

British Literature Unit Study Series

The Hobbit

by J.R.R. Tolkien

Grades 7-12

PARTS OF PLOT STRUCTURE

The plot is the sequence of events within the story and the organization of these elements so that they generate interest, suspense and surprise for the reader. It is sometimes called the narrative structure and it involves the following parts:

Climax

This is the highest point of tension. It could range from a 'life or death' situation to a tense emotional moment and we realise who or what is going to win the conflict.

Rising Action

The protagonist faces one or more challenges. The issue begins to worsen and these complications move the plot towards the climax, creating suspense.

Falling Action

These are the actions that help to unravel, solve or deal with the problem that leads us towards the resolution. It may sometimes involve a surprise twist.

Exposition

The reader learns background information needed to understand the story. The setting is established and characters and conflict are introduced.

Resolution

The final outcome of the conflict, whether it is resolved or unresolved. The tension is broken and the reader feels a sense of closure although it may not end positively.



TYPES OF CHARACTERS

PROTAGONIST

The protagonist is the main character in a story. They are the one who faces the main challenges, develops strengths and learns lessons.



They make key decisions that influence the plot of the story. They might be a hero, antihero, tragic hero, villain protagonist or supporting protagonist.

ANTAGONIST

The antagonist is any character who creates opposition for the protagonist.



They often make poor moral choices and are used to create conflict within the story.

Antagonists are conventionally presented as villains, though this is not always the case.

SUPPORTING



A supporting character is not the main focus of the story, but plays an important role in helping or supporting the protagonist in times of need.

They are usually mentioned enough in the story to be more than a minor character. Some might also support the antagonist in creating conflict.

MINOR



Minor characters are not usually developed in much detail but authors use them to play small but necessary roles or to create contrast.

They can provide catalysts for change by creating drama to move the plot forward before disappearing from the story without consequence.

TYPES OF CONFLICT

The plot structure of a story is usually shaped around a conflict involving the protagonist. This conflict might be internal (within themselves) or external (against another force). Some common types of conflicts include the following:

Person Vs. Person



The protagonist faces a conflict with another person (usually an antagonist).

Person Vs. Self



The protagonist faces an internal struggle within themselves.

Person Vs. Society



The protagonist's beliefs and desires differ from the 'norm' or they aren't accepted into society for some reason.

Person Vs. Nature or
Environment



The protagonist faces threats to their survival or safety within the natural environment.

Person Vs. Supernatural
Power



The protagonist faces a supernatural force such as gods, ghosts, aliens, fate or religion.

Book 1: The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort."

- J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit





The Hobbit

by J.R.R. Tolkien



In *The Hobbit*, Tolkien wrote his own language for the different people groups in the novel. This was an incredibly complicated and in-depth process. Flex your mental muscles by creating your own language. Write a paragraph below (at least 3 sentences) and translate it into your language.

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Vocabulary Words:

Chapters 1-4

- **depredation:** an act of plundering and pillaging and marauding
- **flummox:** be a mystery or bewildering to
- **prudent:** marked by sound judgment
- **outlandish:** noticeably or extremely unconventional or unusual
- **purloin:** make off with belongings of others
- **defray:** bear the expenses of

Chapters 5-8

- **gall:** irritate or vex
- **tumult:** a state of commotion and noise and confusion
- **unimpeachable:** beyond doubt or reproach
- **blunder:** make one's way clumsily or blindly
- **froth:** exude or expel foam

Chapters 9-11

- **surly:** unfriendly and inclined toward anger or irritation
- **plight:** a situation from which extrication is difficult
- **eddy:** flow in a circular current, of liquids
- **buffet:** strike, beat repeatedly
- **vagabond:** wandering aimlessly without ties to a place or community
- **desolation:** the state of being decayed or destroyed
- **maraud:** raid and rove in search of plunder
- **trill:** a note that alternates with another note a semitone above it
- **shrivel:** wither, as with a loss of moisture

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Vocabulary Words:

Chapters 12-14

- **ruddy**: of a red color at the end of the color spectrum
- **smoldering**: showing scarcely suppressed anger; to burn slowly and without a flame
- **calamity**: an event resulting in great loss and misfortune
- **impenetrable**: not admitting of passage into or through
- **furtive**: secret and sly
- **recompense**: the act of making amends for service or loss or injury

Chapters 15-19

- **decrepit**: lacking bodily or muscular strength or vitality
- **succor**: help in a difficult situation
- **vanguard**: the leading units moving at the head of an army
- **feint**: any distracting or deceptive maneuver
- **muster**: a gathering of military personnel for duty
- **fray**: a noisy fight

“Do we really have to go through?” groaned the hobbit. “Yes, you do!” said the wizard, “if you want to get to the other side. You must either go through or give up your quest.”

- J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit



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Character Map



Fill out this character map and make connections.

Gollum

Bard

Elrond

Gandalf

Bilbo Baggins

Trolls

Smaug

Thror

Beorn

Thorin Oakenshield

The Dwarves

"There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something. You certainly usually find something, if you look, but it is not always quite the something you were after."

-- J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*



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What types of conflict are found in *The Hobbit*?
Support your answer and give examples from the text.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the top right corner, there is a small, stylized illustration of a brown pencil or pen tip pointing towards the center of the page. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.



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Gollum is seen as a shadow character of Bilbo - He is what Bilbo fears he will become. What would your shadow character look like?

[illegible]

Name: _____

BOOK CONNECTIONS

Describe connections that you find between your book and your own real life experiences.

"So comes snow after fire, and even dragons have their ending." - J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit

The diagram features a central illustration of an open book with a green cover and an orange spine. The right page has a pink label that says "The Hobbit". Surrounding the book are six white rectangular boxes, each connected to the book by a thin line, intended for students to write their connections between the book and their own real life experiences.



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *The Hobbit* ch. 1-4.



1 What is Gandalf's reputation in the Shire?

2 Why did Gandalf choose Bilbo?

3 What were the terms of Bilbo's contract?

4 How did Bilbo know the 3 people were trolls?

5 What do they take from the Trolls' collection?

6 What is the difference in the way Bilbo and the dwarves react to Rivendell?

7 How does Gandalf rescue Bilbo and the dwarves from the goblins?

8 What do you think goblins look like? Why?



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *The Hobbit* ch 5-7.



1 How does Gollum figure out that Bilbo found the ring?

2 How does Bilbo get away from Gollum?

3 How did the dwarves and Gandalf react to Bilbo's return?

4 Why won't the eagles fly near humans?

5 Why doesn't Bilbo tell the others about the ring?

6 What is a skin-changer?

7 What convinces Beorn to allow the company to stay?

8 What does Beorn tell them about Mirkwood?



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *The Hobbit* ch 8-10.



- 1 What does Bilbo name his sword?

- 2 How does Bilbo rescue the dwarves?

- 3 What makes the expedition lose hope? Is their despair justified?

- 4 Whose fault is the feud between the dwarves and elves?

- 5 How does Bilbo get in and out of the palace?

- 6 Where is the elves' wine made, & where is it sold?

- 7 What does the Elvenking think will happen to the dwarves?

- 8 Describe Laketown.



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *The Hobbit* ch 11-12.



1 Why won't the men of Laketown stay with the dwarves?

2 Why does the door appear?

3 What does Bilbo take from the dragon's hoard?

4 What is the most important thing Bilbo learns from Smaug?

5 What is the Arkenstone?

6 Why does Bilbo steal the cup?

7 What proverb does Bilbo invent?

8 Describe the characteristics of dragons.



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *The Hobbit* ch 13-15.



1 What does Thorin give Bilbo?

2 Why do the dwarves leave the underground halls?

3 Why does Bilbo keep the Arkenstone?

4 Why do the men of Esgaroth destroy the bridges?

5 Why does the Elvenking leave his home?

6 How did Ravenhill get its name?

7 Characterize Bard.

8 Is gold worth fighting for?



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *The Hobbit* ch 16-19.



1 How does Bilbo leave?

2 Why does Bilbo give up the Arkenstone?

3 Name the Five Armies in the battle? Who attacks first?

4 Where does Bilbo take his last stand? Why?

5 Who turned the tide of the battle?

6 Does Thorin fulfill his quest? What does he learn?

7 What happened to the old Master at Laketown?

8 How is Bilbo different at the end of his adventure than he was at the beginning?



Fiction Book Report:

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Plot Summary:

Setting:

Main Characters:

Themes and Symbolisms:

Conflicts:

Conclusion:

