

A Guide for Using

The Hobbit

in the Classroom

Based on the novel written by J.R.R. Tolkien

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Introduction

A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort, and guidance. It also gives us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever.

In Literature Units, great care has been taken to select books that are sure to become good friends!

Teachers who use this literature unit will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Sample Lesson Plans
- Pre-reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Vocabulary Lists and Suggested Vocabulary Activities
- Chapters grouped for study, with each section including:
 - *quizzes*
 - *hands-on projects*
 - *cooperative learning activities*
 - *cross-curriculum connections*
 - *extensions into the reader's own life*
- Post-reading Activities
- Book Report Ideas
- Research Ideas and/or Literary Terms Activities
- A Culminating Activity
- Three Different Options for Unit Tests
- Bibliography
- Answer Key

We are confident that this unit will be a valuable addition to your planning, and hope that as you use our ideas, your students will increase the circle of “friends” that they can have in books!



The Hobbit

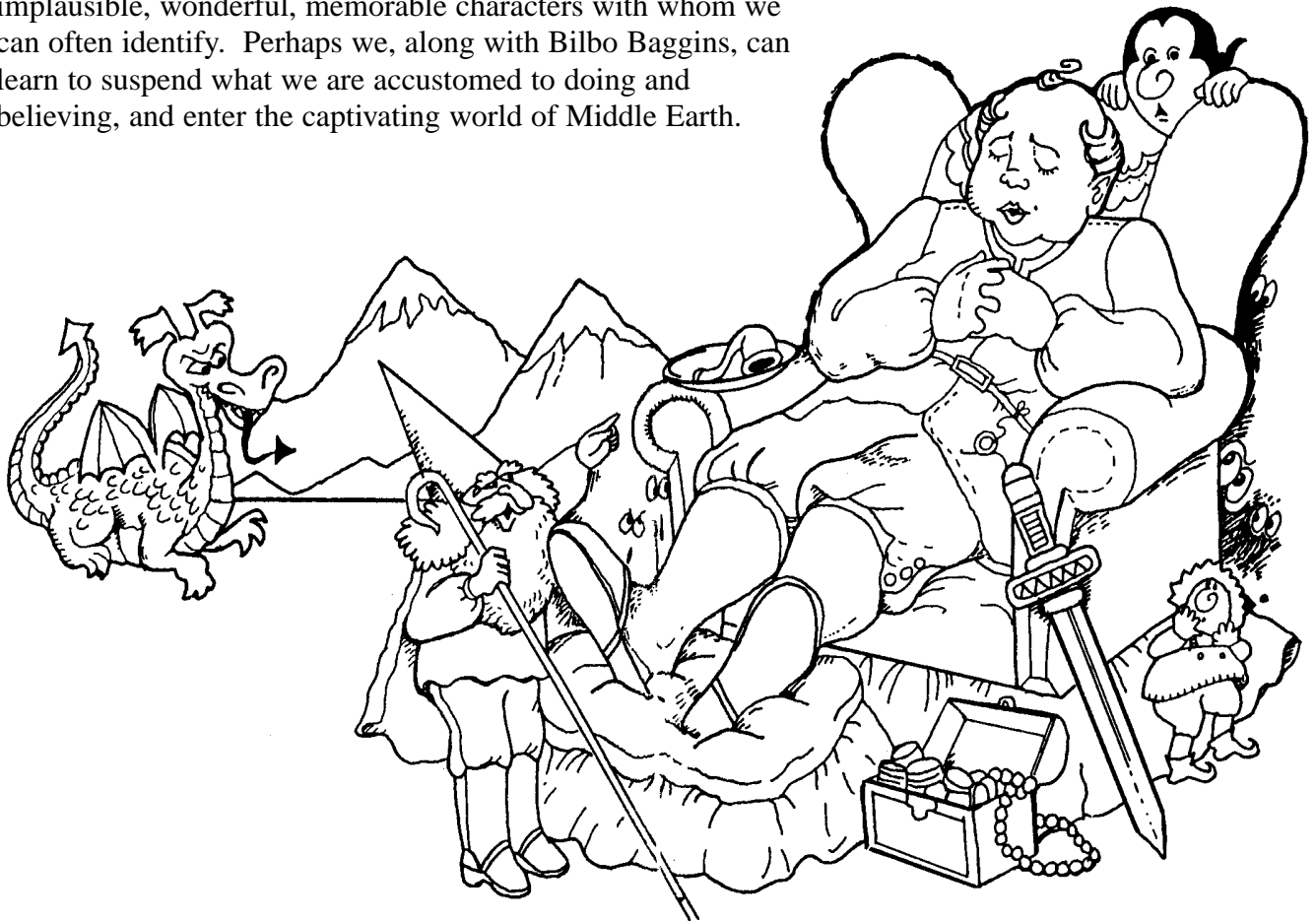
by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins is a happy, sedentary sort of hobbit, leading a comfortable, predictable life filled with no wild adventures or daring risks—that is, until Gandalf comes to his door.

What Gandalf proposes to an overwhelmed Bilbo is the chance to be a burglar on a grand and dangerous adventure. His job would be to help the dwarves regain their lost fortune, a treasure that rests at the bottom of Lonely Mountain, guarded by the fierce dragon, Smaug. Reluctant, but curious, Bilbo accepts the position, a position that changes his life dramatically.

In the year-long journey that follows, Bilbo and his traveling companions encounter hazardous terrain and formidable foes. Many are the times Bilbo wishes to be in his warm, secure hobbit hole again. But the experience of adventure brings out the resourcefulness and courage in Bilbo's character, and these once latent strengths play an integral part in the dwarves' victorious recovery of their fortune.

The Hobbit invites readers to a fantasy world full of implausible, wonderful, memorable characters with whom we can often identify. Perhaps we, along with Bilbo Baggins, can learn to suspend what we are accustomed to doing and believing, and enter the captivating world of Middle Earth.



Vocabulary Lists

On this page are vocabulary lists which correspond to each sectional grouping of chapters. Vocabulary activity ideas can be found on page 9 of this book.

Section 1

audacious	morsel
cleave	mutton
conspirator	obstinately
defrayed	palpitating
depredations	paraphernalia
esteemed	parchment
estimable	plundering
flummoxed	requisite
flustered	scuttled
haughty	trifle
immense	venerable

Section 2

antiquity	groped
benighted	ingenious
boughs	marjoram
clamor	plight
commotion	throttled
deceptions	trestles
descendants	venture
droning	waistcoat
famished	yammering
gnarled	

Section 3

abominable	loathsome
accursed	ominous
bulbous	parchingly
cunning	plight
dreary	portcullis
flagon	promontory
frauds	ransom
gnawingly	suppressed
lichen	wary

Section 4

absurd	lair
aimlessly	perilous
benefactor	propheying
brooded	radiance
creditable	reckoned
desolate	roused
drear	trill
dubious	valor
forges	vast
hoards	waning
inevitable	wily

Section 5

avenged	mustering
besiege	parley
caper	perils
carrion	precipice
commence	presumption
decrepit	prosperous
dominion	redeem
hauberk	siege
literally	wielded
mattocks	

Vocabulary Activity Ideas

You can help your students learn and retain the vocabulary in *The Hobbit* by providing them with interesting vocabulary activities. Here are a few ideas to try.

- People of all ages like to make and solve puzzles. Ask your students to make their own **Crossword Puzzles** or **Wordsearch Puzzles** using the vocabulary words from the story.
- Challenge your students to a **Vocabulary Bee**. This is similar to a spelling bee, but in addition to spelling each word correctly, the game participants must correctly define the words as well.
- Play **Vocabulary Concentration**. The goal of this game is to match vocabulary words with their definitions. Divide the class into groups of two to five students. Have students make two sets of cards the same size and color. On one set have them write the vocabulary words. On the second set have them write the definitions. All cards are mixed together and placed face down on a table. A player picks two cards. If the pair matches the words with its definition, the player keeps the cards and takes another turn. If the cards don't match, they are returned to their places face down, and another player takes a turn. Players must concentrate to remember the locations of words and their definitions. The game continues until all matches have been made.
- Have your students practice their writing skills by creating sentences and paragraphs in which multiple vocabulary words are used correctly. Ask them to share their **Compact Vocabulary** sentences and paragraphs with the class.
- Ask your students to create paragraphs which use the vocabulary words to present **Fantasy Lessons** that relate to the types of ideas and conflicts presented in the story.
- Challenge your students to use a specific vocabulary word from the story at least **Ten Times In One Day**. They must keep a record of when, how, and why the word was used.
- As a group activity, have students work together to create an **Illustrated Dictionary** of the vocabulary words.
- Play **Twenty Questions** with the entire class. In this game, one student selects a vocabulary word and gives clues about this word, one by one, until someone in the class can guess the word.
- Play **Vocabulary Charades**. In this game, vocabulary words are acted out.

You probably have many more ideas to add to this list. Try them. See if experiencing vocabulary on a personal level increases your students' vocabulary interest and retention!