

The Hobbit Worksheet / Study Guide
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Chapter 12: Inside Information

Vocabulary Define the following words with only 1-2 words

esteemed _____

pretence _____

treacherous _____

wrought _____

unwrought _____

eruptions _____

Extra Credit Vocabulary

cowered, draught, perplexed, propose, replenish, wily, surpassed, calamities, sneered, creditable, scoffed, infuriate, skulking, concentrated, unassessably, kin, fortified, antiquated, impenetrable, absurdly, revived, dubious, devices, stratagems, foreboding, withered, hoard, marrow, smote, avalanche

Bonus Vocabulary

tenfold

Comprehension Questions Answer the questions briefly (full sentences are unnecessary)

1) Why did Thorin Oakenshield elect Mr. Bilbo Baggins to go in the secret door? _____

2) What was Balin prepared to do for Mr. Bilbo Baggins? _____

3) How had Mr. Bilbo Baggins changed since the adventure began? _____

4) Explain, "He [Mr. Bilbo Baggins] fought the real battle in the tunnel alone, before he ever saw the vast danger that lay in wait."

5) Physically describe Smaug, the dragon. _____

6) What did Mr. Bilbo Baggins take from Smaug's stolen treasure trove and what did he do with it? _____

7) What do dragons do with their treasure? _____

8) How were Bombur and Bofur rescued? _____

Who rescued them? _____

What were they rescued from? _____

9) What frequently happens when folk become perplexed? _____

10) Who became the unspoken leader of Thorin & Company? _____

Why do you think this was so? _____

11) How did Mr. Bilbo Baggins use flattery in conversing with Smaug? _____

12) How should one talk to dragons and how can dragon-talk be dangerous to the inexperienced? _____

13) How did Bilbo discover Smaug's weak spot? _____

14) Describe the Arkenstone. _____

Ponder: Foreshadowing is a literary device that suggests what is to come later by giving hints and clues. Do you think there is any significance of Smaug's dream?

Christian Worldview

1) Smaug is wily, evil, treacherous, sneaky, intelligent, envious, and succumbs to flattery. It would seem that even the wicked succumb to believing their own press! Why do you think flattery is so dangerous?

He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips ... Proverbs 20:19

The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good. He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil ...
Psalm 36:1-4

2) Thorin shows his mettle when the time comes by directing Mr. Bilbo Baggins and Balin to get in the tunnel while the others get ropes to haul up Bombur, Bofur, and their supplies. How is courage a Christian virtue? In the 23rd Psalm, we are told about the valley of the shadow of death. Could this possibly relate to Thorin Oakenshield's display of courage?

3) It would appear that J.R.R. Tolkien highly prizes friendship, loyalty, and family. How are these three things related

from a Christian worldview?

4) Interestingly, when Thorin & Company become perplexed they begin to grumble, complain and blame Mr. Bilbo Baggins for their problems. Mr. Bilbo Baggins is willing to take up the challenge and goes back to Smaug in an attempt to find his weak spot. Scapegoating, or unfairly blaming someone else for problems, is not new. In the Garden of Eden, Adam blamed God and Eve; then, Eve blamed the snake (Genesis 3:12-14). In today's climate, the term of environmentalism (it's the environment's fault) and other "ism's" are frequently substituted for the word scapegoating. Why do you think this phenomenon is so common with mankind?

5) In literature, the right or the right hand side has been used to show honor or goodness.

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God ... Acts 7:56

Frequently, therefore, the use of "left" becomes a literary device to indicate evil, potential evil or something bad could happen. Why do you think J.R.R. Tolkien has Smaug keeping his left eye open while he sleeps and has his left breast unprotected? Could there be a hint that poetical justice may occur?

6) It is amusing how Mr. Bilbo Baggins begins to enjoy talking in riddles to the dragon. Compare and contrast dragon jargon and the lingo "experts" frequently use in order to puff themselves up in their own estimation of their worthiness.

7) "*I am he that buries his friends alive and drowns them and draws them alive again from the water ...*" What an interesting quote from Mr. Bilbo Baggins. Discuss this in light of Jonah and Lazarus.

8) It is interesting that J.R.R. Tolkien, via Mr. Bilbo Baggins, warns us to not infuriate evil. Why?

9) Smaug attempts and almost succeeds in using Mr. Bilbo Baggins' distrust of the loyalty of Thorin & Company to turn him away from his friends. Will they help when the time comes? Will they honor their commitment to giving Mr. Bilbo Baggins one fourteenth (1/14th) of the treasure? Will they help him get his share home? Will they abandon him in danger? Compare and contrast this to Julius Caesar and his well known "Divide and Conquer" strategem.

And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand ... Mark 3:25

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon ... Matthew 6:24

Optional Activities

1) Gandalf has sent you out to spy on the *Smaug School of Flattery* and learn about dragon-talk. You have accomplished this task; however, as you await to meet with Gandalf in the Raven Haven hotel lobby, you notice that dragon-talk has already appeared in Middle Earth television, radio, and print advertisements. Four of the most glaring examples of dragon-talk are Bandwagon (everybody is doing it so don't be left out), Glittering Generalizations (statements that jump to conclusions), the Big Lie (outrageous falsehoods that capture attention ... PR is the thing), and Snob Appeal (appeals to the idea that you are better than others in looks, position, wealth, taste). Be prepared to give Gandalf television, radio, or print advertisement examples of dragon-talk.

2) A proverb is a wise saying that has proven true over time. "Character is easier kept than recovered" is an old English proverb. Mr. Bilbo Baggins came up with his own proverb, "Never laugh at live dragons, you aren't nearly through this adventure yet!" Either make your own proverb dealing with one of your problems or use a well known proverb. Be sure to illustrate same.

3) Poor Mr. Bilbo Baggins! After his interview with the dragon he came out scorched and burned. Balin is so concerned about Mr. Bilbo Baggins' health that he develops a special wonder medicine for burns and scorching. Without using dragon-talk, advertise this product so others may experience its benefits.

4) Draw, paint or sketch Mr. Bilbo Baggins hurriedly exiting the cave due to Smaug's bad breath (otherwise known as

fire).

5) To the tune of *Three Blind Mice* write lyrics about Smaug's abominable behavior and his ill-gotten gains.

What does Scripture say?

Flattery --- unjustified praise

A. Flattery used by

False prophets ... Romans 16:18

Hypocrites ... Psalm 78:36

The wicked ... Psalm 36:1-4

B. Attitude of Christians toward flatter

Should avoid users ... Proverbs 20:19

Pray against ... Psalm 5:8,9

Should not use ... 1 Thessalonians 2:5

C. Examples of flattery

Jacob ... Genesis 33:10

Gideon ... Judges 8:1-3

Absalom ... 2 Samuel 15:2-6

False prophets ... 1 Kings 22:13

Tertullus ... Acts 24:2-4