

## ***The Hobbit D (Chs.12-14): Discussion Questions***

### A. WHO? (Characters)

1. What sort of creature is Smaug the dragon? How is he presented? What does he represent? How does he compare with the basilisk that Harry Potter finds in the Chamber of Secrets at the end of the story?
2. Who is Bard? What role does he play in the story in these chapters? How does he compare with the Master of the lake-town?

### B. WHERE? (Places)

3. The journey reaches its end inside the Lonely Mountain. What sort of place is this and what does it represent?
4. What happens to the lake-town Esgaroth in the course of these chapters?

### C. WHEN? (Times)

5. How long are Bilbo and the dwarves inside the mountain? How much of that time is spent in darkness?
6. How much time passes during the course of Chapter 14? What do we learn about the history of the lake-town Esgaroth in the course of these chapters?

### D. WHAT? (Events)

7. Bilbo uses the phrase “third time pays for all” twice in the course of these chapters? In what situations? What events is he referring to on each occasion?
8. When Bilbo eventually gets to the heart of the mountain, what treasure does he find there? What do he take and the dwarves take from among the treasure during these chapters? Why is this important?

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

9. Look at the riddling language that Bilbo uses with Smaug in 12. How does this compare with the riddle game with Gollum in chapter 5.
10. How does Smaug himself talk? What effect does this have on the description of the events under the mountain?

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

11. How important is the desire for money and wealth as a motive in the story? Are men and dwarves shown to be different in this respect?
12. Who are the heroes in these chapters? What values do they represent?