

The Hobbit

Chapters 16–19

by J. R. R. Tolkien

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: bewilderment, dislodged, dominion, grievous, heedless, heirloom, hoarded, onslaught, reconciliation, stricken

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. The twisting maze filled the visitors with **bewilderment**.

- A. quiet boredom
- B. deep confusion
- C. rising frustration

2. The strong wind **dislodged** a tile from the roof.

- A. forced out of place
- B. shook back and forth
- C. cracked into pieces

3. Within a year the prince had established his **dominion**.

- A. fame and honor
- B. rule and authority
- C. wealth and fortune

4. The loss of their home was a **grievous** blow to the family.

- A. severe and hard to bear
- B. sudden and unexpected
- C. strange and hard to explain

5. His **heedless** driving frightened the passengers.

- A. nervous and unsure
- B. loud and showy
- C. careless and inattentive

6. My mother keeps the **heirloom** locked in a wooden box.

- A. a rare item bought at auction
- B. a family item passed down
- C. a gift bought for a birthday

7. She **hoarded** snacks in her room all winter long.

- A. greedily stored away
- B. set aside for emergencies
- C. neatly stacked on a shelf

8. The soldiers braced for the enemy's **onslaught**.

- A. a bold demand
- B. a clever plan
- C. a fierce attack

9. After years apart, the brothers hoped for **reconciliation**.

- A. a written apology
- B. a share of the inheritance
- C. a renewal of friendship

10. She stood **stricken** the moment she heard the news.

- A. overcome by strong emotion
- B. lost in quiet thought
- C. confused and unsure

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

tarry — to delay or linger; to wait

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 "... they may find their dwelling in the Waste grievous to bear."

As it is used in the passage, the word "grievous" most nearly suggests that life in the Waste would be...

- A. very hard to endure
- B. shameful and disgraceful
- C. full of grief and sorrow

2 "Then Thorin was stricken dumb with amazement and confusion."

It can reasonably be inferred that, in this moment, Thorin was...

- A. calmly pretending surprise
- B. too overwhelmed to speak
- C. roused to sudden anger

3 "But how came you by the heirloom of my house – if there is need to ask such a question of thieves?"

Which statement about the Arkenstone is best supported by Thorin's words?

- A. He purchased it himself.
- B. It belongs to all dwarves.
- C. It is a family inheritance.

4 "... so strong was the bewilderment of the treasure upon him ..."

In context, the word "bewilderment" emphasizes how the treasure...

- A. confuses everyone who sees it
- B. frightens Thorin into silence
- C. clouds and controls Thorin's mind

5 "Let us hope still for something that will bring reconciliation."

The passage most strongly suggests that the Elvenking...

- A. is preparing to strike first
- B. still hopes to make peace
- C. is only stalling for time

6 "... they resolved now to win the dominion of the North."

According to the passage, the goblins resolved to...

- A. take control of the North
- B. trade with the North
- C. explore the lands of the North

7 "They had only stemmed the first onslaught of the black tide."

It can reasonably be inferred that the defenders...

- A. were barely attacked at all
- B. have won the battle for good
- C. still face fiercer attacks to come

8 "Down, heedless of order, rushed all the dwarves of Dain to his help."

According to the passage, the dwarves of Dain rushed to Thorin's help...

- A. ignoring all discipline
- B. waiting for Bard's signal
- C. obeying Thorin's command

9 "If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

Which idea is best supported by Thorin's words about "hoarded gold"?

- A. Gold must be guarded well.
- B. Joy outweighs stored-up gold.
- C. Gold should be shared out.

10 "They it was who dislodged the goblins from the mountain-slopes, casting them over precipices, or driving them down shrieking and bewildered among their foes."

The passage most strongly suggests that the eagles...

- A. forced the goblins out of position
- B. were trapped on the slopes
- C. made peace with the goblins

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	C	
4	C	The word is more than plain confusion here — it names the treasure's maddening, deluding hold on Thorin's mind.
5	B	Character comprehension.
6	A	
7	C	
8	A	
9	B	Theme comprehension. Thorin's dying line is the book's central lesson — simple joys matter more than greedily stored wealth.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 16–19

Bilbo tries to broker peace by secretly handing over the Arkenstone, the Battle of Five Armies is fought, and the quest reaches its costly end. Bilbo then makes the long journey home to find his own affairs in disorder. Section runs to the end of the novel.