

The Hobbit E (Chs.15-19): Discussion Questions

A. WHO? (Characters)

1. How many talking birds appear in these chapters? What role do they have in the story?
2. Think of Thorin's Company (Gandalf, Bilbo and the dwarves) at the opening and closing of the story. How much has our view of all of them changed?

B. WHERE? (Places)

3. Where does the Battle of the Five Armies take place? What significance does it have in the story?
4. Look at the map of Wilderland at the end of the volume. Compare it with the map of the West of Middle Earth found in *The Lord of the Rings* (attached)? What are the main differences?

C. WHEN? (Times)

5. When and where does Gandalf reappear in the story? How long has he been absent? What is the significance of his return?
6. How long does Bilbo's return journey take? How is it described? What does the future seem to hold at the end of the story?

D. WHAT? (Events)

7. What are the main events that take place in the closing part of the story? Were you surprised in any way by how the story concluded? Are there any problems left unsolved at the end?
8. How many individual deaths are described in the story? How creatures are described as dying *en masse*? What attitude does the story take to their deaths?

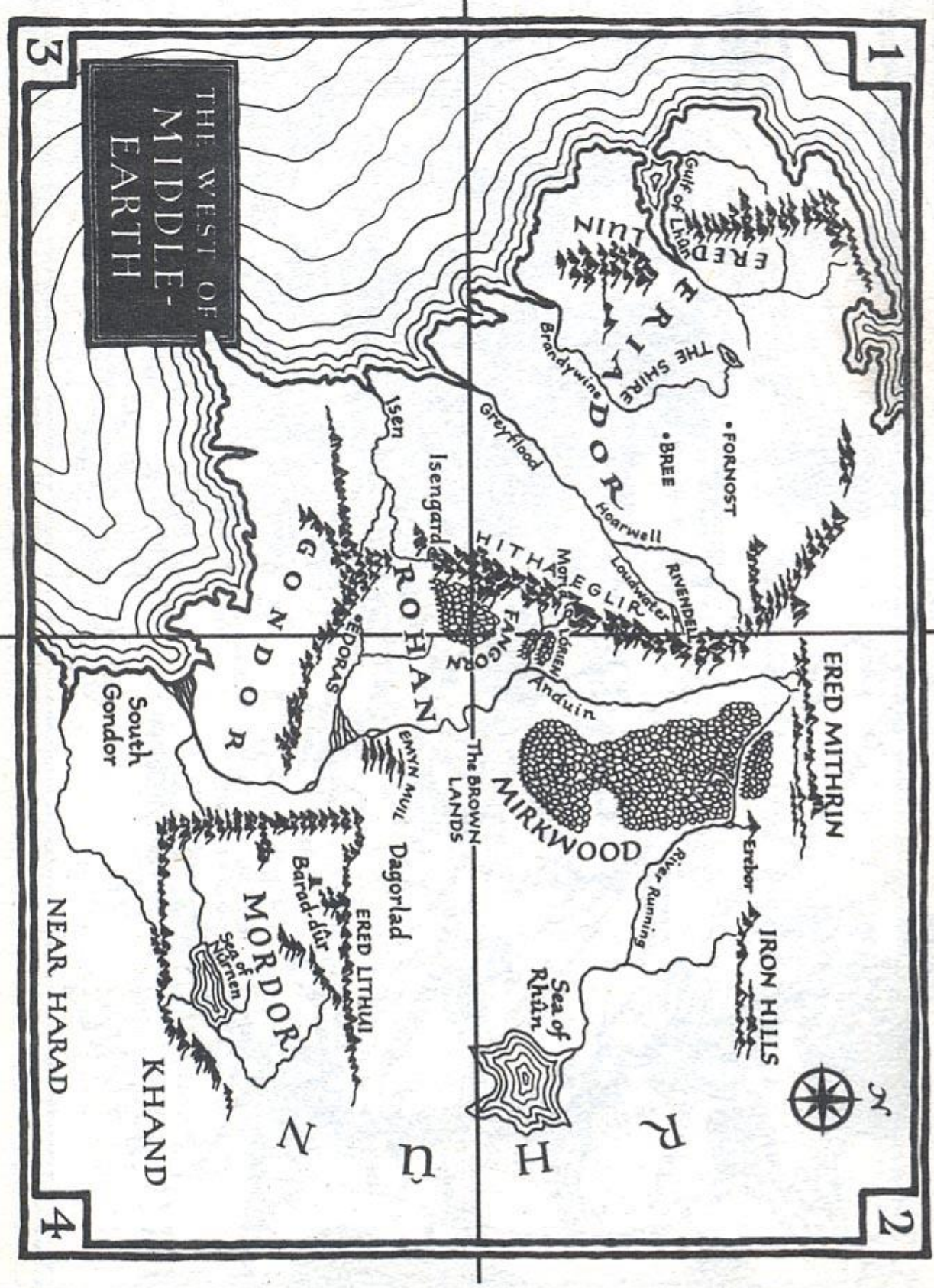
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### E. HOW? (Style and Genre)

9. Think about the dialogue in the novel – in particular about how the different creatures talk. Do they all talk in the same way? Do you notice any changes in the way both the narrator and the characters speak in the closing parts of the story?
10. What sort of story is an epic? Is the term useful to describe the ending of *The Hobbit*?

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

11. This last part of the story contains many scenes of conflict and battle. What attitude does the narrator take towards war? How does this relate to the time the story was written?
12. What are the main similarities and the main differences between the themes and values of this story and those of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*?



THE WEST OF  
MIDDLE-  
EARTH

3

1

2

4