

May 27, 2022

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade families,

I am delighted to have your child in 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year! I am looking forward to exploring incredible literature with them, and to uncovering some truths about humanity, the world and God's grace through discussions and reading.

I am Deb Herczeg (HER-zeg—the C is silent!). The 2022-2023 school year will be my second at Geneva, but my teaching career has included time in both public and private schools. Joining the Geneva Logic School Humanities faculty has been an enormous gift. I am blessed beyond measure to be a part of this thriving, intellectual community.

Your child will be reading *The Two Towers* this summer. This is the second book in *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy and continues the adventure your child may have begun with *The Hobbit* and *The Fellowship of the Ring*. *The Two Towers* is two books in one, and students will be responsible for reading the first one, Book 3, before returning to school in August. We will read Book 4 together during first quarter.

The first few pages of the reading packet are for both parents and students. **Please review the summer assignment with your child.** You and your child should both understand expectations and grading practices, as well as strategies for completing the required reading.

The ISBN number of the book is on page 1 of the packet. You will need to purchase this particular copy of *The Two Towers* along with a **NAVY BLUE folder with brads.**

I look forward to walking alongside your child and you as they complete their last year in Logic School. Blessings on your summer!

In His Service,

Deb Herczeg

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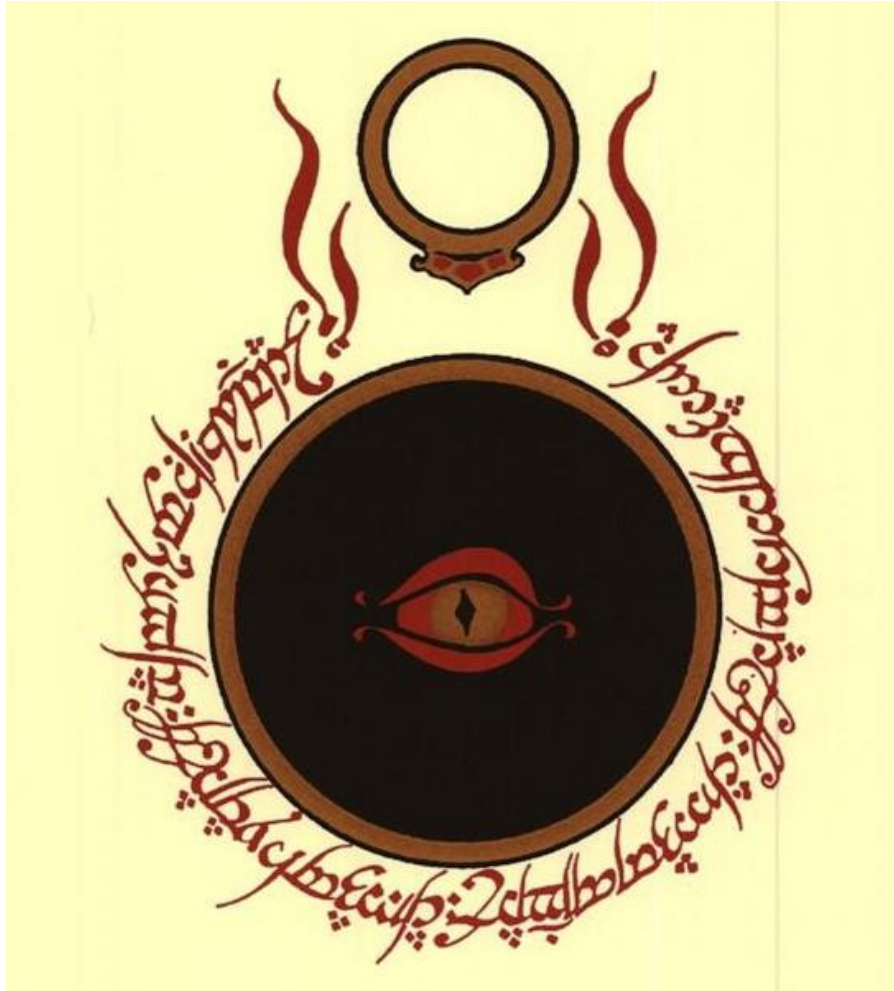
Humanities Faculty, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

Geneva School of Boerne

# *THE TWO TOWERS*

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING

Edition: The Two Towers by J. R. R. Tolkien (ISBN: 9780547928203, Houghton Mifflin 2012)



### BOOK THREE

You will need:

- A blue or black pen
- These documents printed on white paper and 3-hole-punched
- A NAVY blue folder WITH BRADS
- A copy of The Two Towers with ISBN number above

## Expectations:

- You will complete this work **independently** but your parent may help occasionally
- You will finish these questions before you return to school on August 30
- All work will be in CURSIVE
- Answers will be complete sentences (unless otherwise noted in the question) with proper spelling, punctuation and capitalization
- Answers will be written on these pages, but you may finish your answer on lined paper if you exceed the space given (Please use the given space wisely)
- You will READ THIS BOOK and not rely on published summaries or the previously completed work of others

## Planning ahead:

- You are reading only Book Three, pages 403-586 of *The Two Towers*
- Plan to complete 12-15 pages of reading at a time
- Read the questions before reading the chapter
- ANNOTATE, ANNOTATE, ANNOTATE; underlining is not annotation, nor are symbols or drawings in the margins. You should be noting literary devices, key events, character traits and major events in the spaces and margins of the book
- Do not be tempted to watch the film instead of reading. The film does not mirror the book and taking this shortcut may lead to substantial confusion
- Write short chapter summaries in the blank spaces at the end of each chapter, then reread them before continuing. This will help refresh your memory about characters and events

## If you feel overwhelmed:

- Listen to the audiobook and read along with it; this may help those who learn through audial and visual input
- Talk about the book with a friend or parent
- Go back and revisit previous chapters as you make progress through the story as this may help you develop more understanding of the big picture
- Read aloud; you may remember better since you will be speaking, seeing and hearing the words
- Keep notes about key people and places to refresh your memory

## **A note about using online summaries or published notes:**

*I was once asked why it wasn't acceptable to read the online summaries rather than the story itself since she would essentially get the gist of the story anyway. While the*

*summaries may be a useful tool for reading after having read the original text, solely reading them will ultimately be to the disadvantage of the student. The price of a Geneva education isn't merely tuition; it is time, discipline and hard work. The result is, hopefully, a thoughtful and educated disciple of Christ. You read the book to learn the moral of the story, to be drawn into the characters, the plot, and the excellent use of words. The book itself is a piece of art. The summaries are just a description of that artwork, not the art itself. Reading online summaries rather than reading the text is like traveling all the way to Paris to go to the Monet museum, standing in the lobby and asking the docent to give you a 20-minute description of Monet's best paintings because you are too busy to go look at them yourself. While you may get a good idea of what is in the paintings and be able to tell your friends that you went to the museum, you will be the one missing out.*

*--Jennifer Blackstone, former Geneva Rhetoric School Humanities faculty*

#### Grading:

- Each student's work will begin with a score of 90
- Points will be added for insight and detail
- Points will be subtracted for inaccurate factual content, missing information, errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation, and/or illegibility
- Late work will be assessed as our handbook describes
- This work will count as TWO QUIZ grades for first quarter

## **BOOK THREE**

### CHAPTER 1: THE DEPARTURE OF BOROMIR

*“Thus passes the heir of Denethor, Lord of the Tower Guard! This is a bitter end. Now the Company is all in ruin. It is I that have failed. Vain was Gandalf's trust in me. What shall I do now?...How shall I find them and save the Quest from disaster?” ~ Aragorn*

1. What clues do Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas use to help determine the fate of the hobbits? (Give at least 3) What do they learn from these clues?

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2. After discovering that the hobbits are missing, Aragorn says, "An evil choice is now before us." What is the choice they must make, and why does Aragorn call it "evil?"

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3. What observation does Legolas make of the orcs? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why does Aragorn decide to follow the orcs? \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*Check for excellence\***

**Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?**

**Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial *HERE* \_\_\_\_\_**

## CHAPTER 2: THE RIDERS OF ROHAN

*"The counsel of Gandalf was not founded on foreknowledge of safety, for himself or for others," said Aragorn. "There are some things that it is better to begin than to refuse, even though the end may be dark."*

1. Write four of the "vivid verbs" (these are action words, remember!) Tolkien uses as he tells of the journey and describes the landscape. *ie: "All night the three companions scrambled in this bony land, climbing to the crest..." (411). "A cliff frowned upon their right;" (411).*

\_\_\_\_\_ (page \_\_\_\_\_)      \_\_\_\_\_ (page \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (page \_\_\_\_\_)      \_\_\_\_\_ (page \_\_\_\_\_)

2. What news of Rohan do Eomer and the Riders give to our traveling friends? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What do they learn of the fate of the orcs which they are tracking in order to find Pippin and Merry? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What does Gimli see in the middle of the night? \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*Check for excellence\***

**Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?**

**Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE\_\_\_\_\_**

### CHAPTER 3: THE URUK-HAI

*“You will get almost a chapter in old Bilbo’s book, if ever I get a chance to report to him. Good work; especially guessing that hairy villain’s little game, and playing up to him. But I wonder if anyone will ever pick up your trail and find that brooch. I should hate to lose mine, but I am afraid yours is gone forever.” ~Merry*

1. In chapter 3, we finally catch up with Merry and Pippin, discovering the details of their own adventure while Aragorn and Company have been searching for them. Why have they not been killed by the orcs? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. We also discover there are two groups of orcs, and only a few individual orcs are named. **Fill in the blanks of these sentences with details we learn about orcs in this chapter.**

Ugluk is \_\_\_\_\_ and he reports to \_\_\_\_\_.

The symbol this group of orcs wears is \_\_\_\_\_. Ugluk

Plans to take the hobbits to \_\_\_\_\_.

Another orc is named Grishnakh. His group comes from \_\_\_\_\_.

Grishnakh says their mission is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. What does Pippin remember about Rohan? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How are Merry and Pippin able to escape? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***\*Check for excellence\****

***Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?***

***Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE \_\_\_\_\_***

#### CHAPTER 4: TREEBEARD

*“...I’ve lived a very long, long time; so my name is like a story. Real names tell you the story of the things they belong to in my language, but it takes a very long time to say anything in it, because we do not say anything in it, unless it is worth taking a long time to say and listen to.”*  
~ Treebeard

1. What is an Ent? How is it different from a tree? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who taught the Ents to speak? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You’re doing great. Keep going! I can’t wait to see you on August 30.

3. What forces Treebeard and the other Ents to take action? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your initial HERE \_\_\_\_\_ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.

CHAPTER 5: THE WHITE RIDER

*“That is not the road that you must take. I have spoken words of hope. But only of hope. Hope is not victory. War is upon us and all our friends, a war in which only the use of the Ring could give us surety of victory. It fills me with great sorrow and great fear: for much shall be destroyed and all may be lost.” ~ Gandalf*

1. What observation does Legolas make of the way the horses sounded as they disappeared in the night? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the old man they meet in the forest of Fangorn? Who is he? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. “They were brought to Fangorn, and their coming was like the falling of small stones that starts an avalanche in the mountains” (485). What do these words point to in the story—what event could be compared to the stones causing an avalanche?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4. What does this old man tell of the enemy? (give 3 key details; bullet points are fine)

Detail: \_\_\_\_\_

Detail: \_\_\_\_\_

Detail: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who is Shadowfax? \_\_\_\_\_

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***\*Check for excellence\****

***Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?***

***Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE \_\_\_\_\_***

CHAPTER 6: THE KING OF THE GOLDEN HALL

*“No counsel have I to give to those that despair. Yet counsel I could give, and words I could speak to you. Will you hear them? They are not for all ears. I bid you come out before your doors and look abroad. Too long have you sat in shadows and trusted to twisted tales and crooked promptings.” ~ Gandalf*

1. How many years has the Golden Hall of Meduseld stood? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Tolkien often uses the setting to establish the mood of the story. (Reminder: Mood is how YOU feel when you read something.) How is the mood already different here than in the forest of Fangorn? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What difficulties do Gandalf and Company have entering the hall of Theoden?

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4. Who is Grima Wormtongue? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How does Gandalf rescue Theoden? Provide 3 - 4 key steps. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why was Eomer imprisoned when he returned home to Edoras? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What does Eomer do upon his release from prison? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does this tell us about Eomer's character (what kind of person he is)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Theoden offers Wormtongue an opportunity to prove himself worthy. What is the offer and what is Grima's response? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***\*Check for excellence\****

***Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?  
Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE \_\_\_\_\_***

I know this is hard, but you can do hard things!

CHAPTER 7: HELM'S DEEP

*“Come,” said Aragorn. “This is the hour when we draw swords together!”*

1. As the group travels to Helm’s Deep, what news is brought to them? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. After reading the description of Helm’s Deep, choose 4 key phrases that give a clear image.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \_\_\_\_\_

#4 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Aragorn states, “Yet dawn is ever the hope of men.” How do his words prove true in the battle? (WHAT HAPPENS AT DAWN AFTER THE BATTLE?)

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Your initial HERE \_\_\_\_\_ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.

You are amazing. You’ve got this.

## CHAPTER 8: THE ROAD TO ISENGARD

*“I have lived to see strange days. Long we have tended our beasts and our fields, built our houses, wrought our tools, or ridden away to help in the wars of Minas Tirith. And that we called the life of Men, the way of the world. We cared little for what lay beyond the borders of our land. Songs we have that tell of these things, but we are forgetting them, teaching them only to children, as a careless custom. Now the songs have come down among us out of strange places, and walk visible under the Sun.” ~ King Theoden*

1. Tell the difference between a *parley* and a *fight*. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What promise do Gimli and Legolas make to one another? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What seems to have happened to Isengard? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Whom do they find, much to their surprise? \_\_\_\_\_

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Your initial **HERE** \_\_\_\_\_ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.

## CHAPTER 9: FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

*“Why, your hair is twice as thick and curly as when we parted; and I would swear that you have both grown somewhat, if that is possible for hobbits of your age.” ~ Gimli*

1. Use a dictionary to look up the definitions of both *flotsam* and *jetsam*. Write the definitions here.

Flotsam: \_\_\_\_\_

Jetsam: \_\_\_\_\_

2. As noted by the quote above, Gimli notices a physical change in Merry and Pippin. What is the change and what does Legolas believe is responsible for the changes they see in their small friends?

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3. The Ents performed some remarkable feats in this attack on Isengard. Give at least 3 examples of these remarkable things the Ents did—bullet points or phrases are fine.

#1 \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_

#3 \_\_\_\_\_

Your initial HERE \_\_\_\_\_ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.

## CHAPTER 10: THE VOICE OF SARUMAN

*“We will have peace...when you and all your works have perished – and the works of your dark master to whom you would deliver us. You are a liar, Saruman, and a corrupter of men’s hearts. You hold out your hand to me, and I perceive only a finger of the claw of Mordor?” ~ King Theoden*

1. What specific warning does Gandalf give the others about Saruman? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Name the two visitors who quickly see through the words of Saruman. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What breaks the spell of the men when Saruman offers to have a private conversation with Gandalf? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Under what conditions does Gandalf offer to let Saruman go free? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is thrown at Gandalf, and by whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How long does Treebeard promise to watch over the new forest called Watchwood?  
(Read very carefully for this information.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You are getting to the really good stuff now! The story is picking up speed!

### CHAPTER 11: THE PALANTIR

*“He has grown, or something. He can be both kinder and more alarming, merrier and more solemn than before, I think. He has changed; but we have not had a chance to see how much, yet. Remember, Saruman was once Gandalf’s superior: head of the Council, whatever that may be exactly. He was Saruman the White. Gandalf is the White now. Saruman came when he was told, and his rod was taken; and then he was told to go, and he went!” ~ Merry*

1. What is Pippin so curious about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Tolkien show us that Pippin knows what he is doing is NOT OKAY? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Give 4 details of what Pippin saw in the Palantir. Bullet points or phrases are fine.
  - #1 \_\_\_\_\_
  - #2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - #3 \_\_\_\_\_

#4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the nine winged things? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Who is given watch over the Palantir? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which hobbit goes with Gandalf; which one goes with Aragorn? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We will read Book 4 together in September. I think you will like it! Gollum returns, there is a HUGE spider named Shelob that plays a big part in Frodo and Sam’s mission, and then an exciting cliffhanger that will leave you in suspense until April when we read **The Return of the King**.

Make three predictions about Book 4 here:

Prediction #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Prediction #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Prediction #3: \_\_\_\_\_

When you are finished and have checked for excellence on every part of this work, you must hole-punch these pages and insert them properly into the brads of your navy blue folder. Clearly label (either with a white sticker-type label or a light-colored pen) the front of your folder with the following information, in a block exactly like this, in the upper RIGHT corner: (Be sure to spell my last name correctly—it can be confusing with all those consonants in the middle.)

Your first and last name  
Mrs. Herczeg  
8<sup>th</sup> ELA, The Two Towers  
August 30, 2022