



# STORY SPECULATIONS



## The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Give out one sentence per child. Using the Voice 21 groupings of 'Onion' or 'Traverse', each child reads their sentence to the child opposite them and spends one minute discussing the clues and what the story could be about. They could also just move around the class choosing other children at random. When they move on, they use the new and previous clues to guess the following aspects of the story, piecing together evidence to back up their theories. You may wish to use our 'Book Knowledge Organisers' to go through the book in more detail at the end if you or the children are unfamiliar with the story.

setting

characters

plot

genre



1.) It had a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted green, with a shiny yellow brass knob in the exact middle.

2.) He had a tall pointed blue hat, a long grey cloak, a silver scarf over which a white beard hung down below his waist, and immense black boots

3.) It was two more dwarves, both with blue hoods, silver belts, and yellow beards; and each of them carried a bag of tools and a spade.

4.) And it is a deal of a way even from the other side of them to the Lonely Mountain in the East Where Smaug lies on our treasure.

5.) He loved elves, though he seldom met them; but he was a little frightened of them too.

6.) The nastiest things they saw were the cobwebs: dark dense cobwebs with threads extraordinarily thick, often stretched from tree to tree, or tangled in the lower branches on either side of them.

7.) Some had already gone to haul on the ropes which pulled up the portcullis at the water-gate so as to let out the barrels as soon as they were all afloat below.



8.) A whirl of bats frightened from slumber by their smoking torches flurried over them; as they sprang forward their feet slithered on stones rubbed smooth and slimed by the passing of the dragon.

9.) The marshes and bogs had spread wider and wider on either side. Paths had vanished, and many a rider and wanderer too, if they had tried to find the lost ways across.

10.) So they sang, or very like that, only there was a great deal more of it, and there was much shouting as well as the music of harps and of fiddles mixed up with it.

11.) He sent out his spies about the shores of the lake and as far northward towards the Mountains as they would go, and waited.

12.) This was no goblin entrance, or rough wood-elves' cave. It was a passage made by dwarves, at the height of their wealth and skill

13.) He loosened his dagger in its sheath, tightened his belt, and went on.

14.) This grew to the unmistakable gurgling noise of some vast animal snoring in its sleep down there in the red glow in front of him.

15.) Above him the sleeping dragon lay, a dire menace even in his sleep.

16.) The ponies screamed with terror, burst their ropes and galloped wildly off.

17.) When midday came he got ready for another journey down into the Mountain.

18.) "My armour is like tenfold shields, my teeth are swords, my claws spears, the shock of my tail a thunderbolt, my wings a hurricane, and my breath death!"

19.) His torch dropped head downwards and went out!

20.) Under the rocky wall to the right there was no path, so on they trudged among the stones on the left side of the river, and the emptiness and desolation soon sobered even Thorin again.



21.) We would see peace once more among dwarves and men and elves after the long desolation; but it may cost you dear in gold.

22.) As soon as Bombur had gone, Bilbo put on his ring, fastened his rope, slipped down over the wall, and was gone.

23.) "The Goblins are upon you!"

24.) It was a terrible battle.

25.) In the end he would only take two small chests, one filled with silver, and the other with gold, such as one strong pony could carry.

26.) There far away was the Lonely Mountain on the edge of eyesight. On its highest peak snow yet unmelted was gleaming pale.

27.) His sword he hung over the mantelpiece.

28.) His magic ring he kept a great secret, for he chiefly used it when unpleasant callers came.

29.) Thorin wielded his axe with mighty strokes, and nothing seemed to harm him.

30.) The sky was black and moonless.