

The Hobbit 2 (Chs.5-7): Discussion Questions

A. WHO? (Characters)

1. How much do Bilbo and Gandalf change in these chapters? How much does the way we see them change?
2. How many new kinds of talking creatures do we meet in this section? What are the characteristics of each? What do they represent?

B. WHERE? (Places)

3. Each of the three chapters has a different main setting: Gollum's lake; the wolf glade and the eagle eyrie; and Beorn's hall? What kinds of places are these?
4. How important is the sense of DIRECTION in the story: East and West; North and South; up and down; left and right?

C. WHEN? (Times)

5. Again, how much time passes during and between each of the chapters? Again, how significant are times and seasons?
6. Are there any points in the story here where the focus is on the distant past or the distant future rather than on what is happening in the narrative present? What is the purpose of these moments?

D. WHAT? (Events)

7. What are the main things that happen in each of the three chapters? Are any of the events REPETITIONS of what has happened before in any sense?
8. What do you think is going to happen in the next chapter? And the chapters after that?

~~~~~

### E. HOW? (Style and Genre)

9. Think of special moments of Comedy in this section; also moments of Horror? What is their effect in the story?
10. Why the riddle game in Chapter 5? What are riddles? In what other stories are they found?

### F. WHY? (Context and Theme)

11. Tolkien was a professor of Old and Middle English Language and Literature? Is this important?
12. Where in this section are we explicitly encouraged to think about the nature of Good and Evil?