

The Fellowship of the Ring

Summer Reading



The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien
ISBN: 9780547928210, Houghton Mifflin 2012

Summer Reading Guide for Logic School

In the sixth grade we start the adventure of Bilbo Baggins, in seventh grade watch Frodo take the sought-after ring on a journey, and in eighth grade 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 mission 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 is for our students to enter this “great conversation” with Tolkien’s literature, and thereby start to formulate the early muscle of sharpening their minds. A packet of information will be provided for each student with a brief summary of each chapter and questions to answer for each chapter.

Requirements:

- All work should be completed directly in this study guide.
- Answer questions in blue or black ink and write in your neatest cursive.
- Please be attentive to spelling and punctuation.
- All questions need to be answered with complete sentences.
- Notes should be made in the book as well.

Facts:

Please use the required text. *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien
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This assignment will count as two quiz grades. Points will be taken off for the following: not following directions, missing key events and information, wrong information and missing chapters. Late summaries, wrong format or incomplete answers will be docked points.

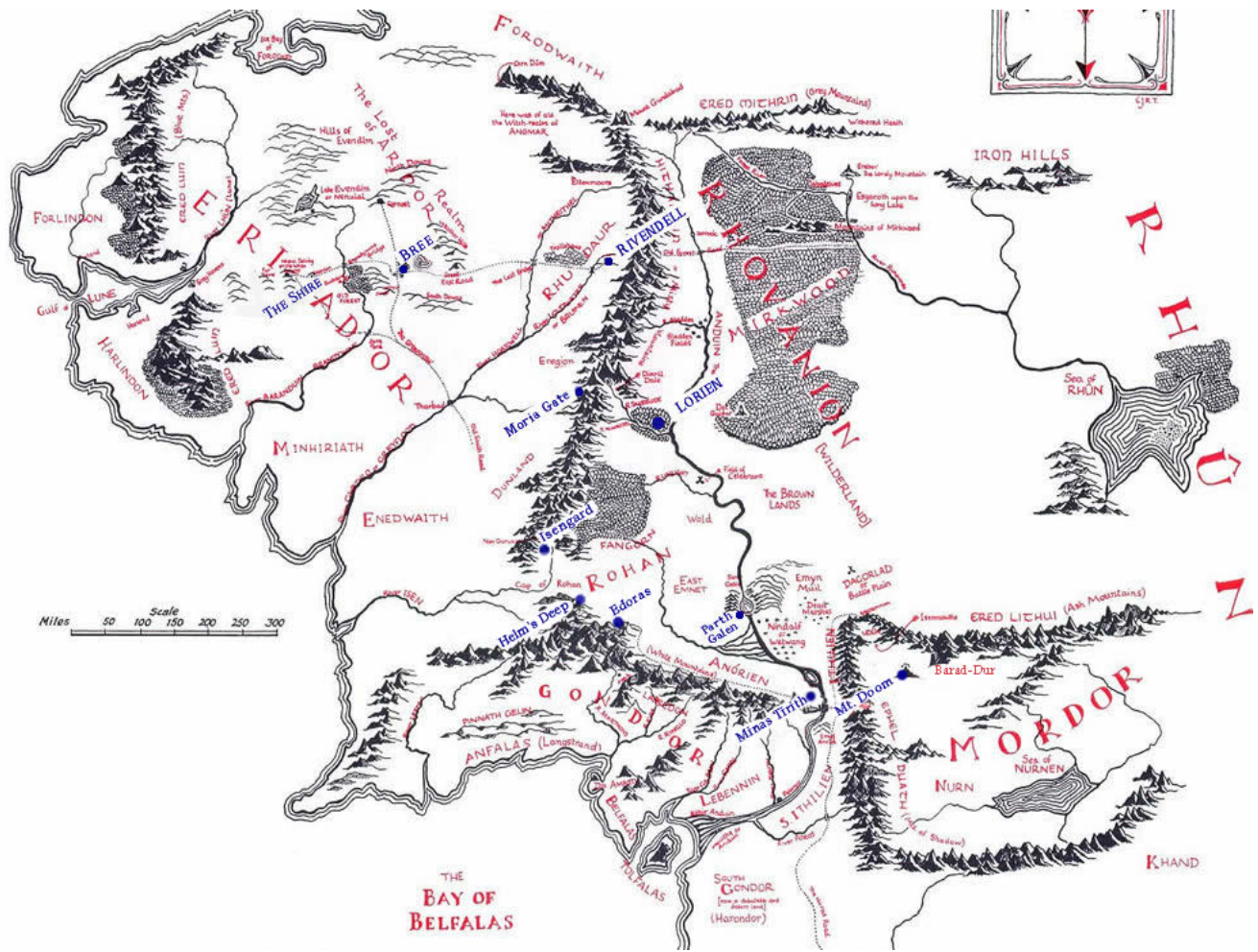
Helpful hints:

Answer your questions for each chapter immediately after reading it. Do not see the movies. These do not follow the book and can confuse you. Do not rely on Spark notes to summarize information or enlighten understanding. If you find yourself drowning in the literature and feel you are having a hard time following the story, do the following:

1. Read aloud; this helps those who are multisensory learners.
2. Keep notes of key people and events.
3. Browse the chapter first and then read for detail.
4. Re-visit previous chapters once you have a greater understanding of the story.
5. Discuss and retell your reading with a parent or fellow student.

Learning to tackle difficult reading is one way your mental muscle is developed. Relying on someone else to figure it out for you is much like having someone do your push ups so you can get stronger. This is mental work that is sharpening your abilities; do not approach this as leisure reading.





The Fellowship of the Ring

Three Rings for the Elf-kings under the sky,
 Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
 Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
 One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
 In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
 One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
 One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
 In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.

Book One

Chapter 1: A Long-expected Party

1. What does Tolkien do to connect this book with *The Hobbit*? (title of chapter, things he owns from the last adventure)

2. How are Hobbit birthdays different from ours?

3. How do you know that Bilbo does not want to leave the Ring behind? What affect has the Ring had on Bilbo?

4. Why do you think Bilbo ends up finally leaving the ring?

5. Gandalf says “Let it go! And then you can go yourself and be free.” What do you think he means by that? How will Bilbo be free?

Chapter 2: The Shadow of the Past

1. What strange things were starting to happen in the Shire?

2. Give examples of what the ring does to people or on its own (this is throughout the whole chapter).

3. Write out the poem that explains the Ring. There is *one* line provided for each line of the poem.

4. Underline above the parts of the poem that are written about the One Ring.

5. *Read page 50 **aloud to a parent** at least twice. Work on your understanding of the passage and reading with fluency.

Then, **retell to your parent the information about the rings of power and the news Gandalf relates to Frodo about Sauron (The Enemy).

*****Parents**, please sign in the blank immediately below that your student has read aloud twice to you and retold p. 50. _____.

6. Who owned the original 20 great Rings, and what happened to them?

7. Summarize the history of the Ring. Make sure you include text detail from pages 50-53.

8. Frodo: “What a pity that Bilbo did not stab that vile creature, when he had a chance!”

Gandalf: “Pity? It was Pity that stayed his hand. Pity and Mercy: not to strike without need. And he has been well rewarded, Frodo. Be sure that he took so little hurt from the evil, and escaped in the end, because he began his ownership of the ring so. With Pity.”

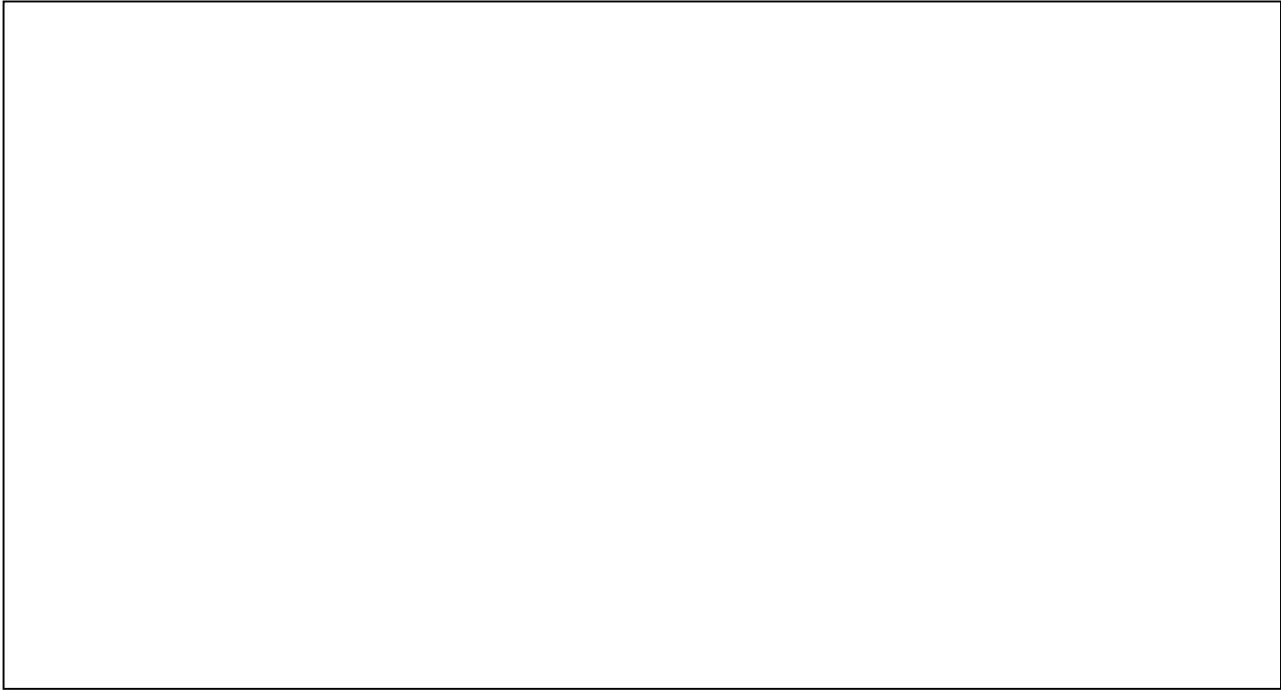
Why do you think Bilbo had pity on Gollum in *The Hobbit* and why is that important?

Bonus: Read Chapter 5 of *The Hobbit* to see how the ring came to be found by Bilbo. Explain in detail.

Chapter 3: Three is Company

1. What event coincides with Frodo’s leaving of the Shire?

2. Write down a thorough description of the black riders' appearance and their actions. You must include details from the book. (You can draw and color a picture in the box below if you would rather do that than write.)



3. What about the black riders' appearance and actions makes you think they are "evil?" Explain.

3. Using details from the book, describe the elves' appearance and their actions. Please include details from the book. (You should use information from chapter 4 as well.)

4. What about the elves' appearance and actions make you think they are good? Give specific details from the novel.

Chapter 4: A Short Cut to Mushrooms

1. How do you know that Gandalf has chosen Frodo a good companion in Sam? Explain.

What kind of qualities do you look for in a friend? Explain.

Chapter 5: A Conspiracy Unmasked

1. Using a dictionary, write the definition of the word *conspiracy*.

2. What **kind** of a conspiracy had been going on without Frodo's knowledge? Explain.

3. What does this say about Frodo's friends? Explain their purpose in keeping their knowledge secret.

4. Frodo says: “This is no treasure-hunt, no there-and-back again journey, I am flying from deadly peril into deadly peril.”

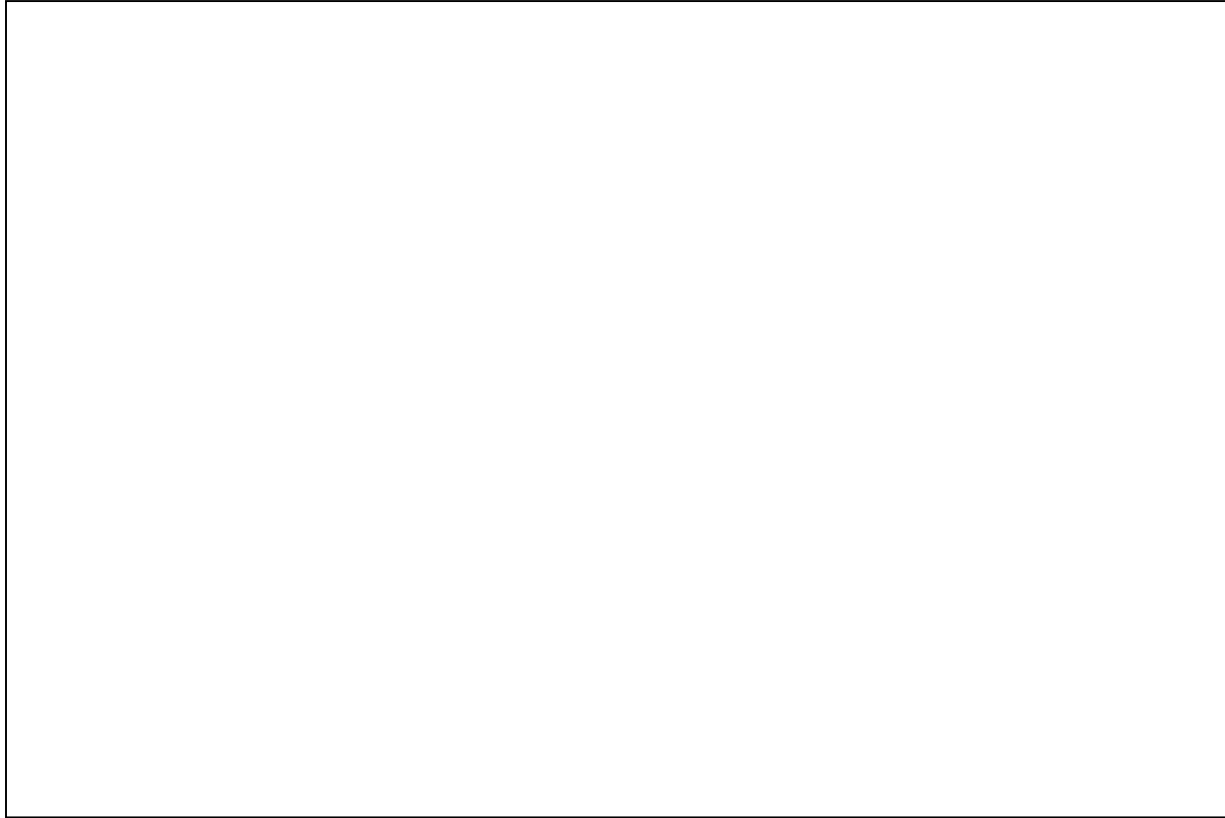
What journey is Frodo referring to when he talks about the treasure-hunt, no there-and-back again journey? How is this journey different in essence than the previous journey? Give at least two differences between Bilbo’s and Frodo’s type of journey.

Chapter 6: The Old Forest

1. Tolkien takes a long time to describe the forest. List five details you notice about the forest from the novel.

2. Why do you think Tolkien writes in such detail? Explain.

3. Describe Tom Bombadil's appearance or draw a picture of him.



Chapter 7: In the House of Tom Bombadil

1. The hobbits have been journeying on a tough path up to this point and then end up in this place with Tom Bombadil. What about Tom's place makes it so restful for the hobbits? Describe it by providing details from the book.

2. Describe a time in your life that was difficult, and you then came to a restful part. How did it made you feel? For instance, you could relate a time about a camp/home or car drive/vacation.

3. Why didn't the ring seem to have any control over Tom Bombadil? Be specific in your answer.

Chapter 8: Fog on the Barrow Downs

1. The Barrow-wights represent evil. What other creatures at this point have been evil?

2. What creatures have represented good up to this point?

3. Explain how Frodo shows courage in this chapter. What does this say about Frodo?

4. What items did Tom choose for the hobbits to take from the Barrow Downs? Describe them.

Chapter 9: At the Sign of the Prancing Pony

1. In addition to Butterbur and Nob, who do they meet at the Prancing Pony? _____

2. Write out a description of his appearance.

3. Who don't they meet that they had hoped to find there?

4. What was the reaction of the crowd when Frodo showed up again?

Chapter 10: Strider

1. Gandalf writes a letter telling them to trust Strider. What are several of Gandalf's instructions?

2. What about Strider makes him seem untrustworthy or trustworthy? Explain.

3. Write out the poem Gandalf included in his note to Frodo. "All that is gold does not glitter..."

4. Gandalf has a seal for his name and so does Tolkien. (Go back to the title page and look at the top of the page. In the black oval, you will see J R R T as a form.) Design your own seal using your initials in the space provided.



Chapter 11: A Knife in the Dark

1. Where does the group get a pony? What does the pony look like?

2. What does Sam do that surprises the company?

3. Give a brief summary of the story of Beren and Luthien. (You may write it below or use the space on the next page to tell it in a cartoon strip or in pictures.)

The Story of Beren and Luthien



4. How many ringwraiths are there at Weathertop?

5. What does Frodo do to protect himself? (There are several things.)

Chapter 12: Flight to the Ford

1. What kind of effect does the stabbing wound have on Frodo? Describe using details from the book.

2. Name several things that make the journey difficult. Be specific.

3. What things do they find along the way that give them hope? (jewel, stones, people)
