



***The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien**
Reading Group Discussion Guide

Use the following questions as guides to deeper individual understanding of the novel or for group discussion.

- 1. What does the word Hobbit make you think of? When you finish the book, ask yourself this question once again. Define "adventure."**
- 2. Why is it important that Gandalf is not present when the expedition meets the trolls in Chapter Two?**
- 3. What are the terms of Bilbo's contract in Chapter Three? How does Gandalf rescue Bilbo and the dwarves?**
- 4. What does Tolkien tell us about Goblins? Why does he not describe their physical appearance?**
- 5. How are Bilbo and Gollum alike? What skills does Bilbo show in dealing with Gollum?**
- 6. Why doesn't Bilbo tell the dwarves about his ring? Do you consider this lying? Discuss Beorn's character. Is he virtuous? Vicious?**
- 7. Why is it necessary that Gandalf leave the expedition in Chapter Seven? What are the unattractive features of Mirkwood?**
- 8. Describe the characteristics of dragons (Chapter 11). What is the dragon-spell? Explain the names that Bilbo gives himself when speaking to Smaug.**
- 9. Just as the moment in the tunnel (p. 205) is Bilbo's bravest, giving up the Arkenstone is his noblest. Why does he do it? Why does he return to the Mountain?**
- 10. What does Bilbo gain from his adventure? What is the difference in the way his home is dear to him at the end of the story?**

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