

Summer Reading 8th Grade

Novel: *The Hobbit* J.R.R. Tolkien

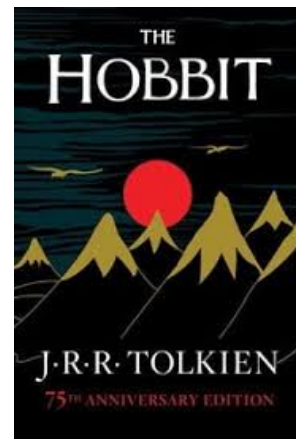
In order to be prepared for the fun adventures of English and to reinforce important concepts and analytical skills, you will be reading a story focused on a hero's journey.

****Remember that your reading assignment should be completed and posted into your Google Classroom prior to the first day of school. This counts as the first **test grade** of the year. When you return to school you will have an in-class written assignment to further check your understanding of the novel.**

As you read the novel you will keep a journal that shows how you are interacting with the text. This journal should be posted into the GoogleDoc template that you will have in your Google Classroom. Assignment is due BEFORE the first day of school.

Instructions:

- For every **3 chapters** of reading, you will write a journal entry between **7-10 sentences**. You will choose a direct quote/passage from the text and write about its overall significance, deeper meaning, and/or how you relate to it. (Your passage does not count as part of your sentences)
- You should have a **total of 5** journal entries (Chapter 19 will have a response of its own).
- Ideas for analyses you may choose to include:
 - Hidden meanings
 - Metaphors, allegory, similes, allusions, morals etc.
- Ideas for experiences you may choose to relate:
 - Memories
 - Other literary works
 - Real-life scenarios
 - Ethical/ social dilemmas
 - Historical context
- Along with your 10 entries you will fill in a roadmap of how *The Hobbit* follows the steps of a "hero's journey". You may Paraphrase or put direct quotes that stand for each step. The Steps are attached on the next page.



**** Your entry should have:**

1. A date
2. A citation/passage that is part of a quote sandwich. Make sure you are introducing the quote AND explaining its significance.
3. An analytical response of 7 to 10 sentences
4. Writing should be in MLA format (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced).

Should you have questions please reach out: anamelnichenko@andersonchristian.net

Friendly word of advice- Don't wait until the last minute to start reading, and enjoy your summer!

1. The call to adventure

This is the moment when the hero receives a call to adventure, which could come in the form of a message, a dream, or an encounter with a mentor or guide.

2. The refusal of the call

At this stage, the hero may initially refuse the call to adventure, often due to fear, doubt, or a sense of inadequacy.

3. Meeting the mentor

The hero encounters a mentor or guide who provides support, advice, and guidance on the journey ahead.

4. Crossing the threshold

The hero leaves behind the known world and crosses the threshold into the unknown, often encountering tests, trials, and challenges along the way.

5. Tests, allies, and enemies

The hero must navigate a series of tests, trials, and challenges, often with the help of allies and the opposition of enemies.

6. The approach to the innermost cave

The hero approaches the innermost cave or the heart of darkness, often facing their greatest fears and challenges.

7. The ordeal

This is the moment of the hero's greatest challenge, where they face a major obstacle or enemy and must overcome it to continue their journey.

8. The reward

The hero achieves a reward—often in the form of knowledge, insight, or a powerful object—that helps them on their journey.

9. The road back

The hero begins the journey back, often encountering new challenges and obstacles along the way.

10. The resurrection

The hero experiences a moment of death and rebirth, often symbolized by a physical or metaphorical transformation.

11. The return

The hero returns home, transformed and changed by their experiences, armed with new knowledge and insights that they can use to benefit their community.

12. The freedom to live

The hero achieves a state of freedom and enlightenment, often living happily ever after or in a state of balance and harmony.

***** HONOR PLEDGE: At the end of the journal, type the following honor pledge: I pledge that I your name read (not skimmed) all of *The Hobbit*. I pledge that I did not plagiarize (copy, use online source, or AI-generate) any part of my assignment.

Sample Journal Response:

First Last Name

Melnichenko

English 6th

Due Date

5th July, 2024

Sample Response:

Throughout the entirety of Bilbo's adventure with the dwarves he is excited to accomplish things that he was not able to before. He is ready to create a name for himself and see the world and all that it has to offer. As they go through various trials, he realizes that adventure is not all that it is cracked up to be. In fact, at one point in the novel he looks up at the mountain that they have been trekking towards and observes: "All alone it rose and looked across the marshes to the forest. The Lonely Mountain! Bilbo had come far and through many adventures to see it, and now he did not like the look of it in the least" (Tolkien pg). We see the profound change in his expectations. The entire journey he was expecting the thrill of fights and victories and when he sees what they are actually up against he becomes downcast. The loneliness of the mountain is a parallel to the emotional state that Bilbo finds himself in. He doesn't feel like he fits into the stereotypes of a hobbit, nor is he as brave and ferocious as a dwarf. Bilbo is finally compelled to address the fear that he has in being incapable of accomplishing what he had set out

to do. I can relate to this in many ways. There are times in my journey of growing up that I was so excited to accomplish certain things but when the time approached I was terrified and anxious to fail.