

Parents' Guide to *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

Grade Level: 12 (English IV Honors)

Lexile Level: 1000L

Genre: Fantasy/Adventure

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

ISBN: 978-0547928227

Page Count: ~300 pages

About the Book

The Hobbit is a beloved fantasy adventure that follows the journey of Bilbo Baggins, a quiet and comfort-loving hobbit who is swept into an epic quest to help a group of dwarves reclaim their mountain home from a dragon. Along the way, Bilbo encounters trolls, goblin-like creatures called orcs, elves, and a mysterious creature named Gollum. Tolkien's richly imagined world and themes of courage, friendship, and personal growth have made *The Hobbit* a timeless classic.

Educational Value

This novel supports key literacy and social-emotional learning goals:

- **Literary Analysis:** *The Hobbit* introduces students to fantasy conventions, character arcs, world-building, and archetypes.
- **Theme Exploration:** The story explores themes of courage, greed, wisdom, and the archetypal hero's journey.
- **Vocabulary Development:** With its high lexile level, Tolkien's descriptive prose enriches student vocabulary.
- **Cross-Curricular Engagement:** This novel connects to mythology (epic quests and world-building), linguistics (fantasy foreign languages), geography (map reading), and art (illustrating characters and fantasy worlds).

Discussion Topics for Home

- What makes someone a hero? How does Bilbo redefine heroism?
- What lessons can we learn about greed and generosity from Smaug and the dwarves?
- How do the characters' decisions reflect their cultural and personal values?
- Why are friendship and loyalty so important in the story?
- How does [Matthew 6:19-21](#) inform your interpretation of the characters' differing ideas of treasure?

Why We're Reading *The Hobbit*

The Hobbit introduces students to rich storytelling, moral reflection, and imaginative thinking. Bilbo's journey invites readers to consider what it means to grow, face fears, and stand up for what is right. This novel provides a foundation for understanding fantasy as a literary genre and inspires creativity, empathy, and perseverance.