

The Hobbit - Part One - Chapters One & Two

Chapter One - An Unexpected Party	
1	What made the hall a comfortable place?
2	Why do you think the hobbit's house did not have an upstairs?
3	Explain what 'time out of mind' means in this context. Why do you think the author used this phrase?
4	Why did this Baggins lose the respect of his neighbours?
5	What are the physical attributes of hobbits? (<i>try and get them to work out what this means by themselves and some cues from you if they don't understand</i>)
6	What was so special about Bilbo's mother?
7	'Long ago in the quiet of the world, when there was less noise and more green'. Explain what the author means by this.
8	Why is the second time Gandalf is mentioned followed by an exclamation mark and given its own sentence?
9	Why might Gandalf have a Took as his friend?
10	Why did Bilbo Baggins 'scuttle inside...as quickly as he dared'?
11	Why did Bilbo say 'Thank you!'?
12	How did the visitors seem to know the contents of Bilbo's larder? Why did it take Bilbo so long to realise this?
13	Explain what confusticate means. Look at its use in the context.
14	How many dwarves turned up then? Their names? Do you notice anything?
15	What happened to Bilbo when the dwarves sang?
16	What was Thorin's style?
17	Explain what the author meant about Bilbo's shriek.
18	Why did Bilbo break down?
19	'As for <i>little fellow bobbing on the mat</i> it almost made him really fierce.' Why?
20	Why might the hidden passage still be a secret?
21	Why are heroes scarce in this neighbourhood?
22	Why was Bilbo so obstinate?
23	What brought the dragon?
24	Why does the author use a simile to describe the arrival of Smaug?
25	Why had it taken so long for Gandalf to hand over what really belonged to Thorin?
Chapter Two - Roast Mutton	
26	Why did Bilbo say 'but' so many times?
27	Why did Bilbo feel that it wouldn't be so bad after all?
28	What might castles with an evil look, look like? Describe them
29	What was wrong with the trolls' language?
30	How did Gandalf save the day?

The Hobbit - Part Two - Chapters Three and Four

Chapter Three - A Short Rest

1	Why had they stopped singing and telling stories?
2	'The far bank was steep and slippery.' A very simple sentence but what does it hide? Why has the author kept it simple?
3	Why is the word 'The' in italics?
4	Why did Bilbo feel so tired?
5	Why was Bilbo a little frightened of the elves?
6	Why did the river flow 'fast and noisily'?
7	What does the sentence beginning 'Now it is a strange thing.. mean?
8	Explain the swords' names.
9	Why did Elrond say that it was 'likely to be granted soon enough in the mountains'?
10	Why was Elrond helping them with the map - he did not approve of 'dwarves and their love of gold'?
11	What might moon-letters have been used for?
12	Why was the message revealed, still of no help to the group?
13	Why were 'their hearts ready for more adventure'?

Chapter Four - Over hill and under hill

14	What might have happened to the band if Elrond had not helped them find the way?
15	Why does the author repeat the word 'long'?
16	How did their mood soon change?
17	Why had Gandalf not said anything when they had talked about getting there soon?
18	What indication is there that the cave might not be safe?
19	What was fortunate about the attack by the goblins?
20	What does the song tell the reader about goblins?
21	Why was it the last time they saw their animals?
22	What was special about the goblin swords?
23	Do they make the weapons themselves?
24	Why was it a problem that Thorin was with the group?
25	Why was it 'true enough' that they had no intention of 'inconveniencing goblins'?
26	Why were the Great Goblin and many of his soldiers so upset when they saw Thorin's sword?
27	'Yammering'. Explain what this means.
28	Why has the author used so much alliteration in writing about the noise that followed the lights going out?
29	Why did the goblins start fighting each other?
30	Why might it 'be worse' and yet 'might be a good deal better'?

The Hobbit - Part Three - Chapters Five and Six

Chapter Five - Riddles in the dark

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| 1 | Why was Bilbo so frightened when he regained consciousness? |
| 2 | What was a turning point in Bilbo's career? |
| 3 | Why was he thinking of food in such a situation? |
| 4 | Why was Bilbo comforted by his dagger? |
| 5 | How was Bilbo able to see in the darkness? |
| 6 | Why was Bilbo reluctant to wade in the water? |
| 7 | Who created the tunnels? |
| 8 | Why were the fish blind? |
| 9 | Why could he throttle the goblins so easily? |
| 10 | Why did the goblins hardly ever visit the lake? |
| 11 | Describe Gollum. |
| 12 | Why did Bilbo jump 'nearly out of his skin' when Gollum hissed? |
| 13 | Why did Gollum become a little friendlier? |
| 14 | Explain the basic rules of the riddle game. |
| 15 | 'Bilbo...was still thinking uncomfortably about eating.' Explain. |
| 16 | Why did the 'aboveground everyday sort' of riddle make him tired and bad-tempered? |
| 17 | Why did Gollum have trouble guessing Bilbo's last 'riddle'? |
| 18 | Why would Gollum wear the ring when very hungry? |
| 19 | Why was Bilbo so unsympathetic to Gollum's loss? |
| 20 | How did Gollum help Bilbo escape? |

Chapter Six - Out of the frying pan into the fire

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| 21 | What decision of Bilbo's showed him to be a hero? |
| 22 | Why was Gandalf 'probably more pleased than all the others'? |
| 23 | How might you use the power of the golden ring if you possessed it? |
| 24 | Why didn't Bilbo tell them about the ring? |
| 25 | Why did Gandalf encourage the adventurers to hurry on their way? |
| 26 | What does the author mean - 'to hear it out in the forest under the moon was too much for Bilbo'? |
| 27 | Explain the significance of the title of this chapter. |
| 28 | Why were the Wargs there? |
| 29 | Explain what 'pinnacle' means. Look at its use in the sentence and its context. |
| 30 | What did the eagle mean by 'prisoners'? |

The Hobbit - Part Four - Chapters Seven & Eight

Chapter Seven - Queer Lodgings	
1	How did Bilbo wake up?
2	Why did Bilbo pinch the eagle?
3	Why did Bilbo cry?
4	Why is Somebody someone not to ask questions of?
5	According to Gandalf what are two possibilities explaining the origin of this Somebody?
6	How do we know that this Somebody is very tall?
7	How did Gandalf get himself listened to by this huge man?
8	What four things made Beorn not object to the arrival of the dwarves?
9	How had Gandalf been clever?
10	Why did the dwarves shake their beards?
11	What made the dwarves impatient with Gandalf?
12	What information did Beorn glean in his travels to the wolf-glade?
13	What gruesome sight did Beorn reveal to the adventurers when asked by Bilbo what had happened to the captured wolf and goblin?
14	'He would lade them...' explain what 'lade' means.
15	What warning does Beorn give the travellers about proceeding through Mirkwood?
16	'Scour all the edge of the forest...' Explain what 'scour' means.
17	Explain what Bilbo might have seen as the light faded.
18	Why did Gandalf say, 'I hope you liked the look of it'?
19	How long would be the diversion if they did not go through the forest?
Chapter Eight - Flies and Spiders	
20	What was the worst they saw as they entered the forest?
21	What idea does the author try to get you to realise about the forest and how does he do it?
22	Why did the group begin to grow worried?
23	How did the group intend to get everyone across the stream safely?
24	How did they cope with carrying Bombur?
25	Why did Bilbo stay so long up the tree, after all he didn't like heights?
26	What was Bilbo's mistake?
27	Explain why Bilbo and the dwarves strayed from the path.
28	What changed Bilbo?
29	Explain why Bilbo was so adroit at throwing stones.
30	Why did the dwarves expect Bilbo to sort everything out?

The Hobbit - Part Five - Chapters Nine & Ten

Chapter Nine - Barrels out of bond	
1	'one last despairing effort'. Explain.
2	Why were their knives hopeless against the elves?
3	Why was it a good thing he made up his mind at last?
4	'pillars hewn out of the living stone.' Explain what 'hewn' means.
5	On meeting the Elvenking what gave the dwarves some hope?
6	Why could Bilbo not find the way out of the woods?
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Why didn't Bilbo enjoy the Elvenking's palace?
8	What made Thorin change his mind about revealing all to the Elvenking?
9	Why were the dwarves content to hang around in prison for longer?
10	'lurking'. Explain what this means and what Bilbo was doing.
11	'...at last he had the desperate beginnings of a plan.' Explain.
12	What made the 'desperate' plan suddenly seem possible?
13	Why did the dwarves all object when Bilbo was offering them a means of escape?
14	How did Bilbo persuade them?
15	How did Galion help with the escape?
16	What does the author compare the barrel to and why?
17	Why was there a 'fine commotion in the village by the riverside'?
18	What saved the dwarves from being discovered?
19	How does the author leave the reader at the end of the chapter?
Chapter Ten - A Warm Welcome	
20	What might have made Bilbo feel better about the adventure?
21	What signs remained of the more prosperous settlement?
22	'Ropes were cast'. Explain what is meant by this.
23	Why was Bilbo so cross at Thorin?
24	'the general clamour'. What does clamour mean?
25	Why does the Master relinquish his own great chair to Thorin despite the fact that he is not completely convinced that the dwarf is who he claims to be?
26	Why did the dwarves grow fonder of, and kinder towards Bilbo?
27	What made the Master begin to think that Thorin was actually who he said he was?
28	Who was the only person thoroughly unhappy the day of the departure and why?

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?
2	Why did their spirits drop?
3	What was the Desolation of the Dragon?
4	What does the author mean by 'in the days when the bells rang in that town'?
5	Why did Balin look both sad and grim?
6	What does Balin mean, 'they look like spies of evil'?
7	Why could the little band not be sure the dragon was within?
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.
9	Why were they so sure that this was a door?
10	How did they avoid using the narrow path?
11	'...and glummer and glummer they become', Explain.
12	Why does the author call it a 'yawning mouth'?
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.
14	How did the dwarves respond when Bilbo asked for volunteers to accompany him into the Mountain?
15	'...pay Bilbo really handsomely for his services'. What did they mean?
16	Why did Bilbo creep so silently?
17	'He fought the real battle in that tunnel alone.' Explain what the author means.
18	□ Why was Smaug described as a 'vast red-golden dragon'?
19	'His heart was filled...with the desire of dwarves'. Explain what the author means.
20	Why did he take a piece of the treasure? And why so big?
21	Why did Bilbo not enjoy the praise he received from the dwarves on his return to the doorway?
22	How do we know that Smaug kept close tabs on his treasure?
23	'...cringing' under boulders'. What were they doing?
24	What indication is there that Bilbo is turning into a real leader?
25	Why did they shiver in the warm tunnel?
26	How did his father's saying help Bilbo?
27	What had Bilbo forgotten in returning to the lair?
28	What did Bilbo remember about dragons?
29	Why did Bilbo begin to be suspicious about the dwarves?
30	What did Bilbo find out through flattery?

The Hobbit - Part Seven - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

Chapter Thirteen - Not at Home	
1	Why did the group hardly eat anything or speak?
2	Why would they have preferred to hear Smaug in his den down below?
3	Why did the dwarves agree to go with Bilbo?
4	Why could the dwarves not 'compare with the hobbit in real stealth'? 'Stealth'?
5	Why was the darkness a problem?
6	Why did Bilbo begin talking to Smaug?
7	Why did it take so long for the dwarves to react to Bilbo's shouting?
8	What does Bilbo confiscate from the mound of treasure?
9	How did Bilbo know that this was the Arkenstone?
10	Why did he think there would be trouble about his choice of share?
11	Why were the dwarves more inclined to enter the cave now?
12	What changed the dwarves' attitude completely?
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?
14	Why did Bilbo tire of all the treasure long before the dwarves?
15	'Though all the old adornments were long mouldered...' Explain what this means.
16	'The steps were not made...for hobbit-legs.' What does the author mean by this and why has he described it like this?
17	Why was the arch worn and splintered and blackened?
18	Why did Bilbo grumble about going to the old look-out?
19	What was the food 'cram' like?
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?
21	Who knew what the great light really was?
22	Why was Smaug foiled?
23	The townsfolk were ready but why was it not of any benefit?
24	Why was Smaug enjoying himself so much?
25	What important role did the thrush play in the demise of the dragon?
26	How did the Master try to keep his position?
27	How did the Master redirect the crowds anger?
28	How did the Elvenking know of Smaug's death so soon?
29	Why did the Elvenking make a diversion to help the townsfolk?
30	Why would they never go in the water near the dragon's body?

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?
2	Why did they think the thrush was talking to them?
3	How did the relationship with the dwarves and the ravens work?
4	'A most decrepit old bird.' Define 'decrepit'.
5	Why were the birds gathering?
6	'Then we have been in needless fear.' Rewrite this to make it clearer to your classmates.
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.
8	What advice does Roac give Thrór?
9	Why was Thrór angry?
10	What did Bilbo feel about all this?
11	Why did the dwarves build a wall across the entrance?
12	Why was the only entrance a narrow ledge?
13	'The morning was still pale.' What does the author mean?
14	How does the Bard justify his claim and also that of his men to Smaug's treasure?
15	What conditions did Thorin insist on before he would negotiate any terms of settlement with the Bard?
16	Why did Thorin shoot an arrow at the speaker?
17	'...I declare the Mountain besieged. We will bear no weapons against you, but we leave you to your gold.' Explain.
Chapter Sixteen - A Thief in the Night	
18	Why did Bilbo get scared?
19	What did Roac warn Thorin?
20	Who did Bilbo relieve from his watch?
21	Why did Bilbo use the ring?
22	'How did you get so far past our sentinels?' Explain what sentinels means.
23	What did Bilbo point out when Bard was happy for Thorin to starve?
24	Why did Bilbo squeak?
25	Why did Bilbo hand over the Arkenstone?
26	Why did the Elvenking try to persuade Bilbo to stay?
27	Who was Bilbo delighted to see in the camp?
28	'You <i>may</i> come through all right.' Why is 'may' in italics?

The Hobbit - Part Nine - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

Chapter Seventeen - The Clouds Burst	
1	What were the matters that had changed?
2	'Bid them come'. What does he mean?
3	"My mind does not change with the rising and setting of a few suns," says Thorin. What does he mean by this?
4	What had to happen before Thorin would talk to them?
5	How did Thorin react to the appearance of the Arkenstone?
6	Why 'confusion'?
7	How do we know that he believes the stone is his by right?
8	Why did Thorin not kill Bilbo?
9	How does Bilbo defend himself against Thorin's accusation that he has stolen the Arkenstone?
10	'I could not forbear to redeem the Arkenstone'. What do 'forbear' and 'redeem' mean in this context?
11	What else was Thorin planning that showed him to be an ignoble King under the Mountain?
12	How had Dain arrived so early?
13	Why were Dain's people refused entry to the Mountain?
14	'Let us hope still for something that will bring reconciliation.' What did the Elvenking hope?
15	Why did the dwarf attack against the Bard and the Elvenking end as quickly as it had begun?
16	Why was it called the 'Battle of Five Armies'?
17	What role did the hobbit play in this fierce battle?
18	What happened to Bilbo?
Chapter Eighteen - The Return Journey	
19	Who sent the man in search of Bilbo?
20	'There were few unharmed in all the host'. Explain what the author means.
21	What did Thorin mean by 'I go now to the halls of waiting to sit beside my fathers...?'
22	Why did Bilbo cry?
23	How had the Eagles known the Goblins were planning something?
24	What protagonist from earlier in the story reappears to do battle with the forces of evil?
25	'His wrath was redoubled'. Why and what does it mean?
26	'Weariness left their enemies with the coming of new hope'. What does the author mean?
27	Why were the mountains peaceful 'for many a year'?
28	Why did the remaining dwarves stay with Dain?
29	Why did Gandalf and Bilbo not go back through the shortcut in the forest?

The Hobbit - Part Ten - Chapter Nineteen

Chapter Nineteen - The Last Stage	
1	What was the same about their arrival in Rivendell?
2	What did Bilbo think about the singing?
3	'There were many eager ears'. What does the author mean?
4	How was Gandalf able to tell the elves what had gone on?
5	What did Bilbo learn about Gandalf's adventures?
6	Bilbo enjoyed his stay. Why did he not stay longer?
7	Why did the ponies object to the gold on their backs?
8	Why were the 'shapes of the land and of the trees' as well-known to him as his hands and toes?
9	What annoyed Bilbo on returning to his house?
10	Why were the folk surprised to see him? What tells us why?
11	'They never admitted that the returned Baggins was genuine'. What is meant by this?
12	What else did Bilbo lose, other than his silver spoons?
13	Why didn't he mind his reputation being tarnished?
14	How did Bilbo Baggins still make use of his magic ring?
15	What was Bilbo going to call his memoirs?
16	Explain what 'Mr Baggins' waistcoat was more extensive' means?
17	How was it in the Mountain lands now?
18	What was the dragon-sickness the old Master suffered from?
19	Why was the new Master so popular?
20	What did Gandalf mean about the prophecies?