

The Hobbit

Chapter 10 questions

1. Tolkien takes great care to describe the settings that he uses throughout the story. Compare the area of Lake-Town to Mirkwood. Describe the look, mood, and feel of both. Why do you think Tolkien describes the setting of Lake-Town in the way that he does?
2. Roughly how long did the dwarves spend in their barrels? Provide evidence from the text.
3. Why are the dwarves happy? Why is Bilbo unhappy?
4. What is the reaction of the people of Lake-Town to the arrival of the dwarves? Why?
5. What is the Master's reaction when Thorin announces his departure? Why?
6. "Some sang too that Thrór and Thráin would come back one day and gold would flow in rivers through mountain gates, and all that land would be filled with new song and new laughter. But this pleasant legend did not much affect their daily business" What do you think it means that they do not take their legends seriously?
7. The Master of Lake-Town is a shrewd businessman. Provide examples from the text to support this.

Chapter 11 Questions

1. Why is it easier for the men of Lake-Town to believe in the dragon and more difficult for them to believe in Thorin and company in the middle of the wild?
2. Why did the men of the town refuse to stay overnight where the dwarves disembarked?
3. Describe their surroundings as the adventurers moved nearer to the Mountain.
4. Which dwarf informs Bilbo that he was in the Dale the day the Dragon attacked?
5. Describe in detail what Bilbo and his companions saw on their scouting expedition?
6. Explain how Bilbo begins to take a leadership role in their quest.
7. How does Bilbo finally unlock the riddle and the secret door?

Chapter 12 Question

1. How did the dwarves respond when Bilbo asked for volunteers to accompany him into the Mountain?
2. What took away Bilbo's breath?
3. Describe the dragon.
4. What did Bilbo carry back to the dwarves?
5. How do we know that Smaug kept close tabs on his treasure?
6. What analogy does the author use when describing the dragon's rage?

7. What indication is there that Bilbo is turning into a real leader?
8. What can no dragon resist?
9. What was Bilbo pleased to see when he tricked the dragon into displaying his underside? Why do you think he's pleased?
10. Why does Bilbo regret his comment about the Barrel-rider to Smaug?
11. Why does Bilbo throw a stone at the thrush?
12. How did the band of adventurers become trapped in the Mountain?

Chapter 13 Questions

1. Explain the significance of the title of this chapter.
2. Why do the dwarves finally relent and make their way down the dark tunnel to Smaug's lair?
3. What does Bilbo confiscate from the mound of treasure?
4. How does Tolkien use the treasure to portray the dwarves in a negative light?
5. What does Thorin offer Baggins as a reward for his assistance?
6. In addition to the gems and gold, what else did the dwarves confiscate?
7. Why did Thorin offer to lead the group of adventurers to the Front Gate?

Chapter 14 Questions

1. How do the townspeople taking a stroll on the quays, interpret the flickering light at the northern end of the lake?
2. How do the townspeople react to the initial warnings from the Bard?
3. How does the Bard save the day?
4. What important role does the thrush play in the demise of the dragon?
5. Why does the Master grind his chattering teeth?
6. How does the Master redirect the crowds anger?
7. What did the Elvenking think had happened to Thorin and the dwarves when he received news of Smaug's death?
8. Who came to the Bard's assistance thus enabling the townspeople to survive the approaching winter?

Chapter 15 Questions

1. Why would the presence of carrion birds suggest that a battle is imminent?
2. Who is Roac?
3. What news does Roac bring to the dwarves?
4. What course of action did Thorin choose after hearing the news?
5. How does the Bard justify his claim and also that of his men to Smaug's treasure?
6. What conditions did Thorin insist on before he would negotiate any terms of settlement with the Bard?

Chapter 16 Questions

1. What does Thorin vow to do to anyone who withholds the Arkenstone?
2. Who was the "thief in the night"?
3. How was Bilbo able to escape?
4. Why did Bilbo give the Arkenstone to the Bard?
5. Who delights Bilbo with his presence just as the hobbit is preparing to depart the camp for his return to the Mountain?

Chapter 17 Questions

1. What terms do Thorin and Bard come to? Bard keeps the Arkenstone and gives it back later for some gold and treasures
2. What army makes the first attack?
3. Name the armies in the Battle of the Five Armies?
4. What stops Thorin's advance?
5. Where does Bilbo take his final stand? Why?

Chapter 18 Questions

1. How does Bilbo's magic ring both help and hurt him in the Battle of the Five Armies?
2. State a generalization about life from the following quotation.

"This is a bitter adventure, if it must end so; and not a mountain of gold can amend it. Yet I am glad that I have shared in your perils—that has been more than any Baggins deserves." "No!" said Thorin. "There is more in you of good than you know, child of the kindly West. Some courage and some wisdom, blended in measure. If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

3. In the end what is Bilbo's reward for helping the dwarves regain their mountain?

Chapter 19 Questions

1. Where was Gandalf while the expedition crossed Mirkwood?
2. How long do Bilbo and Gandalf stay at Rivendell?
3. Why do they walk at the end of their journey?
4. Why are Bilbo's goods being auctioned?
5. What changes does Balin notice in Bilbo?
6. What happened to the old Master of Lake-town?