

Course Overview: *Harry Potter II & The Hobbit*

A. WHO? (Characters)

- Discuss the similarities and differences between these parallel characters in the two stories: Dumbledore/Gandalf; Harry Potter/Bilbo; Dobby/Gollum. Can you think of any other parallel roles?
- What imaginary/supernatural creatures appear in the two stories? To what effect?
- Are there any parallels in Harry Potter to the 'nations' appearing in *The Hobbit*, notably the Dwarfs, the Goblins, the Elves, the Wolves and the Eagles?

B. WHERE? (Places)

- Discuss the similarities and differences between the main locations and landscapes described in the two stories.
- How important are traveling and journeys in the two stories?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the geography of the world of Harry Potter and that of *The Hobbit*.

C. WHEN? (Times)

- Discuss the similarities and differences between the temporal settings of the two stories.
- Discuss the sense of history encountered in the two stories.
- How important are the ideas of the cycle of the seasons, repetition and return in each of the two stories?

D. WHAT? (Events)

- Discuss the similarities and differences between the concepts/practices of magic in the two stories.
- How important are the ideas of mystery and quest in the two stories?
- Discuss the importance of these ideas in the two narratives: friendship, sacrifice, betrayal, conflict, death, salvation.

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E. HOW? (Style and Tone)

- To what narrative genre or genres would you assign the two stories?
- Discuss the nature of the narrator (story-teller) in the two stories.
- Discuss the character and style of the language found in the two stories.

F. WHY? (Context and Theme)

- Discuss the treatment of the ideas of good and evil found in the two stories in relation to Christian or other religious beliefs.
- Discuss the treatment of war and conflict in the two stories in relation to the periods in which they were written.
- What are the main similarities and the main differences between the themes and values of *The Hobbit* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*?