

*The Hobbit Worksheet / Study Guide*  
@ Beverly Schmitt, 2001 all rights reserved

**Chapter 5: Riddles in the Dark**

**Vocabulary** Define the following words with only 1-2 words

fund \_\_\_\_\_

subterranean \_\_\_\_\_

unbeknown \_\_\_\_\_

lurking \_\_\_\_\_

brink \_\_\_\_\_

poser \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Credit Vocabulary**

ogres, antiquity, venture, brooded, persisted, menacingly, splayed, resolve, bloodcurdling, incline, aroused, smote, wedged

**Bonus Vocabulary**

scrumptiously

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

1) What did Mr. Bilbo Baggins physically and emotionally feel when he awoke in the cave?

physical \_\_\_\_\_

emotional \_\_\_\_\_

2) How did Mr. Bilbo Baggins know that his dagger was made by the elves? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Compare and contrast a hobbit hole with a goblin cave.

<i>hobbit hole</i>	<i>goblin cave</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4) Describe Gollum. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What was the point of the competition between Gollum and Mr. Bilbo Baggins? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6) What was Gollum's birthday present and why was it important to him? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What color did Gollum's eyes become when he became suspicious? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Which pocket did Mr. Bilbo Baggins keep the ring? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What hand did Mr. Bilbo Baggins grab the ring with? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What finger did Mr. Bilbo Baggins wear the ring on? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) How did Mr. Bilbo Baggins negotiate his way down to the cave entrance? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) How do goblins react to light? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Describe how Mr. Bilbo Baggins made his exodus from the cave. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***Christian Worldview***

- 1) Compare and contrast the riddles in this chapter, *Riddles in the Dark*, to the riddles Sampson used.
- 2) Poor Mr. Bilbo Baggins, he had no place to go but forward! (“Go back?” he thought. “No good at all! Go sideways? Impossible! Go forward? Only thing to do! On we go!”) Describe the similarities between this concept and old Christian songs like *Onward Christian Soldiers*, *Are You a Soldier of the Cross*, etc.
- Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men ... Matthew 5:13
- Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid ... Matthew 5:14
- 3) Gollum is wicked, spiteful, envious, and evil. Could this be yet another example of the unlawful use of power? (i.e., Gollum having and using the ring?)
- 4) “But now the light in Gollum's eyes had become a green fire” ... Could this possibly be a literary device (i.e., special effects) use to signify envy? Why?
- 5) In Christendom, the right or the right hand side was used to show honor or goodness. Frequently, therefore, the use of “left” became a literary device to indicate evil, potential evil or something bad is about to happen. How does J.R.R. Tolkien use this to foreshadow that the ring may pull one last trick?
- And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God ... Acts 7:56
- 6) In this chapter, there were various paths in the darkness of the caverns. How does this remind you of how Satan and his agents attempt to deceive others down the wrong paths?

7) “*He did not turn to see what Gollum was doing.*” Frequently, Christians look back to the “old” life which, unfortunately, indicates a slave-like mentality like those making the exodus from Egypt under Moses. (Remember, they constantly wanted to return to Egyptian slavery since it provided “security”). Why do you think J.R.R. Tolkien did not have Mr. Bilbo Baggins turning round to see what Gollum was up to?

But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt ... Genesis 19:26

Remember Lot’s wife ... Luke 17:32

8) Light, in literary terms frequently symbolizes righteousness, truth, honor, and goodness. Goblins, like other humanists, dislike and distrust the light. (*But they don’t like the sun: it makes their legs wobble and their heads giddy.*) Why is this so?

**Ponder** Foreshadowing is a literary device that suggest what is to come later by giving hints and clues. It may be well worth noting that Gollum used to wear the ring until he got tired, then kept it in a pouch until it galled him and, finally, hid it in a hole.

### ***Optional Activities***

1) Re-enactment with a twist. Re-enact the scene between Mr. Bilbo Baggins and Gollum, but this time include your own riddles as well !

2) A famous New York jewelry company wants to know exactly what the magic ring looks like so they can manufacture the ring. They fully expect this ring to be the next best seller. They are depending upon you for this vital information! Do not fail them and your monetary reward will be great !

3) A British literary guild has heard about the riddles between Mr. Bilbo Baggins and Gollum and have approached you to write a scholarly report on riddles, their importance to literature, why everyone should be taught the skills of riddles, etc.

4) Illustrate Mr. Bilbo Baggins watching Gollum come from his rocky island toward him.

5) A well known radio executive has approached you to develop a quick parody on Mr. Bilbo Baggins wanting to get away from Gollum and out of the cave based on the tune *O Tannenbaum* (also known as *O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree*). Do a good job and you may be the next Grammy Award winner !

### ***What does Scripture say?***

Riddles --- a hidden saying solved by guessing

Samson’s famous riddle ... Judges 14:12-19

Classed as a parable ... Ezekiel 17:2

Avoided by God ... Numbers 12:8

Translated as proverb ... Habakkuk 2:6