

Hobbit Comprehension Guide Project Answers

The following answers are not found in the Answers section of the Guide.

Riddled Identity pgs. 30–31

1. Bilbo came to understand the clue about opening the secret door to the mountain when he heard the thrush cracking snails against the stone.
2. Using Sting, he cut the webs of the giant spiders in Mirkwood Forest, freeing the dwarves.
3. Although the spiders tried to catch Bilbo like they caught flies, he proved to be a stinging fly, defending himself with his sword.
4. Without Bilbo, the adventurers would have numbered unlucky 13, so he makes the party lucky again at 14.
5. To escape the Wood-elves Bilbo “buried” the dwarves in barrels, “drowned” them as the barrels floated down the river, and “drew them alive from the water” when he released them from the barrels.
6. His home was called Bag-End.
7. His friend Beorn could take on the shape of a bear.
8. The eagles saved them from the burning trees and took them to their eyries.
9. By winning the Ring from Gollum, Bilbo wore an object which brought great luck.
10. During their escape from the Wood-elves, Bilbo rode atop a barrel.

Characters pg. 36–37

1. Answers will vary, but might include his stumbling upon the Ring, the two elves falling asleep that helped them escape, that no one chose to look inside the barrels that did not seem empty, that his riddle about being a barrel-rider led Smaug to Esgaroth, where he was killed.
2. Answers will vary, but might include his willingness to even consider going on the adventure, sneaking out past the goblin guards, fighting the spiders to free the dwarves, helping them escape from the Wood-elves, being the first to enter the secret door and investigate the dragon’s lair.
3. Bilbo frequently wished that he was back home in his warm, comfortable hole.
4. Bilbo eventually told the dwarves the entire story about Gollum and about how he used the Ring to escape from the goblins. He very often stated exactly what was on his mind, even if it was unpleasant. Even when talking with Smaug, he used riddles, not lies.
5. Answers will vary, but might include how his friendship with Elrond helped them when they were in need, his following the dwarves and goblins into the mountain with the intention of rescuing them, and knowing that dealing with Beorn would require caution.
6. Answers will vary, but might include his indirect way of getting Bilbo to join the adventure, his

knowing the way through the goblins' tunnels, his wise way of carefully introducing the dwarves to Beorn.

7. Answers will vary, but might include mention of the hidden door at the back of the cave that they used to capture the dwarves and their setting the trees on fire.

8. By changing into a bear, Beorn had the strength to protect his lands, and he was not reluctant to kill goblins or Wargs.

9. Bard stayed in the town and fought Smaug to his last arrow.

10. The master did not want to give up his leadership position to Bard, and he always worried that he'd lose the favor of the Wood-elves and thus lose business.

11. Although the dragon's horde undoubtedly contained treasure stolen from Dale, and though Smaug had destroyed all of Esgaroth, and though Bard had slain the dragon, Thorin wanted to keep all the treasure for himself and his people (and maybe give some to the Men later).

Complete each statement:

12. Answers might include Bilbo (he could see better than the dwarves) and the Eagles (they can see a rabbit in moonlight a mile below, and they could see the commotion among the wolves).

13. Answers might include sly, greedy, powerful, conceited, etc.

Wilderland Map Project pgs. 43–44

A. The adventure began when Bilbo joined the party in his hobbit hole in Hobbiton.

B. At Rivendell the travelers were fed, rested, and entertained. Elrond also gave them valuable advice for navigating the Misty Mountains.

C. The dwarves and Gandalf escaped from the goblins, and Bilbo used the Ring to sneak through the gate.

D. The party was surrounded by Wargs, forcing them to climb into trees. Goblins arrived and set fire to the trees, but the Eagles saved them.

E. The travelers were refreshed by Beorn's hospitality. He also provided crucial directions for crossing Mirkwood Forest.

F. Giant spiders captured the dwarves, but Bilbo, using the Ring and Sting, rescued them.

G. The party saw elves sitting around a fire. When they repeatedly tried to join them and beg for help, they were taken prisoner.

H. The elf-king held the dwarves prisoner because they would not reveal why they had been traveling through his lands. Bilbo rescued them by hiding them in barrels.

I. The dwarves revealed themselves to the Lake-men, who celebrated and helped them journey to the mountain.

J. They entered through the secret door and Bilbo spoke riddles to Smaug. After Smaug's death the

dwarves fortified the main gate, and then the Battle of Five Armies began.