

Writing Your Own Adventure: A Journey Through The Hobbit (25 Modules)

Welcome, brave adventurer, to a deep dive into J.R.R. Tolkien's classic, 'The Hobbit'! Over 25 modules, we will explore Middle-earth not just as readers, but as writers, honing our skills by analyzing Tolkien's craft and creating our own responses.

Materials Needed:

- A copy of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit"
- Notebook or digital document for writing assignments
- Pens, pencils, or keyboard
- Optional: Dictionary/Thesaurus, access to online resources for background information

Module Breakdown:

1. **Introduction & Setting Expectations:** Read this lesson plan. Discuss goals. What do you hope to gain? Write a short paragraph about your initial thoughts or memories of 'The Hobbit' or fantasy literature.
2. **Module 1: An Unexpected Party (Chapter 1): The Hook:** Read Chapter 1. Analyze how Tolkien introduces Bilbo and his ordinary world. Write a descriptive paragraph capturing the comfort and predictability of Bilbo's hobbit-hole before the dwarves arrive. Focus on sensory details.
3. **Module 2: Character Voice (Chapter 1):** Examine the dwarves' distinct personalities as introduced. Write a short dialogue exchange between two dwarves, trying to capture their unique manner of speaking.
4. **Module 3: The Call to Adventure (Chapter 1): Analyzing Motivation:** Why does Bilbo initially refuse? What ultimately makes him go? Write a paragraph analyzing Bilbo's conflicting feelings.
5. **Module 4: Roast Mutton (Chapter 2): Tone & Pacing:** Analyze the shift in tone from the dwarves' singing to the encounter with the trolls. How does Tolkien build suspense and humor? Write a short analysis (1-2 paragraphs).
6. **Module 5: The Trolls' Treasure (Chapter 2): World-Building Details:** Consider the significance of the swords found (Orcrest, Glamdring). How do small details enrich the world? Write a description of a magical item, real or imagined, focusing on its history or appearance.
7. **Module 6: A Short Rest (Chapter 3): Setting as Character:** Read about Rivendell. How does Tolkien make Rivendell feel different from the wilds? Write a descriptive paragraph contrasting Rivendell with the troll's clearing.
8. **Module 7: Over Hill and Under Hill (Chapter 4): Foreshadowing & Danger:** Analyze the storm and the goblin attack. How does Tolkien use the environment to foreshadow danger? Write a paragraph explaining the use of setting and weather to create mood.
9. **Module 8: Riddles in the Dark (Chapter 5): Suspense & Character Intro:** This chapter is pivotal. Analyze how Tolkien builds suspense during the riddle game. Write a character sketch of Gollum based *only* on his appearance, actions, and speech in this chapter.
10. **Module 9: The Ring (Chapter 5): Symbolism & Morality:** Discuss the significance of the ring and how Bilbo obtains it. Was Bilbo right to keep it? Write a paragraph exploring the moral implications of Bilbo's actions.

11. **Module 10: Out of the Frying-Pan Into the Fire (Chapter 6): Action Writing:** Analyze how Tolkien writes the escape sequence involving the Wargs and Eagles. Focus on verb choice and sentence structure. Write a short paragraph describing a frantic escape, focusing on action verbs.
12. **Module 11: Queer Lodgings (Chapter 7): Unique Characterization:** Analyze the character of Beorn. How is he introduced? What makes him memorable? Write a descriptive passage about a unique or mysterious character you invent.
13. **Module 12: Flies and Spiders (Chapter 8): Atmosphere & Sensory Details:** Mirkwood is a key setting. How does Tolkien create an atmosphere of dread and confusion? Focus on sensory details (sight, sound, smell, touch). Write a paragraph describing a dark, confusing place, emphasizing sensory input.
14. **Module 13: Bilbo's Courage Grows (Chapter 8): Character Development:** Trace Bilbo's actions in Mirkwood. How does he demonstrate growing courage and cleverness? Write a journal entry from Bilbo's perspective after escaping the spiders.
15. **Module 14: Barrels Out of Bond (Chapter 9): Narrative Pacing:** Analyze the pacing of the dwarves' escape from the Wood-elves. How does Tolkien keep the narrative moving? Write a brief analysis.
16. **Module 15: A Warm Welcome (Chapter 10): Society & Hope:** Contrast Lake-town with Mirkwood and the Elvenking's halls. How does the reception here represent hope? Write a compare/contrast paragraph about the different receptions the company receives.
17. **Module 16: On the Doorstep (Chapter 11): Building Anticipation:** Analyze how Tolkien builds suspense as the company reaches the Lonely Mountain. Write a paragraph describing a moment of anticipation before a big event.
18. **Module 17: Inside Information (Chapter 12): The Antagonist:** Smaug! Analyze Smaug's character through his dialogue and actions. What makes him a compelling villain? Write a profile of Smaug, focusing on his personality traits.
19. **Module 18: Bilbo's Cleverness (Chapter 12): Character Arc Check-in:** How does Bilbo handle the conversation with Smaug? Compare this Bilbo to the one in Chapter 1. Write a paragraph analyzing his growth in cunning and bravery.
20. **Module 19: Not at Home / Fire and Water (Chapters 13-14): Conflict & Consequences:** Analyze the consequences of waking Smaug and the destruction of Lake-town. Write a persuasive paragraph arguing who, if anyone, is most responsible for the tragedy.
21. **Module 20: The Gathering of the Clouds / A Thief in the Night (Chapters 15-16): Theme – Greed:** Analyze how greed (Dragon-sickness) affects Thorin and others. Discuss the significance of the Arkenstone. Write a short essay (3 paragraphs) exploring the theme of greed in these chapters.
22. **Module 21: The Clouds Burst (Chapter 17): Climax & Chaos:** Analyze the structure and description of the Battle of Five Armies. How does Tolkien manage such a large-scale event? Write a descriptive paragraph capturing the chaos of a battle scene (focus on sensory details).
23. **Module 22: The Return Journey (Chapter 18): Resolution & Loss:** Analyze Thorin's final moments and Bilbo's farewells. How does Tolkien handle themes of loss and the cost of adventure? Write a reflective paragraph on the bittersweet nature of the victory.
24. **Module 23: The Last Stage (Chapter 19): Character Transformation Essay Prep:** Bilbo returns home a changed hobbit. Outline an essay analyzing Bilbo's complete character arc, identifying key moments of change. Gather evidence (quotes/examples) from the text.
25. **Module 24: Bilbo's Transformation Essay:** Write a 3-5 paragraph analytical essay on Bilbo Baggins' transformation throughout 'The Hobbit,' using your outline and gathered evidence. Focus on clear arguments and textual support.
26. **Module 25: Tolkien's Style & Final Reflection:** Reflect on Tolkien's writing style (use of songs, descriptions, tone). What did you learn about writing from reading 'The Hobbit'? Write a final reflection on the book and your writing journey through these modules.