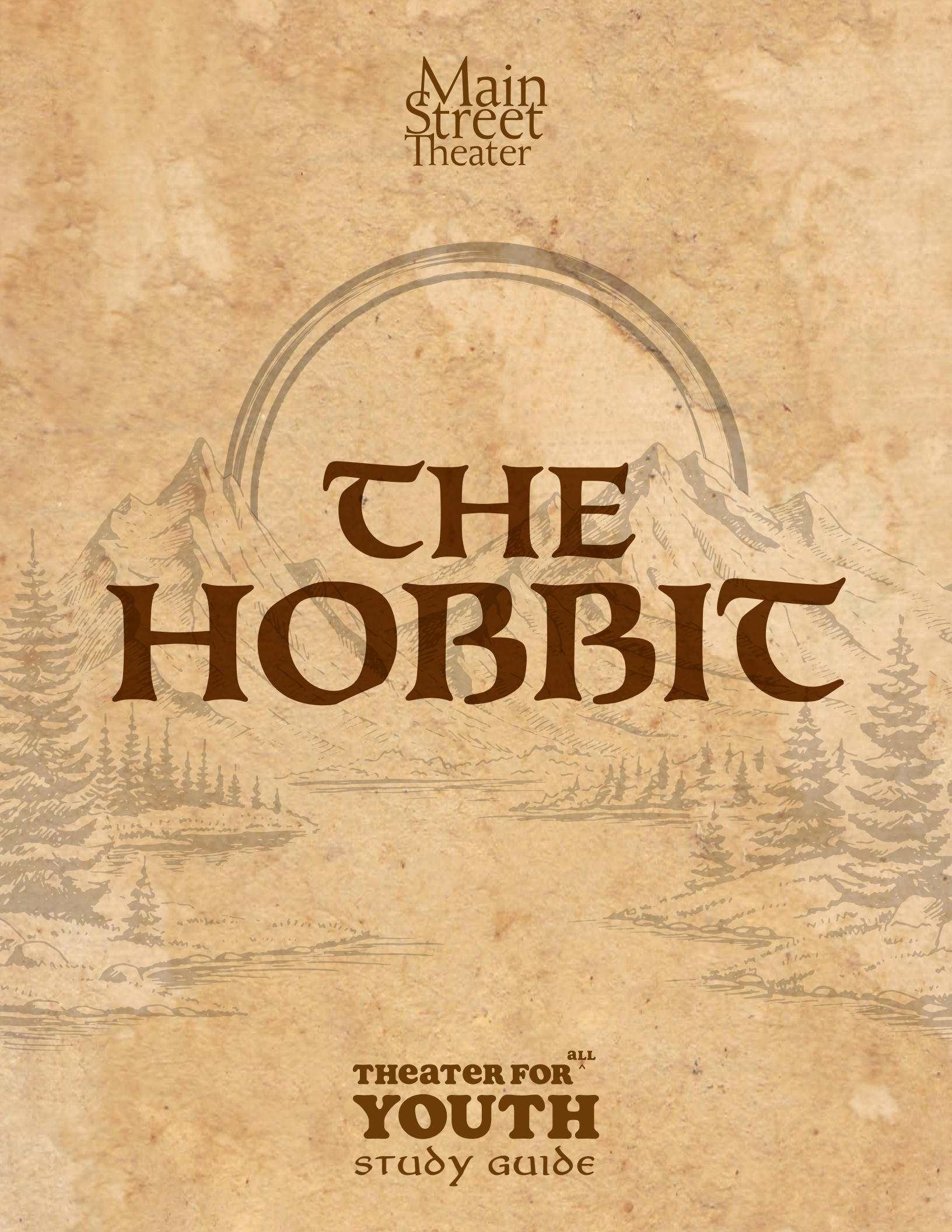
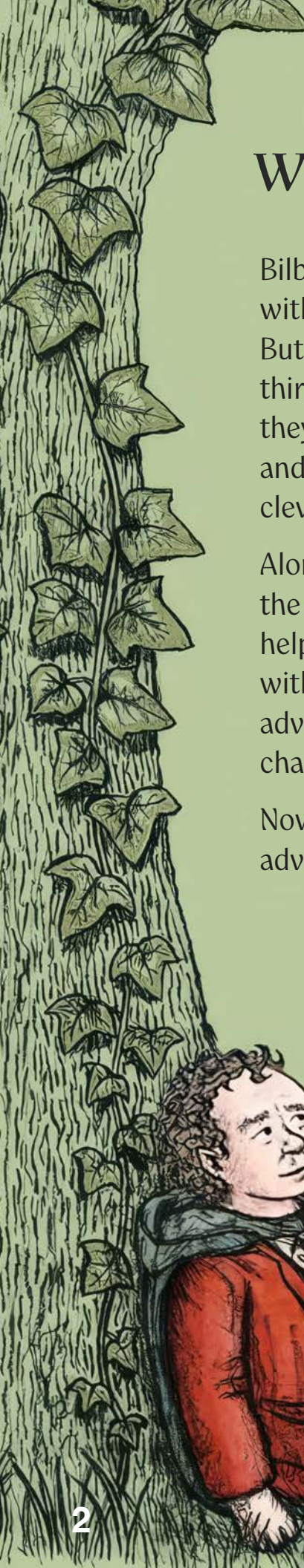


Main
Street
Theater



THE HOBBIT

THEATER FOR ^{all}
YOUTH
study guide



Welcome to Middle-Earth!

Bilbo Baggins would much rather be relaxing in his cozy hobbit hole with a warm cup of tea than setting off on a dangerous adventure. But when the mysterious wizard Gandalf arrives with a company of thirteen dwarves, Bilbo's quiet life is turned upside down! Together they travel across towering mountains, dark forests, rushing rivers, and mysterious caves, meeting trolls, goblins, elves, eagles, and even a clever creature named Gollum.

Along the way, Bilbo discovers that true courage isn't about being the biggest or the strongest—it's about making brave choices, helping others, and believing in yourself when it matters most. Filled with excitement, humor, unforgettable characters, and incredible adventures, *The Hobbit* reminds us that even the smallest person can change the course of history.

Now it's your turn to join Bilbo's unexpected journey and discover what adventures await in Middle-earth!

THE ACTORS LOVE TO RECEIVE FAN MAIL FROM THE CHILDREN!

(send to)

Main Street Theater // Attn: School Bookings
3400 Main Street, Suite 283, Houston, TX 77002

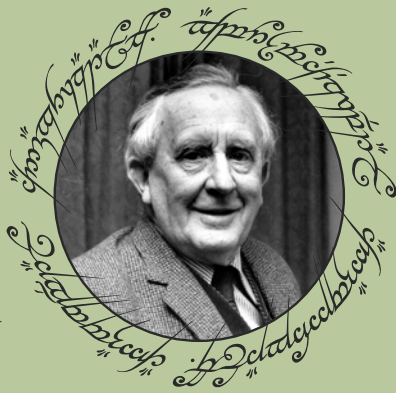


GUIDE CREDITS

Vivienne St. John, *Theater for Youth Artistic Director*
Jenn Wigle, *Guide Creator*
Melanie O'Neill, *Graphic Designer*

Illustration by **Jemima Catlin**

Author of *the Hobbit*



J.R.R. Tolkien was the creative mind behind *The Hobbit* and one of the most influential fantasy writers of all time. Born in England in 1892, he had a lifelong love of languages, history, and ancient myths. As a professor at the University of Oxford, Tolkien studied old languages and even invented some of his own, including the Elvish languages spoken in Middle-earth.

The Hobbit was first published in 1937 after Tolkien shared the story with his children. Readers quickly fell in love with Bilbo Baggins and his unexpected adventure, making the book an instant success. Tolkien later expanded the world of Middle-earth by writing *The Lord of the Rings*, creating one of the most famous fantasy series ever written.

Today, Tolkien's stories continue to inspire books, movies, plays, video games, artwork, and readers around the world. This performance is based on a stage adaptation by Greg Banks, who transforms Bilbo's epic journey into an exciting theatrical adventure using a small cast, creative staging, and the audience's imagination.

About the Show

LENGTH: APPROXIMATELY 75 MINUTES INCLUDING A SHORT TALK BACK WITH THE ACTORS

Audio Description is available at all school performances with advance notice. Using a single earpiece connected to an infrared headset, patrons who are blind or have low vision can listen to trained audio describers give live, verbal descriptions of actions, costumes, scenery, and other visual elements of a performance.

The theater is equipped with Listening Technologies to help patrons who require additional audio support in performances. Patrons can request use of an assisted hearing device.



Cast of Characters



BILBO BAGGINS

Bilbo is a comfort-loving hobbit who enjoys a peaceful life at home. Although he never wanted an adventure, he discovers that bravery, kindness, and clever thinking can make even the smallest hero unforgettable.



GANDALF

A wise and powerful wizard, Gandalf believes in Bilbo from the very beginning. He guides the company through many dangers and encourages others to see strengths they may not recognize in themselves.



THORIN OAKENSHIELD

Thorin is the determined leader of the dwarves and the rightful King under the Mountain. His dream is to reclaim his homeland and its treasure, but his pride sometimes makes difficult decisions even harder.



BALIN

Balin is one of Thorin's most trusted companions. Calm, thoughtful, and encouraging, he often supports Bilbo and helps keep the group focused during challenging times.



KILI

Kili is one of the youngest dwarves in the company. Curious, energetic, and quick to speak his mind, he brings humor and enthusiasm to the journey.



BOMBUR

Bombur loves food and often provides comic relief during the company's journey. Even during dangerous moments, he reminds everyone that laughter can help lift spirits.



GOLLUM

Living alone beneath the Misty Mountains, Gollum is a mysterious creature who speaks in riddles and guards a precious secret. His encounter with Bilbo changes both of their lives forever.

Cast of Characters



SMAUG

Smaug is the mighty dragon who has claimed the Lonely Mountain and its enormous treasure. Clever, powerful, and proud, he believes no one is capable of defeating him.



ELVEN QUEEN

The Elven Queen rules the Wood Elves with wisdom and caution. She values peace but understands that courage and cooperation are sometimes necessary to overcome great dangers.



THE TROLLS

The three trolls are large, grumpy, and always arguing with one another. Their constant bickering creates some funny moments, but they are still a dangerous obstacle for Bilbo and the dwarves.



THE GOBLINS

The goblins live beneath the Misty Mountains and fiercely protect their underground kingdom. They capture travelers without hesitation and chase the company through the dark tunnels.



THE WARGS (WOLVES)

The Wargs are fierce wolves that hunt alongside the goblins. Fast, powerful, and relentless, they force the company to think quickly if they hope to survive.



THE EAGLES

The Eagles are powerful allies who come to the company's rescue when all hope seems lost. Their timely arrival reminds Bilbo and his companions that help can sometimes come from unexpected places.



The Dwarves' Expedition Budget

Help Bilbo and the dwarves prepare for their adventure by solving these expedition math challenges!

1. There are 14 members in the company: Bilbo and 13 dwarves. If each traveler needs three meals a day for 18 days, how many meals should they pack?

2. Each backpack can safely carry 35 pounds of supplies. If every member carries one backpack, what is the greatest total weight the company can carry?

3. Bilbo receives $\frac{1}{14}$ of the treasure. If the treasure contains 8,400 gold coins, how many coins belong to Bilbo?

4. The company buys rope for \$12 a bundle. They need 9 bundles. How much will the rope cost altogether?

5. If each traveler drinks 2 bottles of water every day. How many bottles will the company need for 10 days?



Illustration by
Jemima Catlin

The Dwarves' Expedition Budget

6. A pony can carry 125 pounds. The company has 6 ponies. How much weight will the ponies carry altogether?

7. The company has a food budget of \$950. They spend \$350 on food, \$175 on camping gear, and \$89 on lanterns. How much money do they have left?

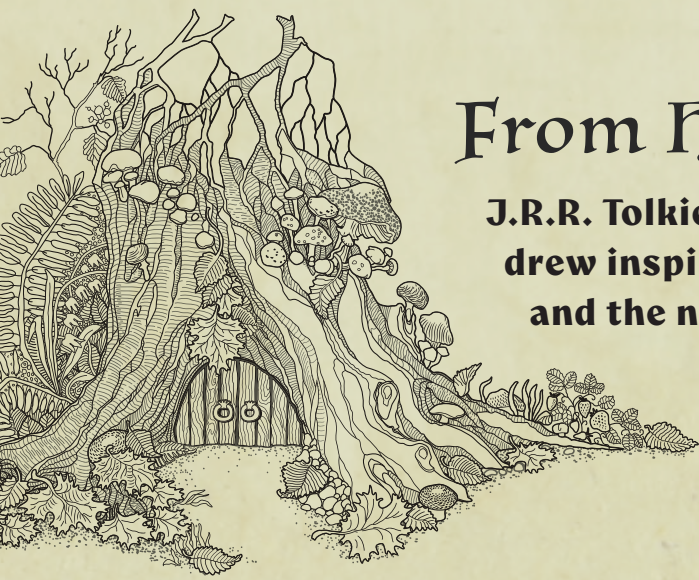
8. Thorin decides to reward everyone equally with 560 silver coins. There are 14 travelers. How many coins does each traveler receive?

9. The company needs to cross a mountain that is 42 miles long. If they travel 7 miles a day, how many days will it take them to cross?

10. Gandalf buys 84 loaves of bread for the journey. He wants to divide it equally among the 14 travelers. How many loaves does each traveler receive?



Illustration by
Jemima Catlin



From History to Middle-earth

J.R.R. Tolkien was a professor, linguist, and author who drew inspiration from history, mythology, languages, and the natural world when creating Middle-earth.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ♦ Use your library's databases or other reliable sources to learn more about Tolkien's inspirations
- ♦ Summarize your findings in 150–200 words
- ♦ Explain how your research helped you better understand *The Hobbit*
- ♦ Cite at least one reliable source by listing its title, author or organization, and database or website

TOPICS

NORSE MYTHOLOGY

How did Norse myths influence the characters, creatures, and adventures in *The Hobbit*?

DRAGONS IN WORLD FOLKLORE

How are dragons from myths and legends similar to or different from Smaug?

RUNES AND ANCIENT LANGUAGES

How did Tolkien's interest in languages help shape Middle-earth?

MEDIEVAL TRAVEL

What challenges did travelers face during long journeys in the Middle Ages?

MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS

How do real mountain environments compare to the Misty Mountains or the Lonely Mountain?

CAVES AND CAVE SYSTEMS

How do caves form, and how might real caves have inspired places like Goblin Town?

Bilbo's Journal

Imagine Bilbo has the chance to write home. What stories would he share, and what might he choose to leave out? Write a letter from Bilbo's perspective describing his journey, his thoughts, and his hopes for what lies ahead.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Choose when Bilbo is writing his letter

- ♦ After leaving the Shire
- ♦ After escaping the trolls
- ♦ After solving Gollum's riddles
- ♦ After escaping Mirkwood
- ♦ After meeting Smaug
- ♦ After returning home

DEAR _____ ,

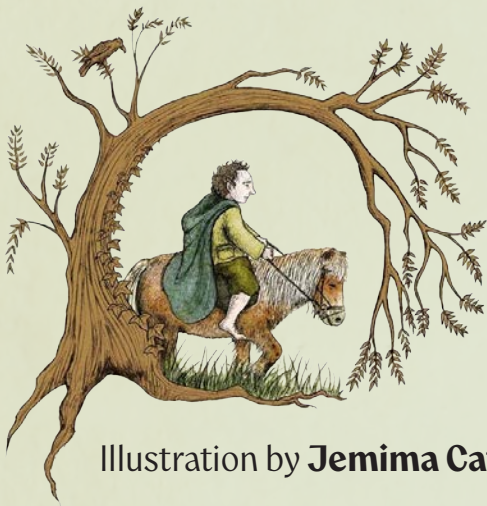


Illustration by Jemima Catlin

Someone from Middle-earth has disappeared!

Create a Missing Poster for a character or creature from *The Hobbit*. Your poster should include an illustration, a physical description, personality traits, where the character was last seen, and a reward for helpful information.



Plan Your Own Unexpected Journey

Imagine you are setting off on your own unexpected journey. Choose a destination at least 100 miles from your starting location (or another distance assigned by your teacher), then research and create a complete travel plan.

PART 1: CHOOSE YOUR DESTINATION

- ♦ Starting location
- ♦ Destination
- ♦ Distance (miles)
- ♦ Why did you choose this destination?

PART 2: PLAN YOUR ROUTE

- ♦ Highways or major roads
- ♦ Estimated travel time
- ♦ Planned rest stops
- ♦ Interesting landmarks along the way

PART 3: TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

Provide each expense, how you calculated it, and the total cost. Include details such as the number of meals, snacks, activities, and any other expenses. Ask your teacher how detailed this section should be.

PART 4: BUILD YOUR ITINERARY

Plan your trip from start to finish. Include important travel details such as departure time, route, stops, meals, activities, and arrival time. Organize your itinerary in the order the events will occur.

PART 5: PACK SMART

Choose 10 items you would bring. For each item, explain why it would be useful to have on your trip.

PART 6: REFLECTION

Write one paragraph explaining what challenges you might encounter, how you would prepare for them, and which part of the trip seems most exciting.

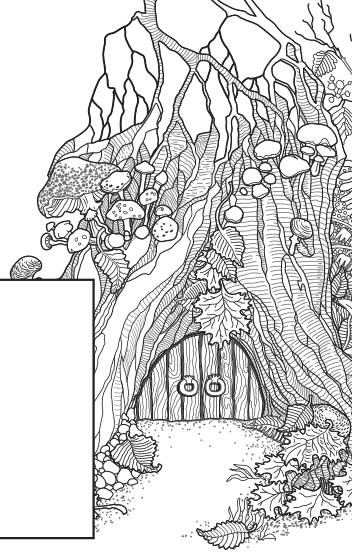


Create Your Own Hobbit Comic

Retell one memorable scene from *The Hobbit* as a comic strip. Use dialogue, facial expressions, and illustrations to show what happens and how the characters feel.

The template consists of nine rectangular panels arranged in a 3x3 grid. Each panel is divided by a diagonal line running from the top-left corner to the bottom-right corner. This layout provides space for both a drawing and a line of dialogue or text within each panel.

Story Analysis



PROBLEM

What was the main problem in *The Hobbit*?

SOLUTION

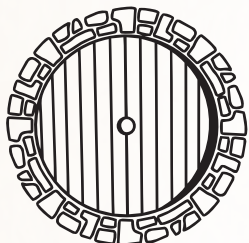
How did the problem get solved?

CHARACTERS

Who are the main characters in the play?

EVENTS

Write about some of the events that happened in the story. What happened first? What were some things that happened in the middle? What happened last?



The Secret Runes of Middle-earth

The dwarves often used runes to record important messages and mark their maps. Use the rune key below to decode the hidden message. Then answer the questions.

Rune Key

A = Ȧ	B = Ɓ	C = Ɔ	D = Ɗ	E = Ǝ	F = ƒ
G = Ƴ	H = Ȩ	I =	J = Ɔ	K = ƶ	L = Ȫ
M = Ȼ	N = Ȥ	O = Ɔ	P = Ɔ	Q = Ɔ	R = Ȫ
S = Ɔ	T = ↑	U = Ȫ	V = Ȧ	W = ƒ	X = ★
Y = ȶ	Z = ↓				

Hidden Message

Ɔ Ɔ Ȫ Ȫ Ȧ Ƴ Ȼ Ȫ | Ɔ ƒ Ɔ Ȫ Ȫ Ȫ Ȫ Ȫ | ↑ Ȫ | Ȫ

Questions

1. Decode the hidden message:

2. How does this message connect to Bilbo's journey?

3. Why do you think the dwarves might choose to use runes instead of ordinary writing?

4. If you could leave one secret message for another adventurer, what would it say? Create Your Own Secret Message. Use the rune key to write a secret message for a classmate to decode.

Middle-earth

***The Hobbit* comes to life through the creativity of actors, directors, designers, and technicians. Choose one scene from the play and imagine you are directing it for the stage.**

CHOOSE YOUR SCENE: _____

DESIGN YOUR PRODUCTION:

Set and scenery
Props
What is the mood and how will you create it?
Costumes
How will you represent creatures or magic?



Leadership in Middle-earth

Strong leaders make difficult decisions that affect others. Throughout *The Hobbit*, Bilbo, Gandalf, Thorin, and Bard each demonstrate different leadership styles. Evaluate each leader using the chart below.

Leader	Courage	Decision-Making	Teamwork	Honesty	Comments
Bilbo	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
Gandalf	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
Thorin	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
Bard	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	

REFLECTION

Choose the character you believe was the strongest leader. Explain your choice using at least two examples from the play.

Middle-earth Word Search

Search the grid to find important characters, places, and themes from *The Hobbit*. Words may be hidden in any direction.

J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	L	B	J	D	H	D	M	B
E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	W	G	T	Y	A	R
D	S	G	C	L	Q	F	O	A	R	T	T	I	R	U
O	Y	Y	R	O	B	E	R	E	V	H	A	D	K	B
O	T	U	T	W	T	V	T	L	O	G	B	D	E	M
W	H	L	K	E	E	A	B	L	G	B	R	I	N	O
K	O	B	T	S	E	G	O	X	I	A	M	U	S	B
R	R	G	A	H	O	G	K	L	Z	N	U	V	T	G
I	I	L	T	B	Y	F	B	I	T	J	L	C	O	A
M	N	G	L	B	Z	O	W	P	R	P	L	C	N	N
N	D	I	Z	M	V	R	E	U	R	C	O	U	E	D
F	N	M	F	A	N	T	A	S	Y	W	G	I	N	A
S	J	V	J	N	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	B	L
J	X	S	G	U	A	M	S	E	L	D	D	I	R	F
L	N	N	A	Y	Z	L	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	U

ADVENTURE
ARKENSTONE
BILBO
BOMBUR
COURAGE

DWARVES
EREBOR
FANTASY
GANDALF
GOBLINS

GOLLUM
JOURNEY
MIRKWOOD
MYTHOLOGY
RIDDLES

SMAUG
THEATER
THORIN
TREASURE
WIZARD

Career Exploration

Bilbo's journey changed the course of his life. Now it's time to think about your own journey. What career path might be waiting for you? Explore a career that matches your interests and determine whether it supports the lifestyle you hope to have. Use trusted career and financial planning resources to research your career and write a 1–2 page paper.

Step 1: Discover Your Personality

Take the free 16 Personalities. Based on your results, identify one or two careers that match your personality.

Step 2: Research Your Career

Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), O*NET OnLine, and CareerOneStop to research your chosen career. Take notes on the following:

- ♦ Job duties and daily responsibilities
- ♦ Knowledge, skills, and abilities needed
- ♦ Education, training, or degree requirements
- ♦ Average salary and job outlook
- ♦ Work environment
- ♦ Why this career interests you

Step 3: Can You Afford Your Dream Lifestyle?

Use NerdWallet's Cost of Living Calculator or Texas Reality Check to compare your expected salary with the lifestyle you want. Think about where you would like to live, housing, transportation, food, entertainment, and other expenses.

Write Your Paper (1–2 Pages)

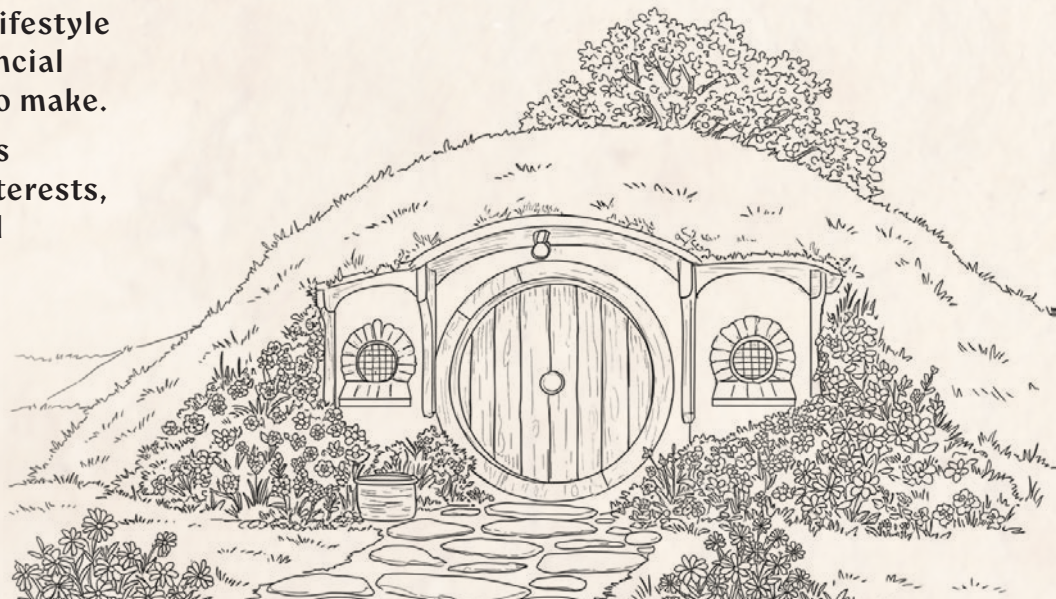
Include the following sections:

- ♦ **Introduction:** Describe your personality type and explain why you selected this career.
- ♦ **Career Research:** Summarize what the career involves, required education, important skills, salary, and job outlook.
- ♦ **Lifestyle Analysis:** Explain whether the salary would support the lifestyle you want and discuss any financial adjustments you might need to make.
- ♦ **Conclusion:** State whether this career is a good fit for your interests, personality, goals, and desired lifestyle.

Suggested Resources

- ♦ 16Personalities
- ♦ Test (16personalities.com)
- ♦ Occupational Outlook Handbook (bls.gov/ooh)
- ♦ O*NET OnLine (onetonline.org)
- ♦ CareerOneStop (careeronestop.org)
- ♦ NerdWallet Cost of Living Calculator or Texas Reality Check

Tip: Use your own words, organize your ideas clearly, and cite any sources required by your teacher.



Sell the Adventure!

Imagine Greg Banks has hired you to help advertise *The Hobbit* to teenagers. Create a marketing campaign that would convince students your age to attend the play.

INCLUDE:

Title or slogan:

Target audience. Who are you trying to convince?

Three reasons teenagers should see the play

1.

2.

3.

CREATE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ♦ Social media post
- ♦ Movie-style poster
- ♦ 30-second commercial script
- ♦ Radio advertisement
- ♦ BookTok/TikTok video storyboard

REFLECTION

What makes your advertisement persuasive?

The Hobbit Herald

Imagine you are a reporter and a major event from *The Hobbit* has just happened. Your editor has asked you to write the front-page story for *The Hobbit Herald*.

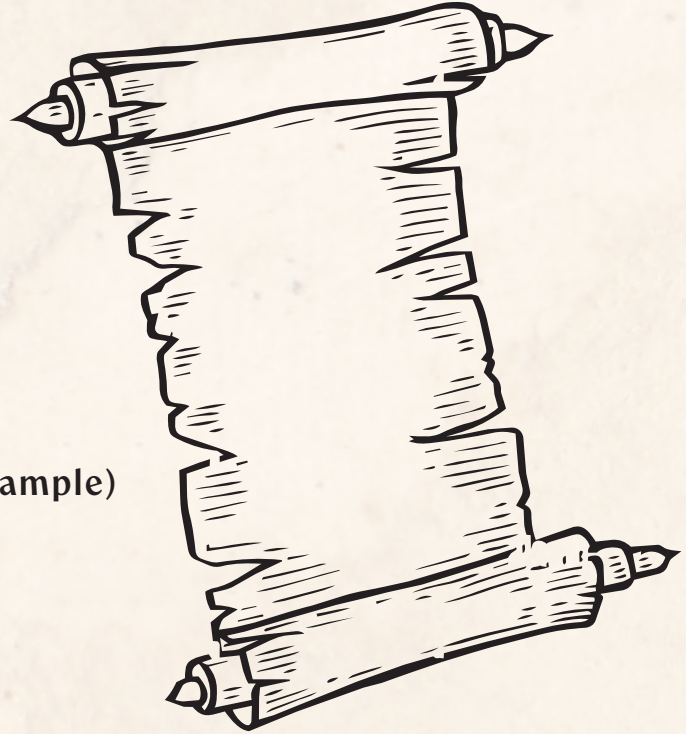
CHOOSE A NEWSWORTHY EVENT

- ♦ Bilbo disappears after leaving the Shire
- ♦ The trolls are mysteriously turned to stone
- ♦ Bilbo wins the riddle contest against Gollum
- ♦ Smaug destroys Lake-town
- ♦ Your choice

WRITE YOUR FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE

Include the following:

- ♦ A newspaper name (*The Hobbit Herald*, for example)
- ♦ A catchy newspaper headline
- ♦ A 150-250 word news article
- ♦ A quotation from a witness or character
- ♦ An illustration or photograph caption
- ♦ Your byline (reporter's name)



JOURNALIST TIP:

Write objectively. Report the facts first, then use details from the play to help your readers understand what happened. Imagine your audience has never heard the story before.

INITIAL IDEAS: _____

The Arkenstone Debate

Bilbo secretly gives the Arkenstone to Bard and the Elven Queen in hopes of preventing a war. Was Bilbo's decision the right one? Prepare a persuasive speech defending your position using evidence from the play.



CHOOSE A SIDE:

- ♦ Bilbo made the right decision
- ♦ Bilbo made the wrong decision

INCLUDE:

- ♦ State your claim
- ♦ Two pieces of evidence from the play
- ♦ The strongest argument the opposing side could make
- ♦ Your rebuttal (response to the opposing side)
- ♦ A concluding statement

PREPARE YOUR SPEECH

Claim:

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Counterargument

The Arkenstone Debate

Bilbo secretly gives the Arkenstone to Bard and the Elven Queen in hopes of preventing a war. Was Bilbo's decision the right one? Prepare a persuasive speech defending your position using evidence from the play.

Rebuttal

Conclusion

PRESENTATION

Deliver a 1–2 minute speech. Speak clearly, support your ideas with evidence from the play, respond respectfully to other viewpoints, and persuade your audience.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and some minor discoloration or faint smudges, particularly near the top edge. The overall tone is off-white or light cream.

Answer Keys

Hidden Message Decode (pg.14)

C O U R A G E I S F O U N D W I T H I N
 < ✕ ∩ R √ X M | √ ∩ ✕ ∩ √ X ∩ | ↑ H | √

Middle-earth Word Search Answer Key (pg. 17)

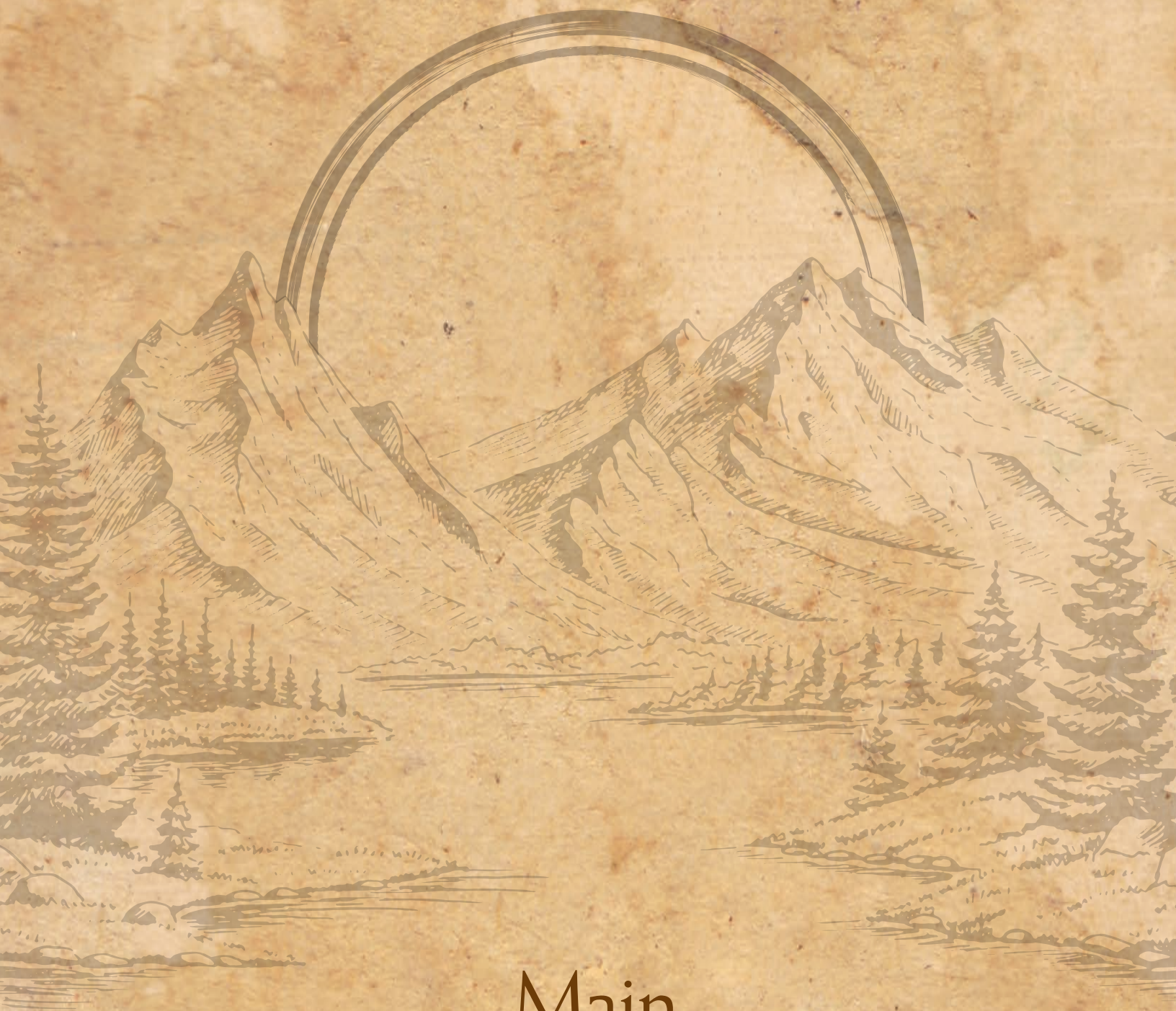
J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	L	B	J	D	H	D	M	B
E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	W	G	T	Y	A	R
D	S	G	C	L	Q	F	O	A	R	T	T	I	R	U
O	Y	Y	R	O	B	E	R	E	V	H	A	D	K	B
O	T	U	T	W	T	V	T	L	O	G	B	D	E	M
W	H	L	K	E	E	A	B	L	G	B	R	I	N	O
K	O	B	T	S	E	G	O	X	I	A	M	U	S	B
R	R	G	A	H	O	G	K	I	Z	N	U	V	T	G
I	I	L	T	B	Y	F	B	I	T	J	L	C	O	A
M	N	G	L	B	Z	O	W	P	R	P	L	C	N	N
N	D	I	Z	M	V	R	E	U	R	C	O	U	E	D
F	N	M	F	A	N	T	A	S	Y	W	G	I	N	A
S	J	V	J	N	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	B	L
J	X	S	G	U	A	M	S	E	L	D	D	I	R	F
L	N	N	A	Y	Z	L	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	U

ADVENTURE
 ARKENSTONE
 BILBO
 BOMBUR
 COURAGE

DWARVES
 EREBOR
 FANTASY
 GANDALF
 GOBLINS

GOLLUM
 JOURNEY
 MORKWOOD
 MYTHOLOGY
 RIDDLES

SMAUG
 THEATER
 THORIN
 TREASURE
 WIZARD



Main
Street
Theater

mainstreettheater.com