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*The Hobbit* Reading Guide

**Chapter 1, “An Unexpected Party”**

1. What is noteworthy about the Took side of Bilbo’s family? Type your answer here, in complete sentences, with the page number recorded in MLA style (21).
2. Who is the most important dwarf? What about his description makes him seem important? (Use a specific passage and include page numbers!) Do that for every single question, making sure your answers are consistently in the same color and the questions themselves remain in black.
3. Gandalf has chosen Bilbo for the adventure to perform what role? What is his rationale? Same thing again! Complete sentences and specific references to evidence when you can. And don’t forget the page numbers (22).
4. *Critical Thinking Question:* What makes Bilbo seem like a nontraditional hero? What characteristics would you expect a traditional hero to have that Bilbo lacks? What strengths does he have instead? The critical thinking questions require more thorough answers. You will need to write between three and five sentences for each one of these questions and follow the same protocol for recording page numbers (34).

## *The Hobbit* Brainstorming Activity

### **Movie Adaptation—*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (2012)**

- 1. Similarities**—Write some notes about similarities you notice between the original novel and the movie adaptation. You may write a paragraph or create a bullet-point list. It doesn't matter, but it should be thorough! You can find at least 10 similarities.
- 2. Differences**—Write some notes about differences you notice between the original novel and the movie adaptation. You may write a paragraph or create a bullet-point list. It doesn't matter, but it should be thorough! You can find at least 10 differences.
- 3. Rationale**—Write down some thoughts about why you think Peter Jackson made the choices he did as he was adapting the classic novel to the big screen. This should be a paragraph, a full paragraph, rather than a list.

### **Adaptation Analysis**

**Paragraph 1:** Tell me about the adaptation you selected. Which adaptation did you choose and what made you decide on that option? Introduce the concept behind the adaptation you chose.

What was appealing to you about that particular take on the Sherlock Holmes character? Answer

these questions as thoroughly as you can!

**Paragraph 2:** Tell me about the setting, tone, and/or genre of the adaptation. How does this adaptation modernize the setting, language, and genre of the original Sherlock stories? Why do you think the writers/director made these choices? Do you think they accomplished their purpose? Why or why not? Answer these questions as thoroughly as you can!

**Paragraph 3:** Tell me about a character in your adaptation. Choose one of the main characters that appears in the novel and in your adaptation and identify two similarities and one difference between the original source and the modernization. Remember to use specific examples from the text and adaptation, using page numbers when appropriate. Which version of the character do you prefer and why? Answer these questions as thoroughly as you can!

**Paragraph 4:** Summarize your overall opinion about this adaptation. What do you think makes for a good adaptation? Define three characteristics that you feel make for a successful adaptation and assess your Sherlock tv show/movie according to these criteria. Ultimately, do you feel like the adaptation you selected successfully modernizes the original material? Why or why not? Do you think the original material even *needs* to be modernized? Answer these questions as thoroughly as you can!