

*The Hobbit Worksheet / Study Guide*  
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**Chapter 8: Flies and Spiders**

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

lichen \_\_\_\_\_

inquisitive \_\_\_\_\_

bulbous \_\_\_\_\_

taut \_\_\_\_\_

painter \_\_\_\_\_

falter \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Credit Vocabulary**

lamenting, vexed, hind, baying, tuppence, stealthily, loathsome, quoits, bowls, ninepins, infuriate, emerged, froth, mortally, prey, lingered, wary, gloaming, hoard, thongs

**Bonus Vocabulary**

abominable

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

1) What did the sharp eyes of Mr. Bilbo Baggins see that the dwarves did not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Why does Thorin & Company hate the forest? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) How does Thorin & Company obtain the boat? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Who assists Mr. Bilbo Baggins with the boat and rope when everyone else fell? \_\_\_\_\_

5) Who was the strongest dwarf? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the youngest dwarf? \_\_\_\_\_

6) Who fell in the water and what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) Who was sent to climb a tree and determine if Thorin & Company were close to the edge of the forest? What was seen?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 8) What gets the dwarves to leave the path? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9) What did Mr. Bilbo Baggins name his weapon? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) How did Mr. Bilbo Baggins save his friends? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) What caused the dwarves to respect Mr. Bilbo Baggins even more? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Who took Thorin prisoner and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ***Christian Worldview***

- 1) “*Don’t start grumbling against orders, or something bad will happen to you.*” This was a stern warning against grumbling and complaining. Poetic justice is another literary device. Show how J.R.R. Tolkien used poetic justice when Bombur fell into the stream of forgetfulness.
- 2) The stream of forgetfulness is, in itself, a horrible judgment. By experiencing good and bad times, we develop our own character. To rob someone of their past is to rob them of who and what they are which is why alzheimer’s disease is so painful for family members. Initially, forgetfulness may seem enticing, but in the long run it is wicked (nirvana) and can be a judgment for leaving the straight and narrow path. Why do you think J.R.R. Tolkien had the stream of forgetfulness running through the dire forest of Mirkwood?
- 3) ***Ponder:*** Thorin & Company sent Mr. Bilbo Baggins to climb a tree to see if they were close to the edge of Mirkwood. Unknown to Mr. Bilbo Baggins, Thorin & Company were in the bottom of a bowl like place and really only had a short way to go before leaving the benighted forest. Frequently, we are tempted to trust our senses and not trust God.
- 4) Mr. Bilbo Baggins and the dwarves were sternly warned to NOT leave the straight and narrow of the path in Mirkwood. Rather than trust their head knowledge, they trusted their gut (hunger) and feelings and got themselves into trouble. In military pilot training, instructors push their students into trusting the control panel and NOT their sense of sight. The reason for this is because many planes have been lost when pilots have trusted their senses over their instrument panels. Optical illusions are another demonstration of trusting one’s senses versus reality. Have you ever been deceived in this manner?
- 5) The dwarves and Mr. Bilbo Baggins went after the elf feast three times. Three is a prominent number in scripture. Can you think of how three has been used over and over again in the Bible?
- 6) Poor Thorin & Company! They were so hungry ! The whole concept of feasting and hunger is also found in the Bible. Discuss the interplay between feasting and starvation from a Christian worldview.
- 7) Mr. Bilbo Baggins, being alone, had to face the attack of the dread spiders. Ultimately, all must face temptations alone. Can you think of anyone in the Bible or in history that have faced temptations alone?
- 8) The spiders, spinning their webs, are similar to webs of deception or false paths that, at times, may seem promising. Mr. Bilbo Baggins saw that the spiders were trying to block off his way of escape by spinning more webs. Christians are often faced with obstacles they must overcome. Does this remind you of any obstacles you have experienced?

9) Mr. Bilbo Baggins dubbed his weapon Sting. Discuss the relationship, if any, between the scripture verses listed and this weapon.

O Death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law ... I Corinthians 15:55,56

10) Mr. Bilbo Baggins leaves the path through Mirkwood forest with the good intentions of helping his fellow adventurers. Even though he repents his actions, Mr. Bilbo Baggins has to face the consequences of his behavior. Discuss how good intentions can result in evil.

11) "*Bilbo saw that the moment had come when he must do something. He could not get up at the brutes and he had nothing to shoot with; but looking about he saw that in this place there were many stones lying in what appeared to be a now dry little watercourse.*" Compare and contrast this quote with David and Goliath.

### ***Optional Activities***

1) *Great Awakening Productions*, Gandalf's recording studio, urgently needs sound effects for spiders, sword fighting, bundled dwarves, slaying spiders, and elves. You have been commissioned to record these sound effects. Do not let the recording studio down! This is a highly sought after commission!

2) The Mirkwood Pesticide Corporation has recently suffered bad public relations from the spiders for their war against pests in Mirkwood Forest. They need you to develop an advertising campaign to convince others of the worthiness of ridding (or at least containing) the forest of the evil spiders and other pests.

3) Finish this limerick (remember, a limerick has 5 lines and is light and funny) ...

There once were wicked spiders of Mirkwood,

4) The spiders are disgusted with all the bad press they have received from Mirkwood Pesticide Corporation and from unwarranted limericks they have heard that have been made about them. They want you to come up with a song based on the tune *Jingle Bells* or *Winter Wonderland* telling how important spiders are to hobbits, dwarves, elves and others.

5) Draw or paint a picture of Mr. Bilbo Baggins informing the dwarves of the boat he has spotted.

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

Test --- something that shows a person's real character

A. Kinds of tests

Given to Solomon ... 1 Kings 10:1-3

Physical ... 1 Samuel 17:38,39

Supernatural ... Exodus 7-1

National ... Exodus 32:1-35

B. Purpose of tests

Test obedience ... Genesis 3:1-8

Confirm faith ... Genesis 22:1-18

Learn God's will ... Judges 6:36-40

Destroy idolatry ... 1 Kings 18:22-24

Purify faith ... Mal.3:3,4, 1 Peter 1:6-9

Increase patience ... James 1:3,4,12

Bring to a better place ... Psalm 66:10-12

Chasten us ... Isaiah 48:10

Glorify God ... 1 Peter 4:12-16

C. Christian's attitude toward testing

Expect ... Acts 14:22

Glory in ... Romans 5:3

Overcome ... Romans 8:35-37

Patient in ... Romans 12:12

Joyful in ... 2 Corinthians 7:4

Faint not in ... Ephesians 3:13