

The Hobbit

Chapters 13–15

by J. R. R. Tolkien

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: brooded, coveted, eminent, furtive, lust, parley, quench, recompense, remnant, wary

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–4 · Bilbo's unexpected party and the road out

Section 2 · Chapters 5–8 · Bilbo alone in the goblin tunnels

Section 3 · Chapters 9–12 · In the halls of the Wood-elves

Section 4 · Chapters 13–15 · Inside the Lonely Mountain

Section 5 · Chapters 16–19 · Under siege at the Lonely Mountain

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. He **brooded** over the lost game all week.

- A. planned to get even
- B. dwelt on it gloomily
- C. studied it for lessons

2. He **coveted** his neighbor's shiny new car.

- A. openly admired
- B. casually noticed
- C. longed to own

3. The **eminent** scientist was invited to speak at the conference.

- A. famous and respected
- B. strict and demanding
- C. wealthy and stylish

4. She cast a **furtive** glance toward the exit.

- A. secret and sneaky
- B. long and curious
- C. quick and nervous

5. A **lust** for power drove the young prince.

- A. a natural talent
- B. a deep respect
- C. an intense craving

6. The two generals agreed to **parley** before the battle resumed.

- A. regroup their troops
- B. scout the battlefield
- C. negotiate with the enemy

7. Firefighters rushed to **quench** the flames before the roof caught.

- A. put out a fire
- B. back away from danger
- C. block off an area

8. The workers demanded **recompense** for the hours they had lost.

- A. payment in return
- B. public recognition
- C. a formal apology

9. Only a **remnant** of the old forest still stood after the fire.

- A. a fenced-off section
- B. a small leftover bit
- C. the central, main part

10. The campers stayed **wary** as they crossed the dark woods.

- A. quiet and still
- B. cautious and watchful
- C. weary and worn out

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

it is an ill wind that blows no one any good — an old proverb saying that even a bad event usually benefits someone

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	C
7	A
8	A
9	B
10	B

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Long before the dwarves were tired of examining the treasures he became wary of it and sat down on the floor ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word “wary” most nearly suggests that Bilbo had grown...

- A. curious and eager
- B. guarded and distrustful
- C. weary and worn out

2 “... they met no sign of any living thing, only furtive shadows that fled from the approach of their torches ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the “furtive shadows” were...

- A. too slow to escape the light
- B. moving boldly toward the torches
- C. keeping out of sight on purpose

3 “... the lake was mightier than he, it would quench him before he could pass through.”

According to the passage, the lake could “quench” Smaug by...

- A. cooling his anger
- B. putting out his fire
- C. blocking his path across it

4 “He has tonight earned an eminent place in the roll of the benefactors of our town ...”

In context, the word “eminent” emphasizes...

- A. Bard’s high and honored standing
- B. Bard’s great personal wealth
- C. Bard’s skill with a bow

5 “From whom should we claim the recompense of our damage, and aid for our widows and orphans?”

The passage most strongly suggests that the speaker is demanding...

- A. payment for the harm they suffered
- B. revenge against the dragon
- C. more weapons to defend the town

6 “... they often brought us secret news, and were rewarded with such bright things as they coveted to hide in their dwellings.”

Which statement about the ravens and the bright things is best supported by the passage?

- A. They craved them and hid them away.
- B. They collected them to trade later.
- C. They feared and avoided them.

7 “... thirteen is small remnant of the great folk of Durin that once dwelt here, and now are scattered far.”

According to the passage, calling the thirteen a “small remnant” shows the dwarves are...

- A. newcomers to the Mountain
- B. a tiny fraction of a once-great people
- C. a band of cowardly survivors

8 “... the power that gold has upon which a dragon has long brooded ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that a dragon that has “long brooded” over gold has...

- A. quickly snatched it up
- B. forgotten where it lies
- C. sat over it for a long time

9 “... Thorin had spent in the treasury, and the lust of it was heavy on him.”

Which statement about Thorin is best supported by the passage?

- A. He is gripped by greed for the treasure.
- B. He is worn out by long labour.
- C. He is ashamed of his harsh words.

10 “I will not parley, as I have said, with armed men at my gate.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Thorin refuses to...

- A. fight the men gathered at his gate
- B. give up any of the treasure at all
- C. bargain with enemies who stay armed

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	C	
3	B	Here 'quench' stretches from putting out a fire to overpowering the fire-dragon himself.
4	A	
5	A	Event comprehension.
6	A	
7	B	
8	C	'Brooded' pictures the dragon sitting on the hoard as a bird broods its eggs.
9	A	Character comprehension.
10	C	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 13–15

With the dragon gone from the mountain, the company explores the treasure hoard and Bilbo quietly pockets the Arkenstone. Smaug attacks Lake-town and is killed, and then men, elves, and dwarves all converge on the mountain and its treasure as a tense standoff begins. Ends before 'A Thief in the Night' so the siege's resolution falls in the final section.