

Gandalf the Story-Maker

““Gandalf is not just a storyteller; he is a story-maker, for ‘tales and adventures sprouted up all over the place wherever he went’ (5). We shouldn’t be surprised, therefore, to find that the book we are reading turns out to be one more story that begins when Gandalf walks into it.” EXPLORING J.R.R. TOLKIEN’S *THE HOBBIT* BY COREY OLSEN

““I [Gandalf] am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it’s very difficult to find anyone.” (6)

“Dear me!” he went on. “Not the Gandalf who was responsible for so many quiet lads and lasses going off into the Blue for mad adventures?” Anything from climbing trees to visiting elves—or sailing in ships, sailing to other shores! Bless me, life used to be quite inter—I mean, you used to upset things badly in these parts once upon a time. I beg your pardon, but I had no idea you were still in business.” (7)

“Gandalf...stepped up, and with the spike on his staff scratched a queer sign on the hobbit’s beautiful green front-door.” (8)

“Of course there is a mark,” said Gandalf. “I put it there myself. For very good reasons. You asked me to find the fourteenth man for your expedition, and I chose Mr. Baggins. Just let any one say I chose the wrong man or the wrong house, and you can stop at thirteen and have all the bad luck you like, or go back to digging coal.” (19)

“Gandalf told us that there was a man of the sort in these parts looking for a job at once, and that he had arranged for a meeting here this Wednesday tea-time.” (19)

“That leaves you just ten minutes. You will have to run,” said Gandalf.

“But —,” said Bilbo.

“No time for it,” said the wizard.

“But —,” said Bilbo again.

“No time for that either! Off you go!”

To the end of his days Bilbo could never remember how he found himself outside...and running as fast as his furry feet could carry him down the lane. (28-29)