

The Hobbit 3 (Chs.8-11): Discussion Questions

A. WHO? (Characters)

1. How many dwarves are there in Bilbo's company? Does the number matter? Which ones can you remember by name? Why those in particular?
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 four chapters has a different main setting: Mirkwood; the Elven King's Hall; Lake Town; and the Lonely Mountain? What kinds of places are these?
4. Look at the two maps accompanying the story (the one not found in the paperback version is attached here). Trace the journeys described in these chapters. What details are found on the maps that are not mentioned in the story itself?

C. WHEN? (Times)

5. During which season(s) do the events described take place? Where in these chapters are the motion of the sun and moon described in detail? For what purpose?
6. How important is the sense of history in this novel? Is there any sense in which each of the kinds of talking creatures has its own distinct history?

D. WHAT? (Events)

7. What are the main events that occur in each of the four chapters? Chapters 10 and 11 are much briefer than those that go before. Does it matter?
8. On their journey, the company travel by many different means. What new forms of transportation are used in these chapters? Is it important?

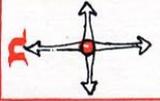
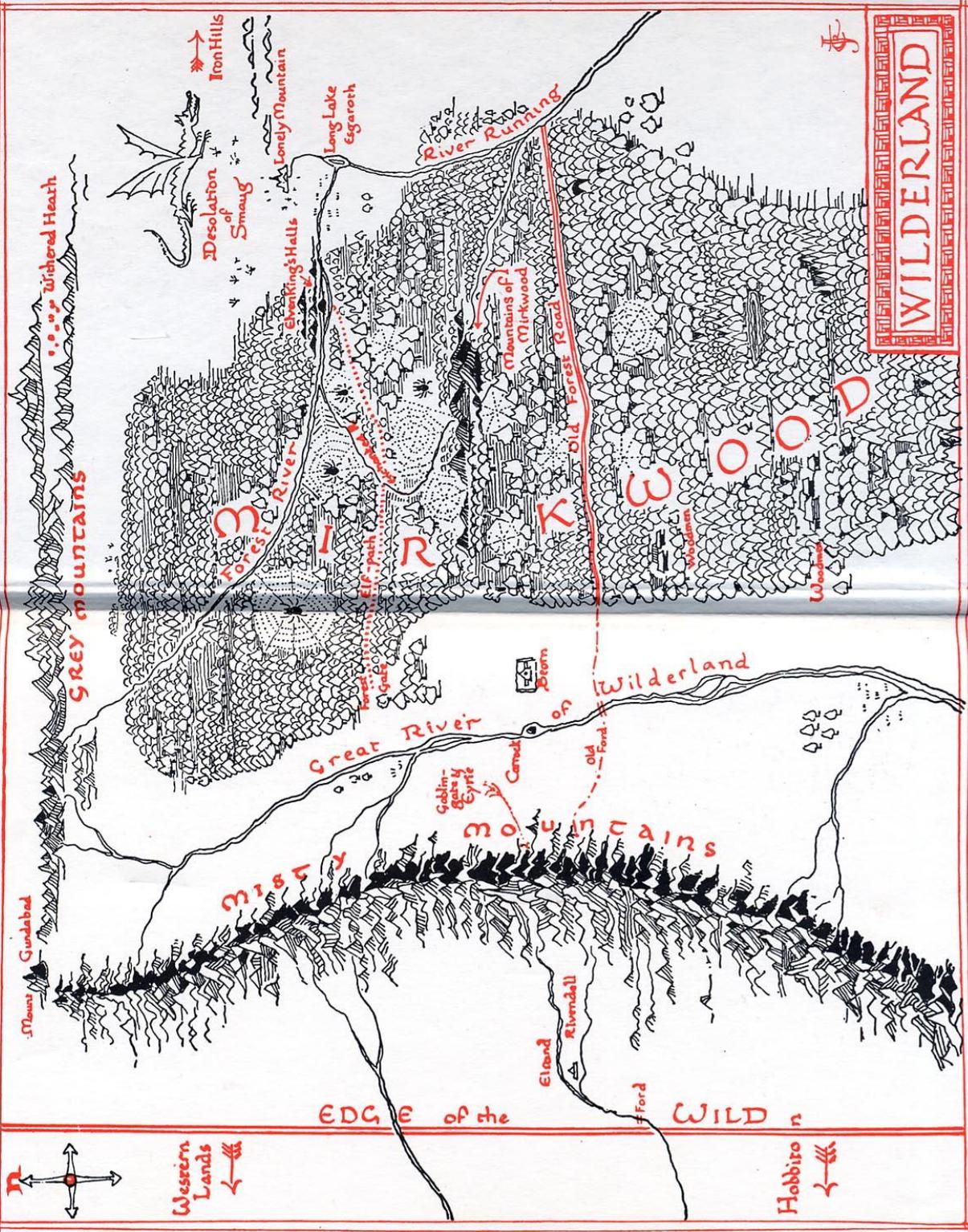
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### E. HOW? (Style and Genre)

9. As you read *The Hobbit*, are you reminded of any other well-known stories that you know? Which stories? What events or actions are familiar? What about the little bird at the end?
10. What does the word "symbol" mean? Can you think of any patterns of symbols in the story – for example, Christian symbolism or Freudian Symbolism?

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

11. Think about the role of food in the story. How is the act of eating generally presented? Are drinking and smoking generally described in negative or positive way?
12. Think back to our earlier discussions of the absence of female characters on *The Hobbit*. How important is it that the story was written by a man rather than a woman?



Western Lands ←

Hobbiton ←

WILDERLAND