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Introduction

A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort and guidance. It also gives us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever.

In Literature Units, great care has been taken to select books that are sure to become good friends!

Teachers who use this literature unit will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Sample Lesson Plans
- Pre-Reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Vocabulary Lists and Suggested Vocabulary Activities
- Chapters grouped for study, with each section including:
 - *quizzes*
 - *hands-on projects*
 - *cooperative learning activities*
 - *cross-curriculum connections*
 - *extensions into the reader's own life*
- Post-Reading Activities
- Book Report Ideas
- Research Ideas
- A Culminating Activity
- Three Different Options for Unit Tests
- Bibliography
- Answer Key

We are confident that this unit will be a valuable addition to your planning, and hope that as you use our ideas, your students will increase the circle of 'friends' that they can have in books!



The Hobbit

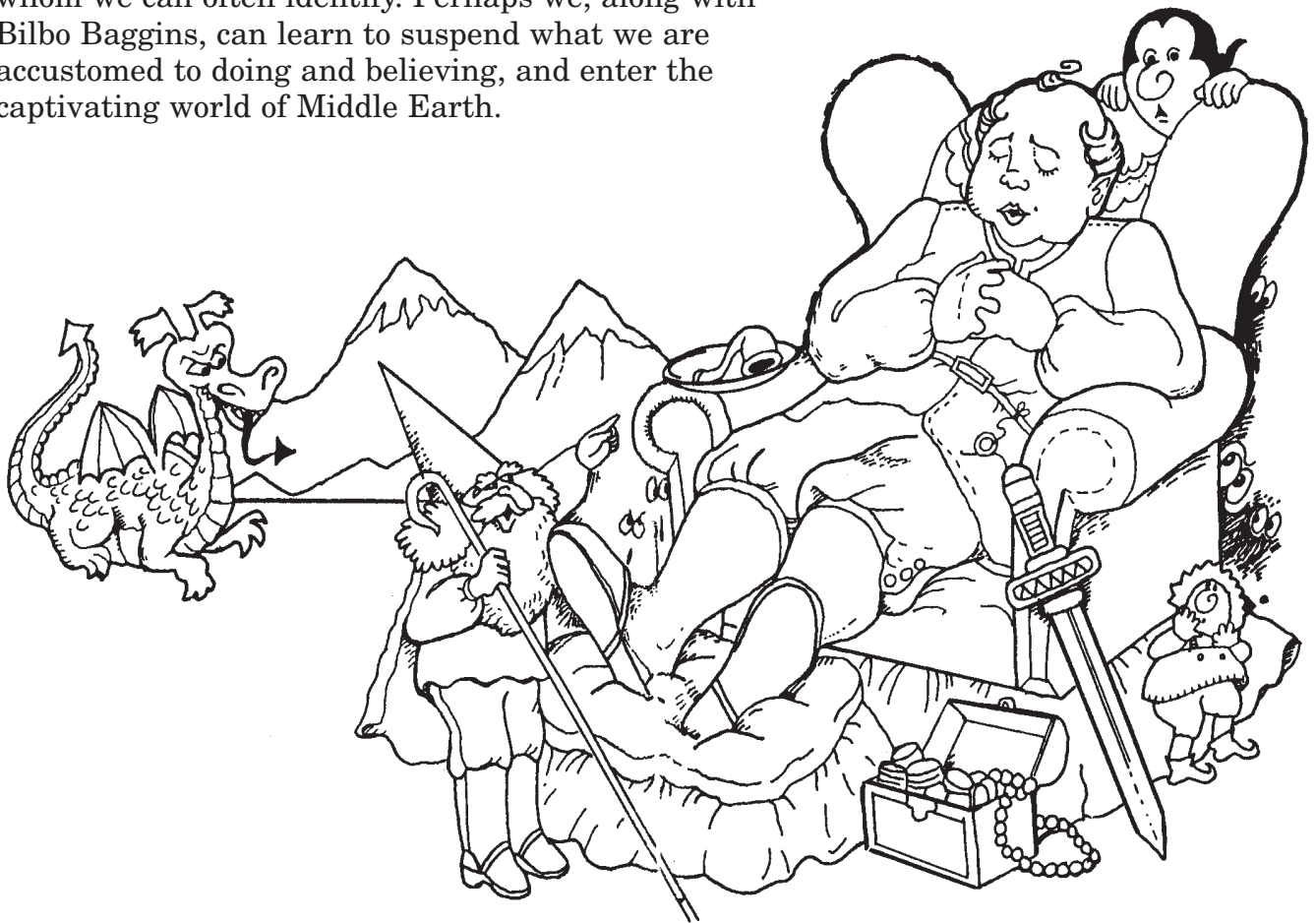
by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins is a happy, sedentary sort of hobbit, leading a comfortable, predictable life filled with no wild adventures or daring risks – that is, until Gandalf comes to his door.

What Gandalf proposes to an overwhelmed Bilbo is the chance to be a burglar on a grand and dangerous adventure. His job would be to help the dwarves regain their lost fortune, a treasure that rests at the bottom of Lonely Mountain, guarded by the fierce dragon, Smaug. Reluctant, but curious, Bilbo accepts the position, a position that changes his life dramatically.

In the year-long journey that follows, Bilbo and his travelling companions encounter hazardous terrain and formidable foes. Many times Bilbo wishes to be in his warm, secure hobbit hole again. But the experience of adventure brings out the resourcefulness and courage in Bilbo's character, and these once latent strengths play an integral part in the dwarves' victorious recovery of their fortune.

The Hobbit invites readers to a fantasy world full of implausible, wonderful, memorable characters with whom we can often identify. Perhaps we, along with Bilbo Baggins, can learn to suspend what we are accustomed to doing and believing, and enter the captivating world of Middle Earth.



Quiz

1. On the back of this piece of paper, write a one paragraph summary of the major events in each chapter of this section. Then complete the rest of the questions on this page.

2. What is Gandalf’s reputation?

3. According to the dwarves’ song, where do they want to go, why do they wish to go there and why did they leave in the first place? Answer on the back of this piece of paper.

4. What is to be Bilbo’s job on the adventure?

5. What is significant about the map Gandalf gives Thorin?

6. Describe what happens to Bilbo on his first attempt at ‘burglaring’.

7. How does Gandalf trick the trolls? What then happens to them?

8. What are rune-letters? What are moon-letters? How are they significant?

9. What does Elrond tell the party about their swords?

10. On the back of this page, explain how you would have reacted if Gandalf and the dwarves had shown up at your house and invited you on their adventure.

Create a Character!

The Hobbit is full of unusual characters: dwarves, elves, dragons, trolls and, of course, hobbits. Based on descriptions found in the book and by adding a touch of imagination, create a papier-mâché replica of one of the characters you met in your reading of *The Hobbit*.

Making Papier-Mâché Creatures

There are several ways to make papier-mâché models. For this project, you will want to use the layering method.

- Tear newspaper into 2 cm strips. Never use scissors to cut the paper, as it will leave a hard line at the edge. Be sure to tear all the strips you will need before beginning the project.
- Shape the outline of your model with balloons or wire.
- Dip the newspaper strips in the paste mixture (see recipe below) until all the paper is covered with paste.
- Layer the soaked strips on the model, building the shape with thicknesses of newspaper. You may need to tear strips into specific sizes to fit a corner or round an edge. Allow each layer to dry thoroughly before applying the next layer.
- As your model takes shape, you can add small balls of paste-soaked paper that you shape like clay to make noses, horns and other ‘additions’. Cover each addition with strips to make a permanent connection.
- Add a fine finish to your model by using coloured or white tissue paper as the last layer.
- When thoroughly dry, models can be painted, beaded, ribboned and dressed up in ways only your imagination can suggest!

Paste Mixture

Materials: mixing bowl
whisk or spoon
1 cup white flour
2 cups cold water
1 tablespoon salt

Directions: Mix together water, salt and flour. Stir well. Mixture can also be heated until paste turns translucent. Left-over paste should be stored in the refrigerator.

