard to remember these old, old memories. Two - they reminded him of a time when he had not been lonely, sneaky and nasty, and they made him hungry!
17	Why did Gollum have trouble guessing Bilbo's last 'riddle'?	It wasn't a riddle, and the sort of things he might keep in his pockets were completely different to what a hobbit (or anyone else) might keep in their's.
18	Why would Gollum wear the ring when very hungry?	He could not be seen and so could go into lit areas looking for a goblin to nibble!
19	Why was Bilbo so unsympathetic to Gollum's loss?	Would you be? He'd made him play a game where if he lost he'd be eaten and now it seemed Gollum was putting off helping him when he had clearly won. He was evidently a nasty piece of work and anything he really wanted that much that he would shriek about its loss must be of advantage to Gollum and not to anyone else! '...he had a feeling that anything Gollum wanted so much could hardly be something good.'
20	How did Gollum help Bilbo escape?	He didn't! he just happened to think that Bilbo would head for the back door to escape and so went that way to try and catch him, and, because he talked to himself, Bilbo knew where he was going and could follow him, without getting completely lost in the maze of tunnels. '... the back door , that's it...if the Baggins has gone that way, we must go quick and see.'
Chapter Six - Out of the frying pan into the fire		
21	What decision of Bilbo's showed him to be a hero?	'He had just made up his mind that it was his duty, that he must turn back...' He knew how awful it was back in the tunnels and yet he knew his friends might still be in trouble. Even though he didn't want to he was willing to face all that for the sake of his friends.
22	Why was Gandalf 'probably more pleased than all the others'?	Bilbo had just proved the dwarves wrong, and Gandalf right: he could be very useful indeed, not only had he escaped alive, but he had also managed to slip back in among them with nobody noticing - clearly a clever burglar! 'I don't bring things that are of no use'. Bilbo had just proved himself to be of some use.
23	How might you use the power of the golden ring if you possessed it?	<i>Take any answer so long as they can justify their decisions about what they would use it for.</i>
24	Why didn't Bilbo tell them about the ring?	Would you? They are all busy praising him for slipping through the guards and right into their midst. Would they be so full of praise if they knew he had appeared there by using the ring of invisibility? I don't think so. He liked the praise; it made him feel good so he wasn't going to do anything that would make them think less of him.

The Hobbit - Part Three - Chapters Five and Six

25	Why did Gandalf encourage the adventurers to hurry on their way?	<p>'They will be out after us in hundreds when night comes on; and already shadows are lengthening. They can smell our footsteps for hours and hours after we have passed.'</p> <p>The Goblins would not give up but would chase them on and on for ages yet. They wanted revenge on them for the swords and for escaping and hurting/killing goblins. They group needed to get as far away as soon as possible in the hope that the Goblins would finally give up. It was also getting dark and getting close to night, we know that because of the shadows getting longer and longer. Goblins don't like the light - it makes their legs wobble and their heads giddy so they can't chase for long, but in the dark they can chase and chase for hours.</p>
26	What does the author mean - 'to hear it out in the forest under the moon was too much for Bilbo'?	<p>He became hysterical and panic stricken; look at what he says, 'What shall we do, what shall we do!'</p> <p>He lost his head, he was so terrified, he just wanted to run away and hide but he was so terrified he couldn't think about what to do!</p>
27	Explain the significance of the title of this chapter.	<p>- from an already bad situation to a worse one.</p> <p>Get them to think about it. They were in a dangerous situation being chased by a bunch of angry goblins and now they are having to face a pack of wolves, and not just wolves but one of the 'evil packs that lived under the shadow of the goblin-infested mountains...' They are facing another dangerous situation ,just as life threatening as the goblins!</p>
28	Why were the Wargs there?	<p>Not because of the group, but because they were intending to be there anyway. 'The Wargs had come to meet the goblins...'</p>
29	Explain what 'pinnacle' means. Look at its use in the sentence and its context.	<p>Pinnacle - any pointed, towering part or formation, as of rock.</p> <p>A pointy bit of rock sticking up!</p> <p>The children may need help and you could tell them to look at the word within a word that might help them - pin.</p>
30	What did the eagle mean by 'prisoners'?	<p>Not what it sounded like. They were not the eagles' prisoners but it meant "prisoners rescued from the goblins' only and not captives of the eagles.'</p>

The Hobbit - Part Four - Chapters Seven & Eight

Chapter Seven - Queer Lodgings		
1	How did Bilbo wake up?	Thinking he was at home and ready to put the kettle on! People do that when they wake up from sleep. They can forget where they are because they are so used to waking up in the same bed every day that when they are just half awake they think they are still in that familiar place, and that was what it was like for Bilbo. Remember he had never been away from home before!
2	Why did Bilbo pinch the eagle?	He was scared. Look at what it says - "...the birds were already high up and the world was far away..." In the previous chapter it says '...at the best of times heights made Bilbo giddy. He used to turn queer if he looked over the edge of quite a little cliff; and he had never liked ladders, let alone trees.' He was scared of heights!
3	Why did Bilbo cry?	Gandalf announced that he was not going any further with them, '...I may look in on it again before it is all over, but in the meanwhile I have some other pressing business to attend to.' Bilbo wept because they could rely on Gandalf to get them out of any scrapes they got into. He has helped with the goblins, the trolls, etc.
4	Why is Somebody someone not to ask questions of?	Would you if this Somebody could turn himself into anything he wanted to, including 'a huge black bear' or 'a strong black-haired man with huge arms'? We already know that this Somebody 'can be appalling when he is angry.'
5	According to Gandalf what are two possibilities explaining the origin of this Somebody?	'Some say that he is a bear descended from the great and ancient bears of the mountains that lived there before the giants came. Others say that he is a man descended from the first men who lived before Smaug... and before the goblins came into the hills out of the North.'
6	How do we know that this Somebody is very tall?	'...towering tall above Gandalf. As for Bilbo he could easily have trotted through his legs without ducking his head to miss the fringe of the man's brown tunic.'
7	How did Gandalf get himself listened to by this huge man?	He was polite and mentioned his cousin who he knew this man would know and therefore know that his cousin was a good man and that this cousin standing here would also be a good man.
8	What four things made Beorn not object to the arrival of the dwarves?	'...if it is true you are Thorin (son of Thrain, son of Thrór, I believe), and that your companion is respectable, and that you are enemies of goblins and are not up to any mischief in my lands...'
9	How had Gandalf been clever?	'The interruptions had really made Beorn more interested in the story and the story had kept him from sending the dwarves off at once like suspicious beggars...'
10	Why did the dwarves shake their beards?	They were not looking forward to what was to come. Beorn had been telling them stories of the forest they would have to pass through - without Gandalf's help this time, of course.
11	What made the dwarves impatient with Gandalf?	'Indeed for a long time they could get nothing more out of him, he was so busy sending smoke rings dodging round the pillars of the hall...' They were desperate to know what Gandalf had been up to all day and why they hadn't seen neither sight nor sound of Beorn, and then they had to wait because Gandalf decided to have some fun with the smoke rings!
12	What information did Beorn glean in his travels to the wolf-glade?	'...the goblin patrols were still hunting with the Wargs for the dwarves, and they were fiercely angry...a great raid of the whole goblin army with their wolf-allies into the lands shadowed by the mountains might soon be made to find the dwarves, or to take vengeance on the men and creatures that lived there...' <i>You need to get the children to explain all this in their own words as well.</i>
13	What gruesome sight did Beorn reveal to the adventurers when asked by Bilbo what had happened to the captured wolf and goblin?	'A goblin's head was stuck outside the gate and a warg-skin was nailed to a tree just beyond.'

The Hobbit - Part Four - Chapters Seven & Eight

14	'He would lade them...' explain what 'lade' means.	Lade - to put (something) on or in, as a burden, load, or cargo; load. He would pack everything they needed on the ponies.
15	What warning does Beorn give the travellers about proceeding through Mirkwood?	Several pieces of advice: Do not drink or wash in the stream as it will make you go to sleep and/or forget; Do not stray from the path ever; Probably nothing in the forest is worth eating or drinking
16	'Scour all the edge of the forest...' Explain what 'scour' means.	Scour - to range over, as in a search: <i>They scoured the countryside for the lost child.</i>
17	Explain what Bilbo might have seen as the light faded.	'...the shadowy form of a great bear prowling along in the same direction.' I think it was Beorn, travelling along with them and keeping them safe whilst he could. Hopefully the children will think this too.
18	Why did Gandalf say, 'I hope you liked the look of it'?	He was being sarcastic - it didn't look good. Look at the description of it as the group approached the forest - 'black and frowning wall...birds began to sing less...trunks were huge and gnarled...leaves were dark and long...' It's not exactly a description of a pretty part of the countryside, is it!
19	How long would be the diversion if they did not go through the forest?	'If you care to go two hundred miles or so out of your way north, and twice that south.' 600 miles extra! Worth fighting through the forest for the shortcut!
Chapter Eight - Flies and Spiders		
20	What was the worst they saw as they entered the forest?	'The nastiest things they saw were the cobwebs...'
21	What idea does the author try to get you to realise about the forest and how does he do it?	That it's a dark, sunless place. Look at the description, it goes on and on and on. He really lays it on thick, going over and over it again and there are lots of words emphasising how dark and how little sun there is in the forest. Get them to hunt for all the words from the beginning of the chapter that indicate this. Here are some of them: darkened, dimness, black, dark, dark, pitch-black, dark-grey, black, darkness.
22	Why did the group begin to grow worried?	It actually says anxious in the book. 'The food would not last for ever: it was in fact already beginning to get low.' The food they caught tasted horrible and the forest seemed to go on and on forever. Would they ever get out or would they starve to death still trying to get to the other edge of the forest - this is what the dwarves were thinking.
23	How did the group intend to get everyone across the stream safely?	Go to and fro with the boat pulling themselves across with the rope over the branch and being hauled back by the rope with the hook (hooked over the end of the boat). <i>It's all there in the book, and they need to be able to find all the information and then explain it all clearly to you.</i>
24	How did they cope with carrying Bombur?	Fine, but only because the bags had become empty and so lighter.
25	Why did Bilbo stay so long up the tree, after all he didn't like heights?	The butterflies were pretty after such a horrible forest and the breeze felt good after all those suffocating still days in the forest. He didn't want to go back into that horrible draining, depressing atmosphere down below.
26	What was Bilbo's mistake?	Choosing the wrong tree. Look at what it says - 'standing near the bottom of a wide valley...' This meant that he couldn't see over the tops of the trees and see that the edge of the forest was close.
27	Explain why Bilbo and the dwarves strayed from the path.	They were starving and if the lights had anything to do with people and food they wanted to find out. Even worse was Bombur going on and on about his lovely dream and all the food he had eaten in his dream. They were desperate! All the thought of food and their hunger made them forget all the warnings Beorn and Gandalf had given them before leaving them to make their way through the forest.

The Hobbit - Part Four - Chapters Seven & Eight

28	What changed Bilbo?	'Somehow the killing of the giant spider, all alone by himself in the dark without the help of the wizard or the dwarves or of anyone else, made a great difference to Mr Baggins. He felt a different person, and much fiercer and bolder...'
29	Explain why Bilbo was so adroit at throwing stones.	'As a boy he used to practise throwing stones at things, until rabbits and squirrels, and even birds got out of his way as quick as lightning if they saw him stoop; and even grown-up he had still spent a deal of his time at...games of the aiming and throwing sort...' He was an accurate thrower - dead accurate!
30	Why did the dwarves expect Bilbo to sort everything out?	'...they had changed their opinion of Mr Baggins very much, and had begun to have great respect for him...' This was because they had seen what Bilbo could do, in rescuing them when all seemed hopeless and practically doing all by himself as they were still not feeling at all well.

The Hobbit - Part Five - Chapters Nine & Ten

Chapter Nine - Barrels out of bond		
1	'one last despairing effort'. Explain.	Despairing - losing, or being without hope They were so desperate to get out but had still not found their way out. They were starving and extremely thirsty and on the edge of losing the will to live. They could see if it continued like this for much longer they might all just down and die. So, one last despairing effort means they would try their hardest to find the way out but they didn't hold out much hope of actually finding the way to safety (and food!).
2	Why were their knives hopeless against the elves?	They couldn't see in the dark, but apparently the Wood-elves could. They would have to draw out their knives and before they could do that the elves could let slip their arrows and they'd be dead. The elves could see every movement they made. They could react immediately and quickly whereas the dwarves were exhausted and starving - their reflexes and reactions would be slow. The elves, too, with their bows and arrows could stay out of arm's reach and shoot from there, whereas the dwarves would need to move towards the elves and the elves could react straightaway and shoot.
3	Why was it a good thing he made up his mind at last?	'...he only made up his mind not to desert his friends, just in time to scuttle over at the heels of the last elves, before the great gates of the king closed behind them with a clang.' If he hadn't finally made up his mind so soon he would have been on the outside with no way in and the dwarves would have been inside with no expectations of help from Bilbo. On the outside it would have taken time and thought for Bilbo to find a way in, time that the dwarves might not have.
4	'pillars hewn out of the living stone.' Explain what 'hewn' means.	Hewn - chopped, or cut into shape with an axe or a sword
5	On meeting the Elvenking what gave the dwarves some hope?	'...and thought he looked grimly at them, he told his men to unbind them, for they were ragged and weary.' Although he looked a nasty piece of work, he must have had some sympathy on looking at them. He saw that they were exhausted. It may have been he felt pity, on the other hand of course, it may have been that he realised that they were nothing to fear! 'There is no escape from my magic doors for those who are once brought inside.'
6	Why could Bilbo not find the way out of the woods?	'He could not keep up with the hunting elves all the time they were out, so he never discovered they ways out of the wood...'
7	□ Why didn't Bilbo enjoy the Elvenking's palace?	'I am like a burglar that can't get away, but must go on miserably burgling the same house day after day...this is the dreariest and dullest part...' He had to be always hiding and always stealing and always be on his guard against discovery. It was a stressful, tiring time. He daren't sleep for to long in case he was tripped over and he couldn't find food for himself unless nobody was around and event hen he would have to have been careful. A chicken leg seemingly moving on its own for the air would make the elves very suspicious!
8	What made Thorin change his mind about revealing all to the Elvenking?	'Thorin had taken heart again hearing how the hobbit had rescued his companions from the spiders...' He knew about Gollum's ring from Bilbo's escape from the goblins and now he learnt that Bilbo had rescued the dwarves. He was beginning to think that this Bilbo the burglar was moiré useful than first thought. We know that, look at what it says in that same paragraph - 'until in fact the remarkable Mr. Invisible Baggins (of whom he began to have a very high opinion indeed) had altogether failed to think of something clever.'

The Hobbit - Part Five - Chapters Nine & Ten

9	Why were the dwarves content to hang around in prison for longer?	They wanted their fair share of the treasure. If they had to share it with the Elvenking they would clearly get a lot less. They were greedy and loved gold and silver and wanted it all for themselves. They were also beginning to believe in this little hobbit who had rescued them so cleverly from the spiders. 'They all thought their own shares in the treasure would suffer seriously if the word-elves claimed part of it, and they all trusted Bilbo.'
10	'lurking'. Explain what this means and what Bilbo was doing.	Lurking - being in hiding, escaping notice, being there but unobserved.
11	'...at last he had the desperate beginnings of a plan.' Explain.	This was the only possible way out that he could even think of or that he had noticed in his extensive wandering around the palace/caves. Look back, it says 'he sat and thought and thought, until his head nearly burst, but no bright idea would come.' This idea that came to him was the only one that had any possibilities and he could see it wasn't perfect and he hadn't necessarily got it all sorted out in his head either but... It was that or agree to hand over the treasure to the Elves, or rot in the dungeons!
12	What made the 'desperate' plan suddenly seem possible?	Two things: 'I shall be hard at work tonight clearing the cellars of the empty wood,' and 'now come with me and taste the new wine that has just come in...very soon the chief guard...fell fast asleep...the butler...his head too nodded to the table, and he fell asleep'. The empty wood means the empty barrels, need to be sent back down river. The butler invited the chief of the guard's to have a drink with them and they both fell asleep, drunk, allowing Bilbo to take the keys and let the dwarves out safely.
13	Why did the dwarves all object when Bilbo was offering them a means of escape?	It wasn't easy. It involved hardship and the possibility of death by drowning. They wanted the easy way out, just walking out somewhere. 'We shall be bruised and battered to pieces, and drowned too, for certain.'
14	How did Bilbo persuade them?	He was very clever! He was just quietly sarcastic! All he did was tell them to go back to their cells and come up with a better plan. 'Very well! Come along back to your nice cells, and I will lock you in again, and you can sit there comfortably and think of a better plan...' Two words there tell you he's being sarcastic - 'nice' and 'comfortably'! The dwarves knew this had to be the way. None of them had come up with a better plan and one of them knew their way around the place as well as Bilbo. If they wanted out they had to say yes, or their treasure hunt was up.
15	How did Galion help with the escape?	He didn't knowingly, but unwittingly he did. Because he was woken up after drinking he was grumpy, and when the others noticed that some of the barrels were heavy he got even more bad-tempered and insisted they just do as they were told because he wanted it all done so he could go back to sleep again. If he had been sober and more alert he might have investigated but he didn't and the dwarves escaped!
16	What does the author compare the barrel to and why?	'All the same it was like trying to ride, without bridle or stirrups, a round-bellied pony that was always thinking of rolling on the grass.' He wants the reader to understand just how difficult it was for Bilbo to stay on top of the barrel. He presumes that many children will have ridden ponies (that tells you something about the author!) and know what tricky little beast they can be and how tricky staying on them can be if the pony doesn't want you on there!

The Hobbit - Part Five - Chapters Nine & Ten

17	Why was there a 'fine commotion in the village by the riverside'?	'He was given away in the end by his wet footsteps and the trail of drippings that he left wherever he went or sat; and also he began to snivel, and wherever he tried to hide he was found out by the terrific explosions of his suppressed sneezes.' He was desperate for food and not at all averse to stealing now. He also wanted to sit by the fire and dry out as he was cold. The villagers realised from all this that there was a stranger around and up to mischief so they were all out looking for him to catch him, shouting at each other and ordering each other around to try and encircle him.
18	What saved the dwarves from being discovered?	Time! 'If they had come ashore in the daylight, we might have had a look inside...No time now!...Shove off! The barrels had to be at their destination on time or they would have been investigated. Very fortunate for the dwarves. I don't think Bilbo thought about that. Lucky for the whole group!
19	How does the author leave the reader at the end of the chapter?	Not knowing whether the dwarves are alive or dead and wanting to find out. He's left the reader in suspense. '...but whether alive or dead still remains to be seen.' Definitely a read-on!
Chapter Ten - A Warm Welcome		
20	What might have made Bilbo feel better about the adventure?	'If he had known that news of this had reached Gandalf far away and given him great anxiety, and that he was finishing his other business...and getting ready to come in search of Thorin's company. But Bilbo did not know it.' Bilbo still thought that they were all on their own and that he especially seemed not to be the most important person in keeping everyone else out of mischief and this was a big burden for a little hobbit to have.
21	What signs remained of the more prosperous settlement?	'The rotting piles of a greater town could still be seen along the shores when the waters sank in a drought.' You will need to explain what is meant here by piles because the children will be thinking about piles, as in piles of rubbish! Pile - pointed stake or post driven vertically into bed of river, soft ground, etc as support for a bridge, building, etc
22	'Ropes were cast'. Explain what is meant by this.	Cast -thrown over a distance. The end of the rope was kept and the rest of it was (usually) coiled up and then thrown across the water (in this case) for someone else to catch (in this case).
23	Why was Bilbo so cross at Thorin?	'It was some time before he would be even polite to the hobbit.' Bilbo was cross because he, Bilbo, had helped the dwarves escape from the elves, and, yes, it had been a dangerous and uncomfortable means of escape, but here Thorin was, closer to the dragon's lair and his treasure and STILL alive! He was angry that he was not being a little more grateful to Bilbo.
24		They did not think there was anything to on the lookout for. They are friends with the elves through their business. No-one else came to this place. Most of them were too young to remember the dragon and so thought it was a figment of the imagination. 'Except for occasional squabbles about river-tolls they were friends with the Wood-elves. Other folk were far away: and some of the younger people in the town openly doubted the existence of any dragon in the mountain...'
25	'the general clamour'. What does clamour mean?	Clamour - shouting, loud appeals, loud complaints, loud demands
26	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	'...quickly the matter was settled without him...people were shouting...some began to sing snatches of old songs concerning the return of the King under the Mountain...the Master...saw there was nothing else for it but to obey the general clamour...and to pretend to believe that Thorin was what he said.' The Master could see things becoming very ugly if he let the elves arrest the

The Hobbit - Part Five - Chapters Nine & Ten

	to be?	dwarves. Clearly the townsfolk were very excited by the return of the people from the old legends. It was easier to keep quiet and go with the flow rather than risk a riot and his authority being questioned.
27	Why did the dwarves grow fonder of, and kinder towards Bilbo?	They were fed and watered, and pampered and sung to. They had everything they wanted and were being looked after like in a 5 star hotel. The treasure was looking closer and closer and more realistic. So of course they began to realize that this was all because of Bilbo. Without Bilbo's idea of a daring escape they would still be in their dark cells on their own and without any hope of success unless they gave away their treasure.
28	What made the Master begin to think that Thorin was actually who he said he was?	When Thorin told the Master that he and his company 'must go on towards the Mountain. "...he wondered if Thorin was after all really a descendant of the old kings. He had never thought that the dwarves would actually dare to approach Smaug but believed they were frauds who would sooner or later be discovered...'
29	Who was the only person thoroughly unhappy the day of the departure and why?	Bilbo. We need to look back a little to where it's described how nice the dwarves are being to Bilbo. 'He had not forgotten the look of the Mountain, nor the thought of the dragon...' He knew all the nastiness that could still be ahead. He remembered that there was still a distinct possibility that he would not come out of this alive!

The Hobbit - Part Six - Chapters Eleven & Twelve

Chapter Eleven - On the Doorstep		
1	Why did the men of the town refuse to stay overnight where the dwarves disembarked?	'It was easier to believe in the Dragon...the land was desolate and empty.' 'Not at any rate until the songs have come true!' Out here away from their own town, with no-one else around, it was easier for the townsfolk to believe in the dragon especially with the Lonely Mountain towering over head. The goods needed no guard because there was no-one else around.
2	Why did their spirits drop?	'They spent a cold and lonely night...' They were on their own again after having had such a lovely time back in Lake-town, and the quest and dangers became real to them again. No wonder they began to feel low.
3	What was the Desolation of the Dragon?	'...before long there was neither bush nor tree, and only broken and blackened stumps to speak on one long vanished'. All around them were signs of fire, from where the dragon had laid waste the whole area. Very little grew, only the stumps of trees remained - trees that had burned down long ago.
4	What does the author mean by 'in the days when the bells rang in that town'?	For the bells to ring you need people, so he means when people lived in that town, going about their daily business and doing what you normally do to live. When it was thriving.
5	Why did Balin look both sad and grim?	'...he had been one of Thorin's companions on the day the Dragon came.' He had been there and seen what the Dragon had done. Had seen the people die around him. He felt sad, thinking back to all that, the people he had known who were no longer alive. He looked grim because he was determined not to let Smaug get away with it. He intended to get his revenge.
6	What does Balin mean, 'they look like spies of evil'?	They might be spies for Smaug, and will fly back to tell him that there are dwarves on the mountainside. They are black, a nasty colour, the colour of death. Balin does not want to be seen and to give themselves away or they will not be at an advantage.
7	Why could the little band not be sure the dragon was within?	Just because you could see smoke and steam didn't mean that the dragon was sure to be inside. '...he might be gone away...or he might be lying out on the mountain-side...still I expect smokes and steams would come out of the gates: all the halls within must be filled with his foul reek.' From living in the mountain for so long and breathing out fire in there for so long the passageways, rooms, and tunnels would all be filled with smoke, so this smoke could be old smoke that has slowly wafted along and out from some passageway deep in the mountain.
8	'They were at the end of their journey, but as far away as ever, it seemed, from the end of their quest. Explain what the author means.	They had got to where they were going but the hardest part still lay ahead. How were they going to steal the treasure and kill a dragon? After all their struggles they had still reached here but now they had to plan, and carry out the biggest theft in history, and survive! All that would take a lot of thought, planning and time still.
9	Why were they so sure that this was a door?	It was 'as smooth and upright as masons' work'. It was too smooth and straight to be natural. A mason is one who works with stone. If it was natural it would have cracks and jagged bits but this did not.
10	How did they avoid using the narrow path?	'...hauling up what they needed from below with their ropes...they were able to occasionally to lower one of the more active dwarves...' With the ropes they could still communicate with the two left behind and get all the stores they wanted passed up, without endangering anybody's life on the narrow path.
11	'...and glummer and glummer they become', Explain.	Glum - feeling/looking dejected or displeased, dispirited, depressed. It just wasn't going right for them and there was still no end in sight or any sign of it soon. Each day that they couldn't open the door made them more sure that nothing good was going to happen.

The Hobbit - Part Six - Chapters Eleven & Twelve

12	Why does the author call it a 'yawning mouth'?	It was the mouth of hell. Walking down it could lead to being eaten/killed by Smaug. Going down/in it might mean never coming back out again. The author has described it so to up the suspense but also to make us realise what an awful choice they now had, or rather what an awful thing poor Bilbo had to do, as we know this is the reason he was brought along with them. <i>Take ideas from the children.</i>
Chapter Twelve - Inside Information		
13	Why did Bilbo agree to have a look so soon after opening the door? He could have asked to wait until morning or asked to do some more planning first.	'Perhaps I have begun to trust my luck more than I used to...' He had managed to get them out of trouble several times on this journey and was beginning to think he wasn't such a dull, ignorant little hobbit after all! He was beginning to believe in himself and believe that he was capable of doing all sorts of things and surviving adventures by thinking.
14	How did the dwarves respond when Bilbo asked for volunteers to accompany him into the Mountain?	They didn't! '...looked uncomfortable...the others made no pretence of offering...' They all kept quiet, except for Balin!
15	'...pay Bilbo really handsomely for his services'. What did they mean?	Handsomely - generously, considerably. Pay him a great deal of money for what he was about to do and what he had done already (saving them, finding the way in).
16	Why did Bilbo creep so silently?	Because he could hear the others back at the opening he realised that sound travelled very easily down this passage. He did not want his arrival to reach Smaug's ears so soon, so he had to make sure he was as careful as possible not to make a sound. '...by a trick of the echoes of the tunnel hear the rustle of whispering voices of the others just inside...warned by the echoes to take more than a hobbit's care to make no sound.'
17	'He fought the real battle in that tunnel alone.' Explain what the author means.	He could hear and feel that Smaug was inside the mountain. He had heard all the tales about him and how nasty and vicious and dangerous this dragon was. He had no idea what to expect but he knew he was risking his life and that what he was about to see would be horrific and very frightening. Here is where he made that final decision to go on and try to do what he had been brought to do. He could have turned back - the heat and noise gave him some idea of what he was about to face. He had to fight hard against the desire to turn and run on his little legs as fast as he could back to the doorway and out into the comparative safety of the 'doorstep'! He had to overcome his fear, then and there.
18	□ Why was Smaug described as a 'vast red-golden dragon'?	'... his long pale belly crusted with gems and fragments of gold from his long lying...' He was huge and the dim red glow in the cave came from the fires deep within him. He lay asleep and the fires within glowed red, and the gold he lay on stuck to him and was reflected in his scales.
19	'His heart was filled...with the desire of dwarves'. Explain what the author means.	There was so much treasure lying around and piled up in the chamber that he could not help but be affected by greed, and want to have some for himself.
20	Why did he take a piece of the treasure? And why so big?	Who knows? Look at what it says - 'drawn almost against his will'. He knew he shouldn't. It was a very stupid and dangerous thing to do and Smaug could easily have caught him. Yet he did it. Did he want to show off to the dwarves left waiting outside who did not dare come with him? Remember he has become more confident in his own abilities. Perhaps he realised he could do this without disturbing Smaug and wanted some bit of it for himself. Why didn't he just take a coin? Would that be good enough proof of this treasure? Perhaps he wanted to take something really big to show off? <i>Take answers so long as they are backed up by references back to thoughts, feelings and happenings in the book.</i>

The Hobbit - Part Six - Chapters Eleven & Twelve

21	Why did Bilbo not enjoy the praise he received from the dwarves on his return to the doorway?	'...gasping and taking pleasure in the feel of the fresh air again. He was just so pleased to have come back out alive! He was so busy enjoying and thinking about feeling alive and free of the tunnel that he wasn't listening to anything.
22	How do we know that Smaug kept close tabs on his treasure?	He had only just woken up and he missed the cup straightaway. He knew every piece! 'He stirred and stretched forth his neck to sniff. Then he missed the cup!' It's the very next sentence after saying he had woken up, it was that soon and immediate that he noticed it missing!
23	'...cringing' under boulders'. What were they doing?	Cringing - cowering, crouching from fear. Hiding in fear, frightened, just wanting not to be noticed.
24	What indication is there that Bilbo is turning into a real leader?	There they are all hiding, hoping not to be noticed and only Bilbo realises that they soon will be noticed out on this ledge and need to hide down the tunnel. He doesn't make a fuss. He just tells them, straightaway.
25	Why did they shiver in the warm tunnel?	They were shivering with fear and terror, not cold. They had just heard the might of Smaug, and been left ponyless. They were all on their own now, trapped. No wonder they were shivering with fear.
26	How did his father's saying help Bilbo?	'Every worm has his weak spot.' Bilbo realised that there was always a way to solve a problem. There had to be a way of getting round Smaug. He just had to think hard enough and find it.
27	What had Bilbo forgotten in returning to the lair?	'...dragon's sense of smell...can keep half an eye open watching while they sleep.' He was so sure of himself he had forgotten what a wily, sly thing a dragon was. They hadn't got to be so powerful by being careless!
28	What did Bilbo remember about dragons?	Two things One] To flatter them, to be very polite, to make them feel good, to only say nice things about them. Look at how he speaks to Smaug, and how the dragon feels. 'O Smaug the Tremendous...if you were as truly as great as tales say...O Smaug the Chiefest...said the dragon somewhat flattered.' Two] that they, like Gollum, like riddles. We know this from how he speaks after all the polite, flattering stuff. 'I come from under the hill, and under the hills and over the hills my paths led. And through the air. I am he that walks unseen.'
29	Why did Bilbo begin to be suspicious about the dwarves?	'That is the effect that dragon-talk has on the inexperienced.' There is something about the way a dragon talks that holds one as if under a spell. Look at what it says when he started talking after the riddles. Bilbo almost admits what's going on.
30	What did Bilbo find out through flattery?	That 'there is a large patch in the hollow of his left breast as bare as a snail out of its shell!' He found the only part on a dragon that could be used to kill it. The only part unprotected by scales and gems.

The Hobbit - Part Seven - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

Chapter Thirteen - Not at Home		
1	Why did the group hardly eat anything or speak?	'...they scarcely dared to move, for the whisper of their voices echoed and rustled in the tunnel.' They were terrified of being found out. Smaug had found out how Bilbo had found the way in and what he had done there terrified the group. They knew what would happen if he found them there.
2	Why would they have preferred to hear Smaug in his den down below?	At least they would have known where he was. With only the silence they could only imagine what he was above to or what he was planning to do! 'In the silence they feared some cunning devilry of his...'
3	Why did the dwarves agree to go with Bilbo?	'Neither key nor the magic it had once obeyed would ever open that door again...anyway the only way is down...' What alternative was there? Stay in the tunnel and slowly starve and choke to death? The only chance of getting out of the mountain was to go down to Smaug's cavern and hope to get out somehow. At least they knew he wasn't there - probably!
4	Why could the dwarves not 'compare with the hobbit in real stealth'? 'Stealth?'	Stealth - the act or characteristic of moving with extreme care and quietness, esp so as to avoid detection. Remember hobbits are smaller than dwarves, so can creep along silently.
5	Why was the darkness a problem?	Bilbo could not see where he was going and 'came to the opening unexpectedly, put his hand on air, stumbled forward, and rolled headlong into the hall!' It was too dark to see. What if Smaug WAS down there waiting?
6	Why did Bilbo begin talking to Smaug?	He thought that Smaug was playing with him like he did the second time he came down here and was just waiting for him to move to pounce. But he couldn't stand the suspense any longer. If Smaug was just teasing him he wanted it to be over.
7	Why did it take so long for the dwarves to react to Bilbo's shouting?	They were frightened. They knew Smaug, from the songs, and the history and from what they had seen recently. If Smaug was down there and Bilbo had not noticed what would happen if they revealed themselves. Better to be safe than sorry! Better to pretend they weren't there just in case Smaug was! They wanted to live.
8	What does Bilbo confiscate from the mound of treasure?	The Arkenstone, the Heart of the Mountain. This was explained at the end of the previous chapter. Get them to go back and have a look. '...great white gem which the dwarves had found beneath the roots of the Mountain...like a globe with a thousand facets; it shone like silver in the firelight, like water in the sun, like snow under the stars, like rain upon the Moon!'
9	How did Bilbo know that this was the Arkenstone?	'there could not be two such gems, even in so marvellous a hoard, even in all the world.' It had to be it; it was the same as the dwarves' description. It was hardly likely that there would be two exactly the same, even in such a gathering of treasure!
10	Why did he think there would be trouble about his choice of share?	It was the Arkenstone. Think about how it was described. This was practically sacred to the dwarves. When they thought about Bilbo having and choosing his share, they did not include the Arkenstone in that. They expected him to take anything that they did not want for themselves!
11	Why were the dwarves more inclined to enter the cave now?	They had let Bilbo go over and explore first to make sure all was clear. They may have been feeling a little guilty about this by now. It was also clear that Smaug was not there, or Bilbo would not have made so much noise and would not still be alive. 'It is about our turn to help...anyway I expect it is safe for the moment.'
12	What changed the dwarves' attitude completely?	The treasure! And their greed for it! 'The mere fleeting glimpse of treasure which they had caught as they went along had rekindled all the fire of their dwarvish hearts.'

The Hobbit - Part Seven - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

13	When he put on the armour, what did the Tookish part of him feel and what did the Baggin's part of him feel?	Took - 'I feel magnificent...still I wish there was a looking-glass handy'. Baggins - 'I expect I look rather absurd. How they would laugh on the Hill at home...'
14	Why did Bilbo tire of all the treasure long before the dwarves?	It was partly his leadership qualities again. He wasn't as in thrall to the treasure as the dwarves were. He knew this wasn't the end of it, only the beginning. They still had no way out and no way of killing Smaug sorted out. They had to get out of there soon; they were risking their lives with every minute they stayed. Smaug could be on his way back right at that moment and they would be trapped. They had to find a way to escape quickly, before the chance was lost.
15	'Though all the old adornments were long mouldered...' Explain what this means.	Adornment - something that adds attractiveness; ornament; accessory: <i>the adornments and furnishings of a room.</i> Mouldered - to crumble or cause to crumble, as through decay to turn to dust by natural decay; crumble; disintegrate; waste away:
16	'The steps were not made...for hobbit-legs.' What does the author mean by this and why has he described it like this?	These stairs were built for dwarves to climb, not little hobbits with shorter legs. It was more of an effort for him to climb these stairs that were too high to easily climb for him. The author has described it thus to emphasise that this was a place owned and built by dwarves and also to emphasise the little size of the hobbit next to the dwarves. In our imagination we can see poor Bilbo struggling to keep up, puffing and panting.
17	Why was the arch worn and splintered and blackened?	Worn by the passage of Smaug in and out. Splintered by his temper and the flapping of his wings, and blackened by his breathing fire.
18	Why did Bilbo grumble about going to the old look-out?	He was starving hungry and just realising that in all this hanging around and waiting and hiding, lots and lots of meals had been missed, or at least lots and lots of exciting and terrifying things had happened to make them forget any meals that they had had; and we know that hobbits like their food! He just wanted somewhere close by to sit and eat.
19	What was the food 'cram' like?	'...it is biscuitish, keeps good indefinitely, is supposed to be sustaining, and is certainly not entertaining, being in fact very uninteresting except as a chewing exercise.' Basically it was something that you packed for long journeys but was tasteless and a last resort if you had nothing else left, or could not light a fire!
Chapter Fourteen - Fire and Water		
20	How do the townspeople taking a stroll on the quays, interpret the flickering light at the northern end of the lake?	'Perhaps the King under the Mountain is forging gold....as like as not it is the marauding fire of the Dragon...' Two ideas.
21	Who knew what the great light really was?	'But the grim-voiced fellow ran hotfoot to the Master.' He knew it was the dragon and if it wasn't for him Smaug might have pounced on the town and surprised them
22	Why was Smaug foiled?	They had cut themselves off from the mainland and he could not sink down to the ground without losing his fire in the water. He had planned to sit on the bridge and breathe fire at them at close quarters. But now he could only fly around the town.
23	The townsfolk were ready but why was it not of any benefit?	Everything they shot at Smaug bounced off his scales, like bouncing off armour, and once he started spouting fire everything was set alight too quickly to be put out by the water they had organised.
24	Why was Smaug enjoying himself so much?	'Just now he was enjoying the sport of town-baiting more than he had enjoyed anything for years.' He was loving watching the townsfolk all running around trying to escape and he knew he was going to get all of them and destroy the place completely.

The Hobbit - Part Seven - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

25	What important role did the thrush play in the demise of the dragon?	It told Bard where Smaug's weakness was and what had been happening up on the Mountain.
26	How did the Master try to keep his position?	'Dale is now freed by his valour, and nothing hinders his return. And any that wish can go with him...' He pointed out that the Mountain was now a safe place again and Bard could go and be Master of Bard. He pointed out that you had to be old and wise and not just a good fighter to be elected Master in Lake town.
27	How did the Master redirect the crowds anger?	He pointed the finger of blame at Thorin and his group. 'Who aroused the dragon from his slumber...who obtained of us rich gifts and ample help?' If they had not gone off to the Mountain Smaug would not have been angry and come to destroy them.
28	How did the Elvenking know of Smaug's death so soon?	'The Elvenking had received news from his own messengers and from the birds that loved his folk...' He had spies everywhere and the birds could fly far to tell him the news, or pass on the news to his messengers.
29	Why did the Elvenking make a diversion to help the townsfolk?	'But the King...had pity, for he was the lord of a good and kindly people...' If he was the king of them then he must be kind and good too. He pitied the people and wanted to help them. He couldn't not just march past them after the treasure he had to stop and organise some help. He would have felt bad otherwise.
30	Why would they never go in the water near the dragon's body?	They felt it cursed, evil, as if the evil of the dragon had seeped into the water itself. It had been such an awful event that the body kept some of that horror and evil itself.

The Hobbit – Part Eight – Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

Chapter Fifteen – The Gathering of the Clouds		
1	Why was it strange for all these birds to be around?	'The time has gone for the autumn wanderings; and these are birds that dwell always in the land.' It wasn't the time for the annual migration of birds (you see them all lined up on telephone wires) and these birds live far inland and shouldn't be here flying around this big lake.
2	Why did they think the thrush was talking to them?	'Then he fluttered his wings and sang; then he cocked his head on one side, as if to listen; and again he sang, and again he listened.' The thrush was behaving like somebody having a conversation – saying something and then waiting for someone else to talk.
3	How did the relationship with the dwarves and the ravens work?	'...and they often brought us secret news, and were rewarded with such bright things as they coveted to hide in their dwellings.' The ravens gave them news that perhaps the dwarves were not supposed to know and in return they were given glittery things for their nests.
4	'A most decrepit old bird.' Define 'decrepit'.	Decrepit – weakened by old age; feeble; infirm. <i>They need to look at the words most and old and think what that would be like.</i>
5	Why were the birds gathering?	'...for word has gone out that Smaug is dead!'
6	'Then we have been in needless fear.' Rewrite this to make it clearer to your classmates.	Needless – unnecessary; not needed or wanted. <i>Take ideas but ensure they have understood what needless means.</i>
7	'...the legend of the wealth of Thrór has not lost in the telling during the many years.' Explain what the author means by this.	Despite all the years that have passed, people have not forgotten about the treasure and the size of it has stayed as big and not shrunk over the years. The treasure and its size, is still just as exciting to listeners as it was
8	What advice does Roac give Thrór?	'We would see peace...but it may cost you dear in gold.' He suggests making peace with all who are coming after the gold and against them as there are only thirteen of them against the hundreds of elves and townfolk. What would it matter if they had to hand over a lot of the gold if they ended up with peace?
9	Why was Thrór angry?	Two reasons: One (a minor reason) - who was the raven that he thought he could tell Thrór the mighty what to do? Two - (the main reason) give the gold away, that belonged to him, not likely! 'None of our gold shall thieves take or the violent carry off while we are alive.'
10	What did Bilbo feel about all this?	'...in any case he felt that the adventure was, properly speaking, over with the death of the dragon...and he would have given most of his share of the profits for the peaceful winding up of these affairs.' Bilbo didn't want any more fighting. Smaug was dead, that was it. The dwarves had their treasure. He just wanted to go home and wanted peace so he could do so. He wasn't (unlike the dwarves) bothered about the treasure and didn't see why they couldn't hand over a lot of the treasure if they got peace in return.
11	Why did the dwarves build a wall across the entrance?	<i>It would be nice if the children could refer back to the statement about 'fortifying the main entrance.'</i> They were preparing themselves for the arrival of the elves and the townfolk, when there would be a battle. Building a wall kept them safe AND the treasure out of the hands of their enemies.
12	Why was the only entrance a narrow ledge?	The enemies could only approach one or two at a time, so it was a good defence. There may have been only 13 of them, but against only a couple of enemies at a time this was good odds!
13	'The morning was still pale.' What does the author mean?	It was only just dawn, the sun had only just risen, so it wasn't yet full daylight.

The Hobbit – Part Eight – Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

14	How does the Bard justify his claim and also that of his men to Smaug's treasure?	Several reasons if you read what he says. Bard, himself, killed the dragon, surely that was worth some of the gold. He is the heir to the old leader of Dale and much of the gold was stolen from there and so he had a right to have some back. Laketown had been destroyed by Smaug and since they'd helped them previously surely Thorin should be pitying and kind and help them put themselves back to rights.
15	What conditions did Thorin insist on before he would negotiate any terms of settlement with the Bard?	'...if you would speak with me again, first dismiss the elvish host to the woods where it belongs, and then return, laying down your arms before you approach the threshold.' I.e send away the elves and then come to see me unarmed, so you are not a threat.'
16	Why did Thorin shoot an arrow at the speaker?	It's that old greed for treasure. The messenger had given their demands and Thorin was apoplectic, furious, at the idea of giving any of his treasure to them or that they should have any right to any of the treasure.
17	'...I declare the Mountain besieged. We will bear no weapons against you, but we leave you to your gold.' Explain.	We aren't going to fight you, but we are not going to let you pass and all you will have is the gold. You have only what you have already got in the way of supplies and then that's it!
Chapter Sixteen – A Thief in the Night		
18	Why did Bilbo get scared?	Thorin said, 'That stone of all the treasure I name unto myself, and I will be avenged on anyone who finds it and with-holds it.' Poor Bilbo would be in deep trouble if Thorin found out he had it hidden away. It wouldn't be nice, what he'd do to him!
19	What did Roac warn Thorin?	<i>Get them to read this passage carefully.</i> He said it hadn't been a good idea to summon the other dwarves. They'd have to fight the elves and townsfolk to get through to them in the Mountain. And having beaten the elves and townsfolk, it would be winter and cold and who would help them if they were all dead, or their enemies?
20	Who did Bilbo relieve from his watch?	Bombur
21	Why did Bilbo use the ring?	He wanted to get as close as possible to where he was going. He didn't want to be caught by anyone, enemy or dwarf.
22	'How did you get so far past our sentinels?' Explain what sentinels means.	Sentinels - a person or thing that watches or stands as if watching. A soldier stationed as a guard to challenge all comers and prevent a surprise attack.
23	What did Bilbo point out when Bard was happy for Thorin to starve?	That snow and supplies would be a problem to the elves as well as to the dwarves, and that a particularly nasty band of dwarves were on their way and not far off.
24	Why did Bilbo squeak?	The bard spoke 'grimly'. He clearly didn't approve of someone giving secrets away. This made Bilbo rather scared of what might happen so his voice rose in terror. He is a very brave little hobbit to dare all this.
25	Why did Bilbo hand over the Arkenstone?	It was a bargaining chip. Thorin wanted the Arkenstone over all and if the enemy had it they could bargain for some of that treasure and no fighting. '...the heart of Thorin. He values it above a river of gold...It will aid you in your bargaining.'
26	Why did the Elvenking try to persuade Bilbo to stay?	'I have more knowledge of dwarves in general than you have perhaps. I advise you to remain with us...' He knew the greed for treasure that dwarves have. He knew what the Arkenstone meant to Thorin and he wasn't going to be a happy bunny when he found out that the enemy had the Arkenstone and he had to negotiate with them. When he found out how it happened, woe betide the little burglar. He was truly in for it!

The Hobbit - Part Eight - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

27	Who was Bilbo delighted to see in the camp?	Gandalf. '...an old man wrapped in a dark cloak, rose...and came towards them.'
28	'You <i>may</i> come through all right.' Why is 'may' in italics?	For emphasis. Look at what it says. Not you will come through (survive) but you might do, or on the other hand, you might not! It wasn't a done deal that Bilbo would survive this last bit of the story. Very encouraging for Bilbo, not!

The Hobbit - Part Nine - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

Chapter Seventeen - The Clouds Burst		
1	What were the matters that had changed?	"That will be Dain...they will have got wind of his coming."
2	'Bid them come'. What does he mean?	Tell them to come. Bid - to command; order; direct: <i>I will do as you bid.</i>
3	"My mind does not change with the rising and setting of a few suns," says Thorin. What does he mean by this?	He does not easily change his mind. He doesn't change his mind because a couple of days have gone by! When he makes a decision he sticks to it.
4	What had to happen before Thorin would talk to them?	"Still the elf-host has not departed as I bade! Till then you come in vain to bargain with me." He argued that he would not talk to them until the elf army had left.
5	How did Thorin react to the appearance of the Arkenstone?	' Thorin was struck dumb with amazement and confusion.'
6	Why 'confusion'?	He couldn't understand how the other side could have the Arkenstone. He was sure that it would have been in the cave with the other treasure. And he was so sure it was his by right that seeing somebody else with it just blew his mind.
7	How do we know that he believes the stone is his by right?	'That stone was my father's, and is mine...why should I purchase my own?' He wasn't going to negotiate to get the stone back. It is HIS!
8	Why did Thorin not kill Bilbo?	He was saved by the arrival of Gandalf (or rather he revealed himself), who told Thorin to put him down!
9	How does Bilbo defend himself against Thorin's accusation that he has stolen the Arkenstone?	'You may remember saying that I might choose my own fourteenth share? Perhaps I took it too literally.' He was told he could have a share and he chose to take it. Enough said.
10	'I could not forbear to redeem the Arkenstone'. What do 'forbear' and 'redeem' mean in this context?	Forbear - to cease or refrain (from doing something) Redeem - to buy or pay off; to buy back; to recover by payment; to exchange for money or goods. I could not not buy back the Arkenstone. There is no way I would not buy the Arkenstone to get it back.
11	What else was Thorin planning that showed him to be an ignoble King under the Mountain?	<i>Make them look up 'ignoble'.</i> '...he was pondering whether by the help Of Dain he might not recapture the Arkenstone and withhold the share of the reward.' He was wondering whether he could, with Dain's help, somehow get the Arkenstone back and not hand over any treasure either. The treasure was making him greedy. He wanted to keep it all for himself.
12	How had Dain arrived so early?	'He had hurried on through the night.' He had marched on through day and night without stopping to come and support Thorin.
13	Why were Dain's people refused entry to the Mountain?	He realised that Thorin would not pay any treasure out as soon at Dain's army joined his in the mountain. He would feel he was the stronger force and intend to have his own way. The dwarves could use different entrances and then the mountain wouldn't be under siege any more. The Bard realised that they would be in a difficult situation then with so many dwarves around and Thorin wouldn't bother negotiating; he'd just fight to gain back the Arkenstone. '...if once the fortress was manned with so large and warlike a company...they would stand a siege for week...they would be able to reopen...some other gate...they had not sufficient numbers.'

The Hobbit – Part Nine – Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

14	'Let us hope still for something that will bring reconciliation.' What did the Elvenking hope?	Reconciliation - to become friendly with (someone) after estrangement or to re-establish friendly relations between (two or more people): to settle (a quarrel or difference). That somehow they could come to some agreement with the dwarves that did not involve fighting and battles and blood and death, and that they were both relatively happy with.
15	Why did the dwarf attack against the Bard and the Elvenking end as quickly as it had begun?	'Dread has come upon you all!...The Goblins are upon you!' The dark under the thunder was a sea of bats. They had to all meet together to decide what to do. They were all in danger with the arrival of the Goblins!
16	Why was it called the 'Battle of Five Armies'?	'Upon one side were the Goblins and the wild Wolves, and upon the other were Elves and Men and Dwarves.'
17	What role did the hobbit play in this fierce battle?	Not a lot! He used his ring a lot to try to stay safe, though it was difficult because of all the weapons flying and swinging around, and all the bodies marching and falling this way and that.
18	What happened to Bilbo?	He got knocked out by a stone thrown through the air. '...a stone hurtling from above smote heavily on his helm, and he fell with a crash and knew no more.'
Chapter Eighteen – The Return Journey		
19	Who sent the man in search of Bilbo?	'...if Gandalf the wizard had not said that your voice was last heard in this place. I have been sent to look here for the last time.'
20	'There were few unharmed in all the host'. Explain what the author means.	Host - a multitude or great number of persons or things: <i>a host of details</i> : an army. Nearly everyone of the elves and men and dwarves were injured in some way or the other. Hardly anyone was untouched.
21	What did Thorin mean by 'I go now to the halls of waiting to sit beside my fathers...'	He was about/going to die. He had been mortally wounded.
22	Why did Bilbo cry?	Several reasons. He had been so close to not being there to say goodbye to Thorin. He had been able to make it up with Thorin (on both sides - him and Thorin). He remembered everything they had been through together. He thought he had made it all worse with trying to make it all right by stealing the Arkenstone.
23	How had the Eagles known the Goblins were planning something?	'The Eagles had long had suspicion of the goblins' mustering; from their watchfulness the movements in the mountains could not be altogether hid.' With their fantastic sight and their perches high in the mountains they could see every twitch and move that went on in the mountains so it had been easy for them to notice the goblins gathering.
24	What protagonist from earlier in the story reappears to do battle with the forces of evil?	Protagonist - the leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work. Make them look up 'protagonist'. Beorn himself had appeared...he tossed wolves and goblins from his path like straws and feathers...'
25	'His wrath was redoubled'. Why and what does it mean?	'...lifted Thorin, who had fallen...' He was angry that Thorin who had once been his guest had been so badly/grievously injured. Beorn came rushing back into battle, twice as angry now and twice as nasty. Redoubled - to double; make twice as great: <i>to redouble one's efforts</i> .
26	'Weariness left their enemies with the coming of new hope'. What does the author mean?	Seeing that the goblins were running away and that they were on the edge of winning made them confident again and they no longer felt tired. The end was in sight and it gave them the impetus to continue and chase and route out every last one of the goblins.

The Hobbit - Part Nine - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

27	Why were the mountains peaceful 'for many a year'?	'Three parts of the goblin warriors of the North perished on that day.' There weren't many goblins left to go out and about and annoy and harry the local populace. They could go about their daily business without worrying that a goblin was about to attack/steal/kill.
28	Why did the remaining dwarves stay with Dain?	'...for Dain dealt his treasure well.' Dain was generous with the treasure and as we know dwarves are greedy for treasure so they stayed for that.
29	Why did Gandalf and Bilbo not go back through the shortcut in the forest?	SPIDERS! '...it seemed safer to them than the dreadful pathways under the trees.' There was no way that they were going back into that black forest with the giant spiders to catch them and eat them!

The Hobbit - Part Ten - Chapter Nineteen

Chapter Nineteen - The Last Stage		
1	What was the same about their arrival in Rivendell?	'Again it was evening...their ponies were tired...they all felt in need of rest.' They may need to look back at Chapter Three to look for similarities but it does say here.
2	What did Bilbo think about the singing?	'As if they had not stopped since he left.' He felt that they had sung all the time he had been away and never stopped!
3	'There were many eager ears'. What does the author mean?	Many of the elves wanted to hear about what they had been up to.
4	How was Gandalf able to tell the elves what had gone on?	Gandalf had been there for some of it BUT he hadn't been there for quite a bit of it! 'Bilbo '...had himself told much of it to the wizard on their homeward way or in the house of Beorn.'
5	What did Bilbo learn about Gandalf's adventures?	'It appeared that Gandalf had been to a great council of the white wizards...and they had at last driven the Necromancer from his dark hold in the south of Mirkwood.' Necromancer - magician, sorcerer, wizard, but one who practice black magic and witchcraft.
6	Bilbo enjoyed his stay. Why did he not stay longer?	'...he thought always of his own home'.
7	Why did the ponies object to the gold on their backs?	They already were laden with the treasure from the mountain and now they had to carry more and gold is not lightweight, it weighs heavy!
8	Why were the 'shapes of the land and of the trees' as well-known to him as his hands and toes?	He had lived there all his life. Whenever he went out he would have seen the familiar horizon and hills and passed the same trees every day of his life. He knew what was round each corner.
9	What annoyed Bilbo on returning to his house?	'...not even wiping their feet on the mat...' It wasn't the hordes of people so much as the dirty feet that got to him!
10	Why were the folk surprised to see him? What tells us why?	'...the late Bilbo Baggins...Presumed Dead'. They thought he was dead and were busy selling up to get the money for themselves. There were even other hobbits lined up to move into his comfortable abode!
11	'They never admitted that the returned Baggins was genuine'. What is meant by this?	The Sackville-Bagginses would not agree that Bilbo was Bilbo back from the dead. They argued that he was an imposter, that the real Bilbo WAS dead.
12	What else did Bilbo lose, other than his silver spoons?	His reputation. '...he was no longer quite respectable. He was in fact held by all the hobbits of the neighbourhood to be 'queer'.
13	Why didn't he mind his reputation being tarnished?	'He was quite content...' He had experienced much and made friends with many folk, other than hobbits. He didn't really care about his reputation any more. He was just glad to be home and he enjoyed every moment of being home safe in his own little house.
14	How did Bilbo Baggins still make use of his magic ring?	'His magic ring he kept a great secret, for he chiefly used it when unpleasant callers came.' He used it to hide or escape from people he didn't want to meet or to be visited by.
15	What was Bilbo going to call his memoirs?	'There and Back Again, a Hobbit's Holiday.'
16	Explain what 'Mr Baggins' waistcoat was more extensive' means?	He had expanded somewhat - ie got fatter! Extensive - of great extent; wide; broad: <i>an extensive area: covering or extending over a great area: extensive travels.</i>
17	How was it in the Mountain lands now?	'Bard had rebuilt the town in Dale and...all the valley had become tilled and rich...filled with birds and blossoms...Lake-town was re-founded and was more prosperous than ever...much wealth...friendship...between elves and dwarves and men.'

The Hobbit - Part Ten - Chapter Nineteen

18	What was the dragon-sickness the old Master suffered from?	Greed for treasure and wanting to keep it all for himself (just like with the dwarves). '...took most of the gold and fled with it...'
19	Why was the new Master so popular?	'...he gets most of the credit for the present prosperity.' He is the Bard, and because of him they are now well off (the Mountain treasure) so everybody likes him because they are all now doing well and making more money!
20	What did Gandalf mean about the prophecies?	That prophecies really do happen and whatever they all did they were going to happen anyway. Everything that happened to them had been ordained and although they might have felt that they were changing the future it was only because it was going to happen anyway. 'Surely you don't disbelieve the prophecies...you don't really suppose...that all your adventures and escapes were managed by mere luck...'