

The Hobbit Summer Reading

Text Edition

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (ISBN: 9780547928227, Houghton Mifflin 2012). For your convenience, the Barnes & Noble La Cantera location has agreed to carry this title in stock. Students must use this edition for common pagination purposes.

Why We Read

In sixth grade, we start the adventure of Bilbo Baggins, then in seventh grade we watch Frodo take the sought-after ring on a journey, and finally in eighth grade we watch the forces of good and evil battle as the journey continues. These books are not books that can be easily discerned at first glance, but require many levels of reading and understanding. The summer is a good opportunity to bring this literature to the student and have each one read and ponder the great questions of life.

In Humanities our vision statement is:

We, the Humanities Department at the Geneva School of Boerne, desire to engage our students in the Great Conversation of Human Civilization and to enable them to see the beauty and power of the written and spoken word so that their minds may be sharpened to properly understand the world in which they live. To this end and for these reasons the Humanities Department at Geneva is wholeheartedly dedicated to the worth of grammar mastery, the warrant of logical reasoning, and the weight of rhetorical skill.

Our desire for our students is to enter this “great conversation” through Tolkien’s literature, and thereby to begin to exercise the early muscle of sharpening their minds. Learning to tackle difficult reading is one way your mental muscle is developed. This mental work is sharpening your abilities; there is great reward (and enjoyment) in working toward this goal.

A reading guide is provided for each incoming sixth grader to guide him or her through the basic understanding of the story which we will further explore in class this fall.

Introduction to The Hobbit

The author J.R.R. Tolkien set out to create a myth for England similar to the myths of the Roman gods and the Greek gods. He wove a beautiful tale of beauty, adventure, bravery and fellowship. You will follow Bilbo Baggins as he steps out his door on a rather unlikely day with thirteen dwarves and a wizard named Gandalf to an unknown land to help reclaim a lost treasure. Along the way, this unlikely grouping encounters trolls, giant spiders, eagles, goblins and the fiercest of all creatures, a dragon named Smaug.

Helpful Hints for Reading The Hobbit

Have your student answer the questions for each chapter immediately after reading it. Please do not see the movies. The movies do not follow the book and can confuse the student. Please do not rely on Spark notes to get information or enlighten understanding. If your student is having difficulty, have your student:

1. Read aloud, this helps multisensory learners.
2. Keep notes of key people and events (feel free to write in your book.)
3. Write down any questions you may have in your book.
4. Browse the chapter first, and then read it for detail.
5. Re-visit previous chapters once you have a greater understanding of the story.
6. Listen to it on an audio book *while* reading along.
7. Discuss with a parent or a fellow student.

Some other helps are to set up a chapter-by-chapter reading schedule for your student. It may be more beneficial to count back from the start of school in the fall to determine the start of the assignment rather than attempting to tackle it right after coming off of a school year. For most students, it is best to start after a break with a refreshed mind.

Themes to Look for as You Read The Hobbit

We will be thinking about these and discussing them in class this fall:

- How does Bilbo change over the course of this adventure?
- Bilbo's hobbit-hole is only one of many important refuges. What does home mean to Bilbo and how does it affect his perspective while on his adventure?
- In what ways is the dwarves' quest for treasure also a quest for home?
- Which key episodes in the novel give us insight into Bilbo's particular definition of right and wrong?

Possible Summer Activities

While the summer reading assignment is not a group activity, getting together with others for discussion and themed activities is a great way to enjoy the book together.

Here are some ideas:

- Have a *Hobbit* Launch Party to get everyone excited about this great adventure.
- Second breakfasts, picnics, and teas al fresco. The Cibolo Nature Center and other parks are a great resource to take advantage of in the summer.
- Hobbit cooking. Get together to make some delicious recipes. *An Unexpected Cookbook* by Chris-Rachael Oseland is a great resource for this.
- Hobbit costuming. Make yourself a hobbit, dwarf or elf. You can use your costume later in the school year for our *Annual Tolkien Day* in January.
- After reading about the stay at Beorn's, why not have an overnight camp-out in tents in a few backyards?
- Commemorate the Battle of the Five Armies with a game of "Capture the Flag".

- Have a celebratory party to mark the completion of the book.

Some Parameters to Keep in Mind

The Humanities teachers ask that:

1. All students complete the reading of the book on their own.
2. All assigned writing and activities in the Study Guide be completed individually. These are not to be brought to any group discussions.
3. All students make any margin notes on their own, not as a group or in a group setting.
4. All Students not watch any of the movies since they do not follow the book.

I welcome your ideas and creativity, and ask that any new idea you may have to be run by me first. You may email me at mclifford@genevaschooltx.org with any ideas or questions.

Enjoy this unexpected journey this summer!

Every good wish,

Mary Clifford

Logic School Humanities

The Geneva School of Boerne

The Hobbit Summer Reading Guide

This reading guide is designed to help you understand what you are reading, as well as to help you think about the themes and ideas presented in the book. Each chapter has questions, games or a creative assignment for you to complete.

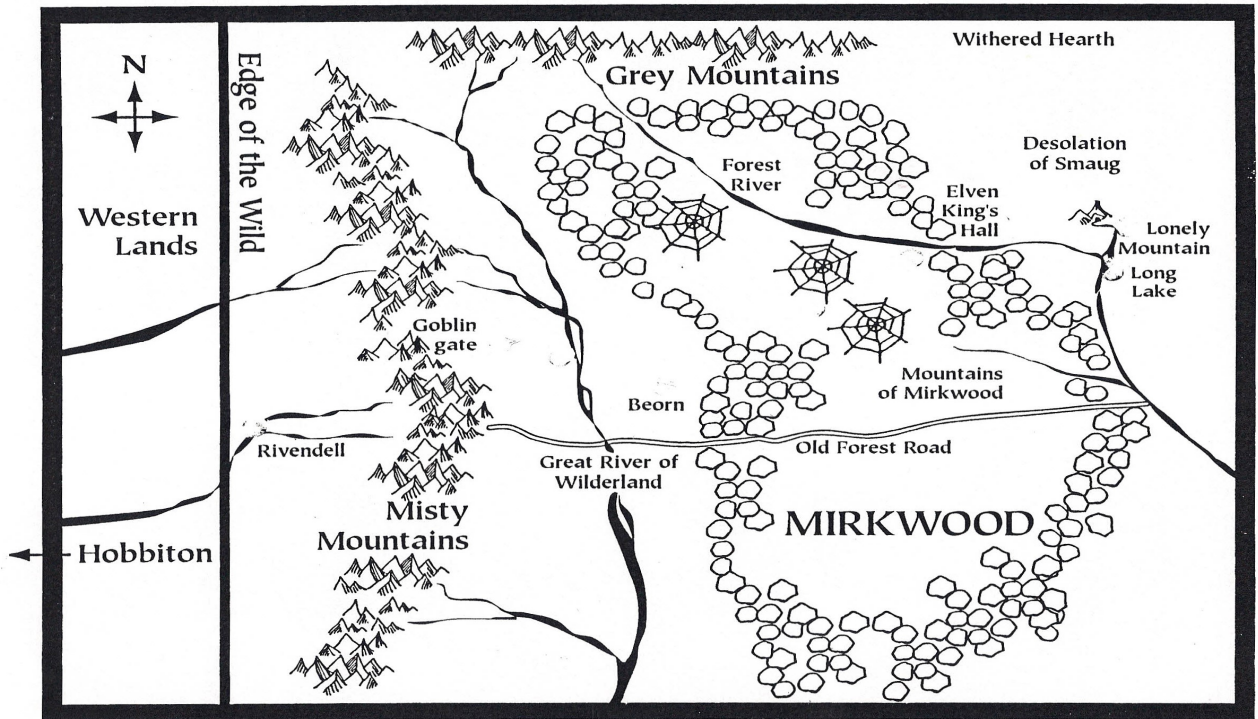
Please do all assignments directly in this reading guide. Remember to answer all questions in complete sentences that restate the question. Also, please use a black or blue pen and write in your neatest cursive.

For illustrations, you may use pencil, crayon, ink or colored pencil, as long as they are colorful.

I hope you find this reading guide a fun way to explore *The Hobbit* as it also prepares you for our class discussions this fall. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to discussing this great book with you in the fall!

Every good wish,

Mrs. Clifford



Ch.1 *An Unexpected Party:*

In Chapter 1, we are introduced to Bilbo and his way of life. We find the unexpected visit of Gandalf, followed by the unexpected visit of the thirteen dwarves. Gandalf has enlisted Bilbo to be the “burglar” on the Dwarves quest for their treasure in the Lonely Mountain.

1. How do the dwarves know to come to Bilbo’s house?

2. What is important to Bilbo? How can you tell? With what does he struggle?

3. Why is this treasure so important to Thorin and company? Is there something more than just the riches?

4. What does Gandalf have that helps them find the secret entrance?

Chapter 2 *Roast Mutton*

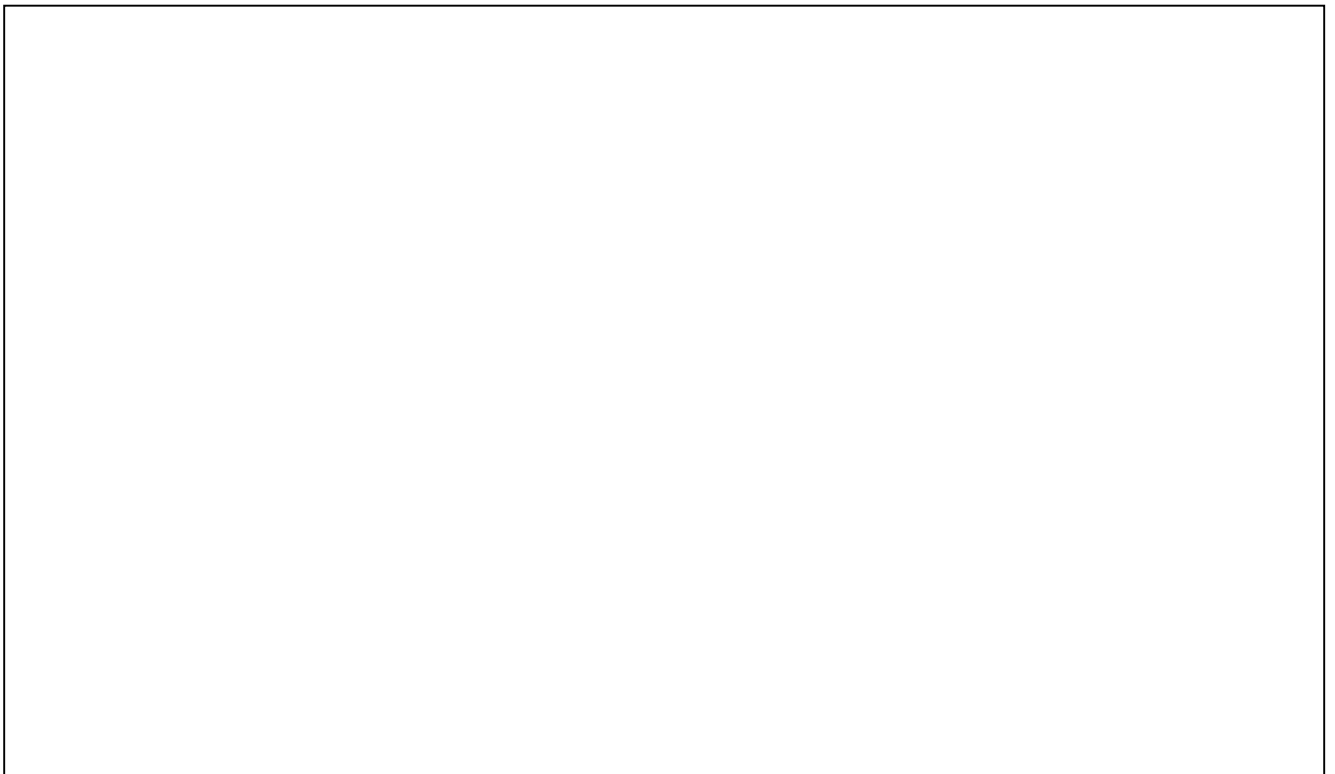
1. Where do the dwarves leave a message for Bilbo?

2. How do the trolls know Bilbo is there?

3. Whose is the voice that keeps the trolls arguing?

4. What does Bilbo get from the trolls' lair?

Draw a picture of the trolls and label them with their names.
































Chapter 3 *A Short Rest*

1. Why is Durin's Day important?

Do the Rune Translation Project on the following pages.

THE HOBBIT

Rune Translation Project

A 	B 	D 	E 	F 	G/J (soft) 
G (hard) 	H 	I 	K 	L 	M 
N 	O 	P 	R 	S 	T 
U 	V 	W 	Y (consonant) 	Z 	Th 
Sh 	Ch 	ng 	word space 	indicates long vowel sound 	

THE HOBBIT

Rune Translation Project, Page 2

Translate the following, then circle the true statements.

HMBBITM • AMTH • HAIMTMM

HAFRAM • NFA • BMRHM

HMMX • IZ • N • AIZFRM

BIMB • IZ • N • HMBBIT

FRIT • MMHZ • PM • HAFRAM

BIMB • IZ • TMT

The Hobbit

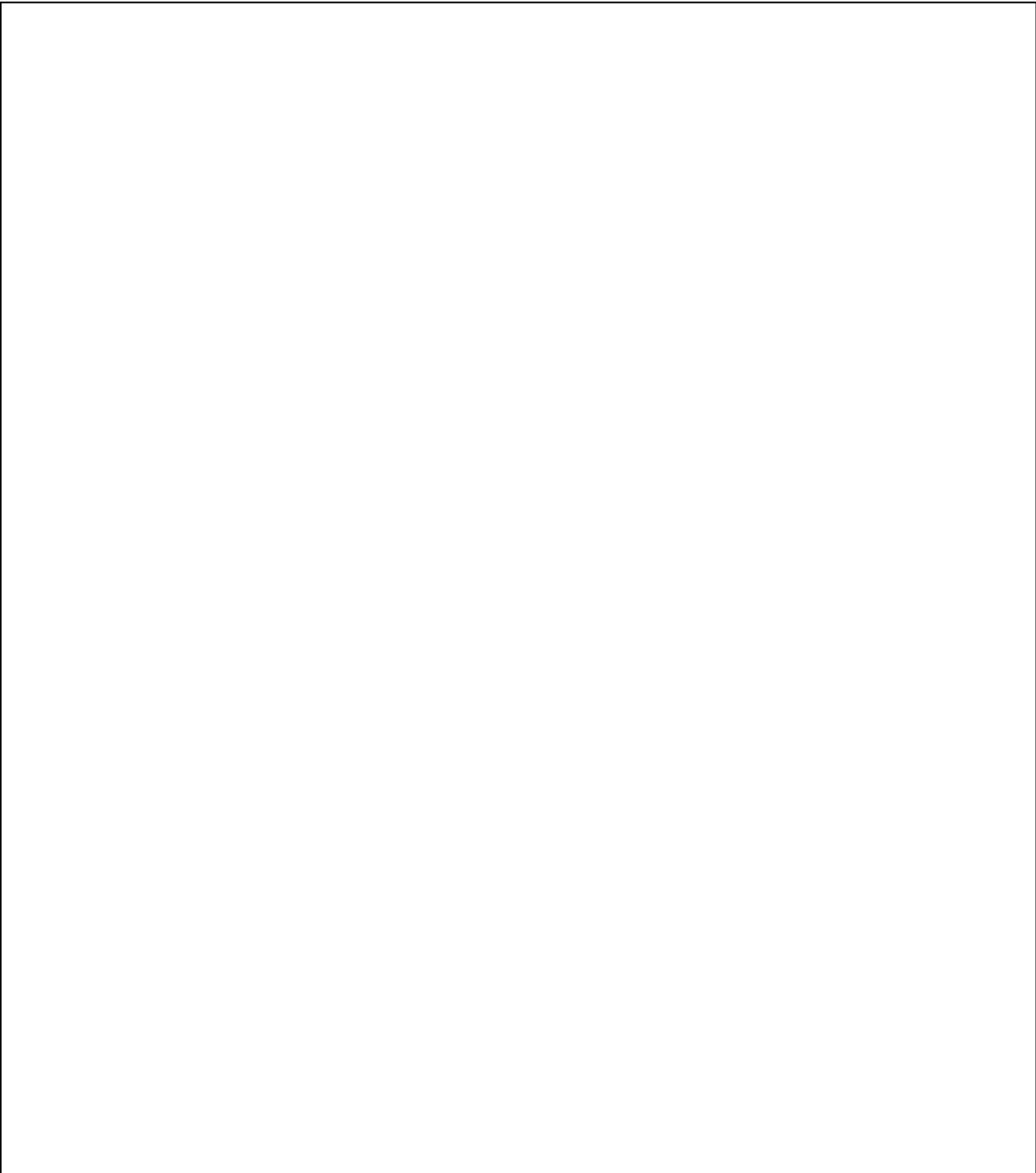
Tolkien wrote it.

There and back again.

Chapter 4 Over Hill and Under Hill

1. Who are Biter and Beater?

2. Please illustrate why the group has to find shelter.



Chapter 5 Riddles in the Dark

1. Write four adjectives Tolkien uses to describe Gollum:

2. What will Gollum receive if he wins the riddle competition? What will Bilbo receive?

3. What is the riddle that Gollum cannot solve? What is the answer?

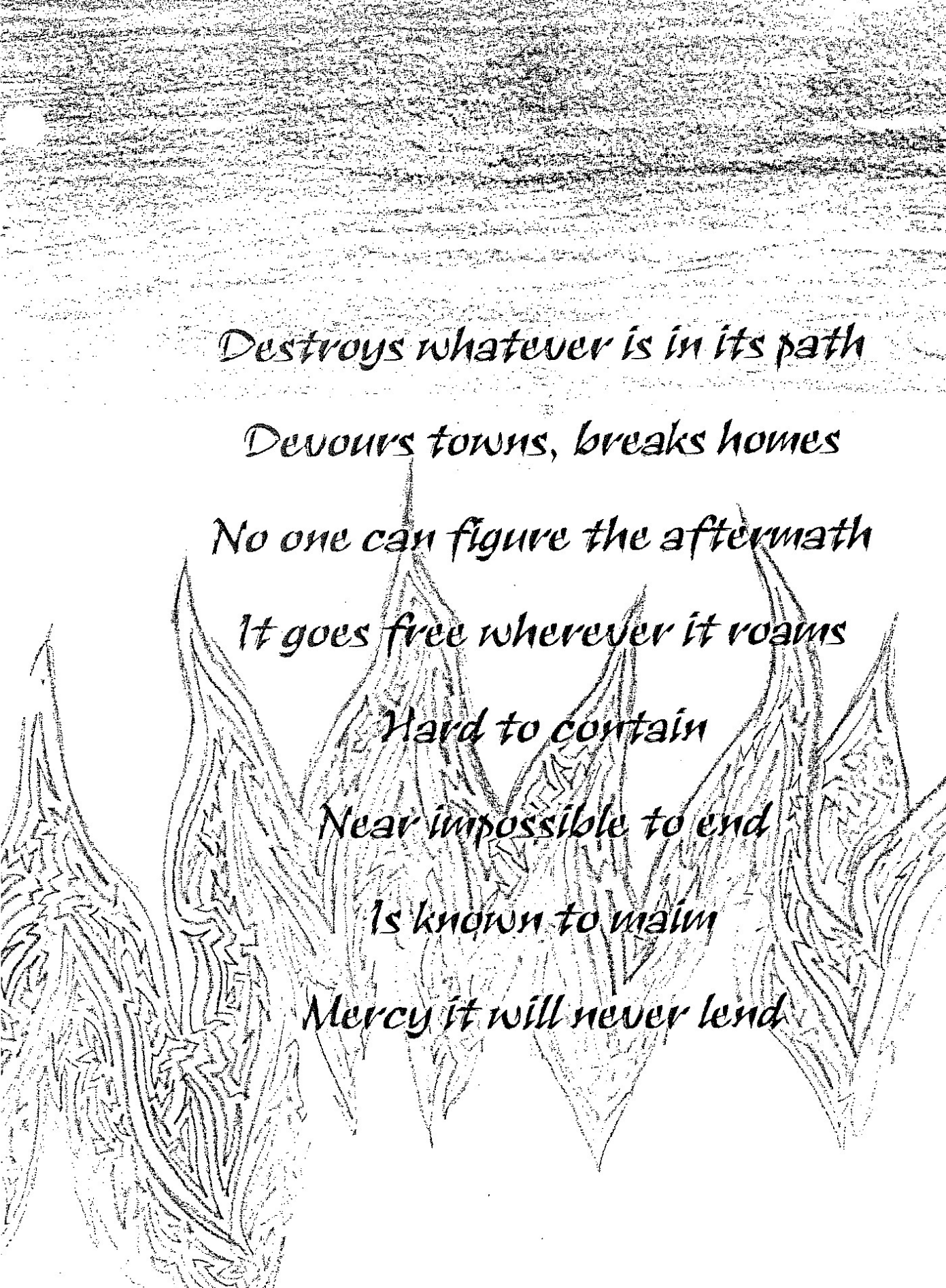
Riddle Project:

Hobbits are very fond of riddles. Bilbo's grasp of riddles saves him from being eaten by Gollum. Choose an everyday object and on the next page write a riddle which describes it. Write the answer to the riddle on the *back* of the sheet. Make sure to include an illustration as well. An example is provided for you behind the blank page.

Riddle Project

Name:

A large rectangular frame with rounded corners, intended for a student to write their name and a riddle. The frame is empty and occupies most of the page below the title and name label.



Destroys whatever is in its path

Devours towns, breaks homes

No one can figure the aftermath

It goes free wherever it roams

Hard to contain

Near impossible to end

Is known to maim

Mercy it will never lend

Answer: Fire

Chapter 6 *Out of the Frying-Pan and into the Fire*

1. The title of this chapter is an idiom. An idiom is an expression or phrase that has a figurative (or sometimes literal) meaning. Example: *It is raining cats and dogs.* What does the title of this chapter mean?

Think of another idiom and write it down. _____

What is its meaning? _____

2. On his way out, what important decision does Bilbo make about Gollum?

3. How had Gandalf helped the Lord of Eagles?

4. Why don't the eagles take the dwarves close to where the men live?

Chapter 7 Queer Lodgings

1. What does Beorn warn the group not to do at night when they stay at his house?

2. From the tracks he finds, what does Gandalf believe happened that night?

3. What does Beorn provide for the group on their journey?

Chapter 8 *Fliqs and Spidqrs*

1. Who falls into the enchanted stream? How does he fall in? What do the dwarves have to do for him?

2. What are the dwarves shooting at when they use up all of their arrows?

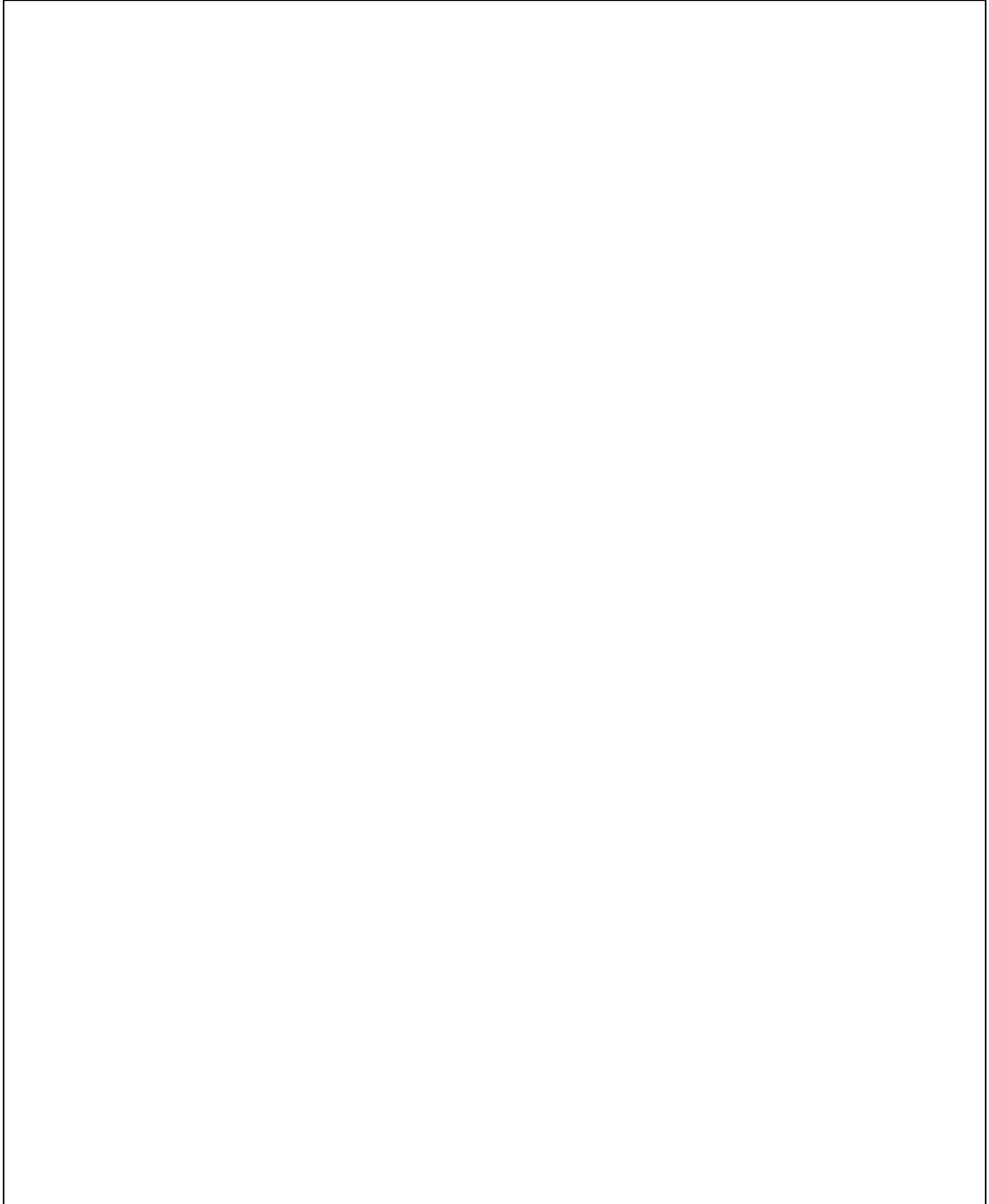
3. What does Bilbo name his sword? Why?

4. How does Bilbo lure the spiders away from the dwarves?

5. When they get away from the spiders, who is missing?

Chapter 10 *A Warm Welcome*

1. Draw a picture of Lake Town. Be sure to include the Master of Lake Town in your illustration and label him.



Chapter 11 *On the Doorstep*

1. Who stays behind to guard the dwarves' possessions and then refuses to climb the path or be lifted up by rope?

2. Name two things done unsuccessfully by the dwarves to get the door open.

3. What makes a sound at the time when the keyhole could be spotted?

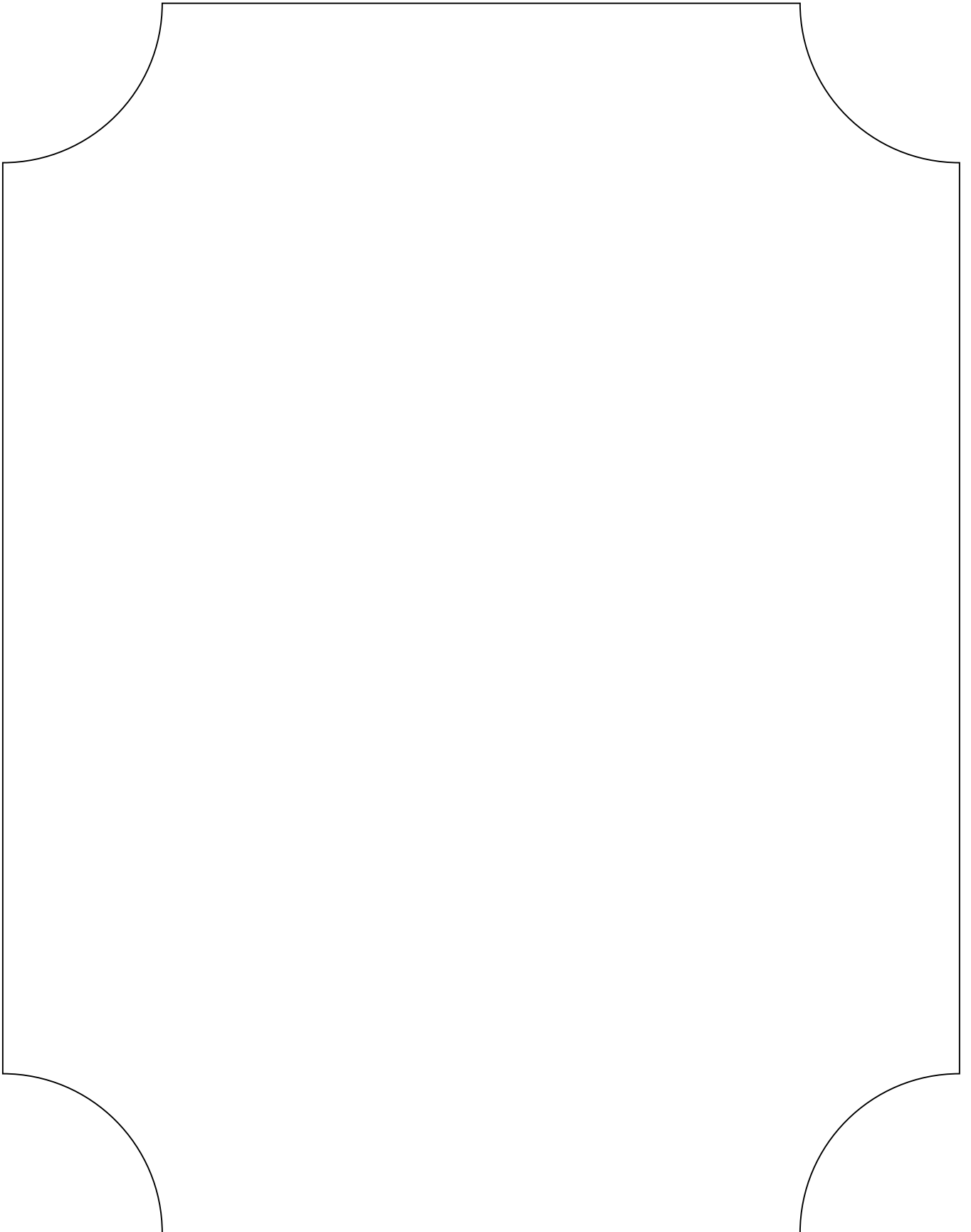
Chapter 12 *Inside Information*

1. How are Bofur and Bombur rescued from Smaug?

2. Where is Smaug's weak spot?

3. On the next page, draw a colorful illustration of Smaug in his chamber.

Smaug



Chapter 13 *Not at Home*

1. What does Bilbo take from Smaug's treasure when the others are too scared to explore?

2. Why is Bilbo screaming for help down in Smaug's cave?

Chapter 14 *Fire and Water*

1. How does Smaug's killer know where his weak spot is?

2. On the next page, make a story board of the events in this chapter. A story board is similar to a comic strip. You tell the story through illustrations. You may use bubbles for dialogue if you would like. Please use color in your storyboard.

Ch. 14 Story Board

Chapter 15 *The Gathering of Clouds*

1. Who is headed toward the Mountain?

2. What does Thorin ask Roac to do for him?

3. Describe Thorin's attitude as he speaks with those gathered at the Mountain. Use quality adjectives and strong verbs.

Chapter 16 *A Thief in the Night*

1. How does Bilbo get away from the Mountain without being questioned or noticed? (Be sure to give a complete and detailed answer.)

2. Who does Bilbo go see?

3. What does Bilbo give away? Why does he give it away?

4. Draw a colorful picture of the Arkenstone.



Chapter 17 *The Clouds Burst*

1. How does Thorin find out who stole the Arkenstone?

2. List the 5 armies that fight in the battle:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

vs.

4. _____

5. _____

3. Who makes up the sixth army that comes to help the dwarves?

4. In the space below, illustrate Bilbo during the battle. (use color)



Chapter 18 The Return Journey

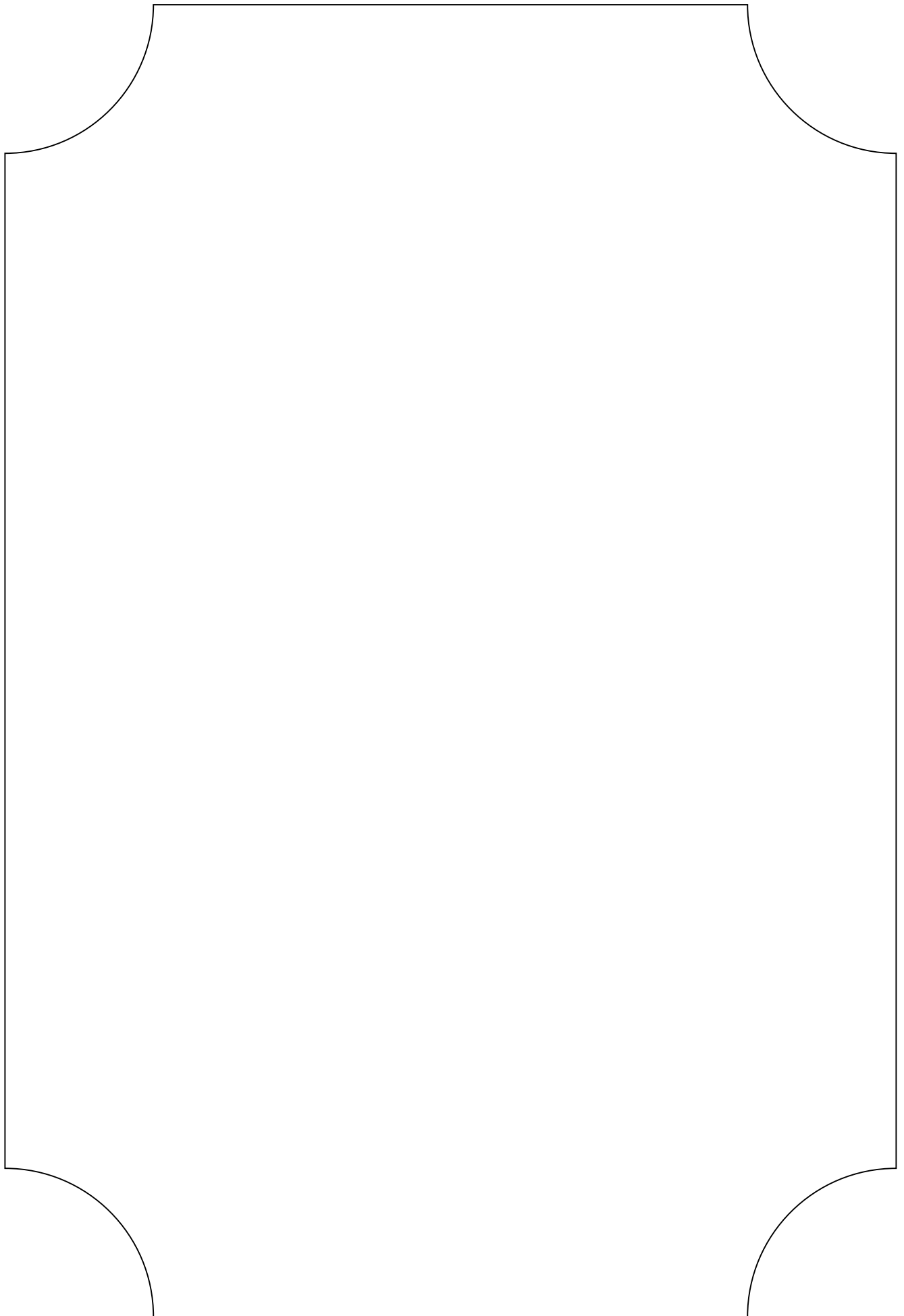
1. Why don't they find Bilbo after the battle?

2. Why does Thorin want to see Bilbo?

3. Name two things Beorn does:

4. Where is Thorin buried? What two things are buried with him?

5. On the way home, Bilbo composes a poem about coming home. On the next page, write a poem about your home. It could be about your physical home, the town in which you live, or your hometown (where you were born). Be sure to give your poem a title and illustrate it.



Finis

(Remember to bring this to class the FIRST DAY of SCHOOL)