



# ***THE HOBBIT***

## AN INTRODUCTION

Source:

Olsen, Corey. *Exploring J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012.

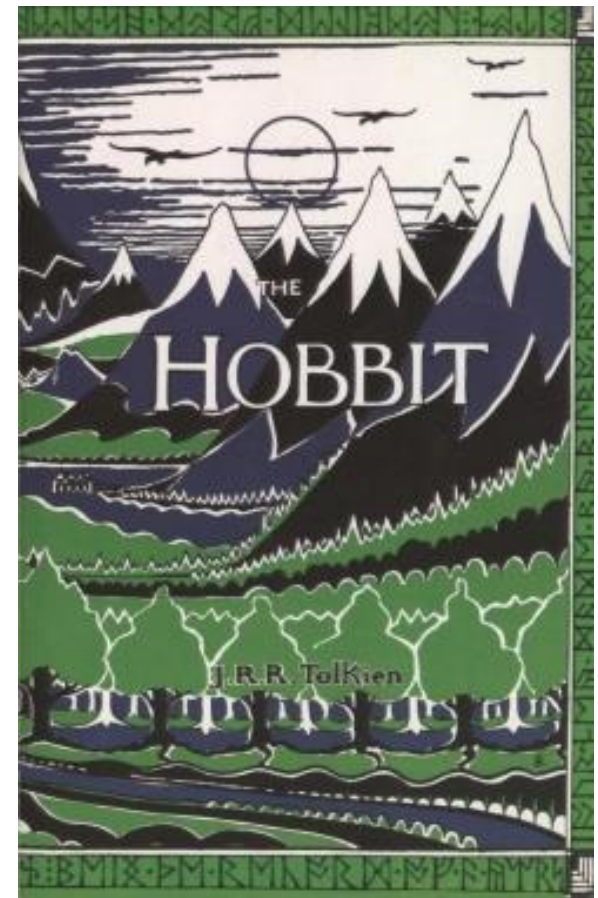
# J.R.R. TOLKIEN

- John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973)
- Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford
- The Inklings
  - An informal literary discussion group
  - Tolkien regularly met with a group of scholars and writers at The Eagle and Child pub in Oxford



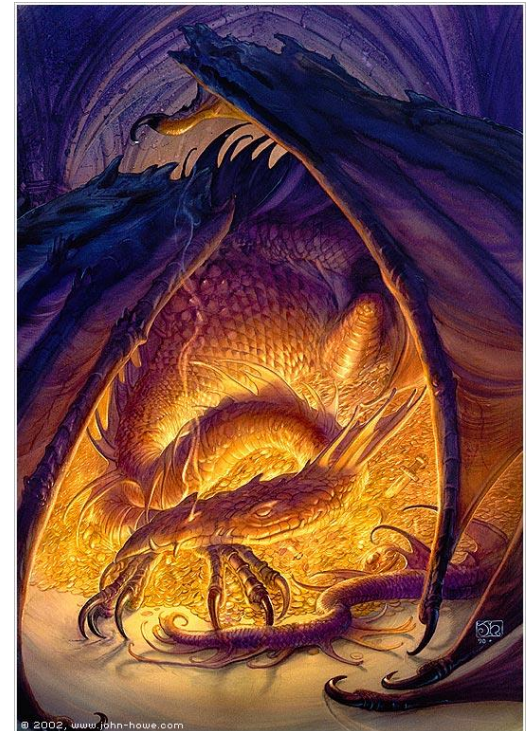
# BEGINNINGS...

- One day while grading papers, Tolkien noticed that a student left a page blank in an answer book.
- On a whim, he wrote on that page, “*In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.*”
- He decided that he needed to find out what a hobbit was, what sort of a hole it lived in, why it lived in a hole.
- This grew into a story that he told to his children when they were young.



# ABOUT *THE HOBBIT*

- Published in England in 1937 as a children's book.
- Revised Second Edition published in 1951.
- What began as a sequel, expanded into *The Lord of the Rings*.
  - *The Fellowship of the Ring* published in 1954.
  - Not a children's book
- Legendarium: Tolkien's entire collection of connected fantasy works



# WHO'S WHO IN MIDDLE-EARTH?

- Hobbits
- Dwarves
- Elves
- Men
- Goblins (hobbit word is orcs)
- Trolls
- Eagles
- Dragons (Smaug is pronounced with “ow” like how)
- Wizards (Gandalf is pronounced with “al” like pal)



# OUR FOCUS...

- “If, when we look at Bilbo and his magic ring in *The Hobbit*, we are constantly thinking about Frodo and Mount Doom, we will not really be paying attention to the ideas that ***this*** story is interested in” (Olsen 14).

- People, Places, & Things

Bilbo's ring	NOT	Ring of Power (not capitalized)
Lonely Mountain	NOT	Erebor
The Necromancer (The Shire)	NOT	Sauron

# WHAT YOU WILL RECORD IN YOUR INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOKS...

- Themes
  - Habitation & Belonging (Bilbo, Elrond, Beorn, Dwarves)
  - Providence & Luck
  - Wealth & Greed (gold, dragons, dragon-sickness)
- Motifs
  - Lineage (Took vs. Baggins, Thorin, Bard)
  - Nature (Mirkwood)
- Characters
  - Gandalf – Story-Maker
  - Bilbo – Hero's Journey
  - Thorin

# MAKE CONNECTIONS

- Text – to – Text
- Text – to – World
- Text – to – Self



# THORIN & COMPANY

1. Thorin
2. Fili
3. Kili
4. Balin
5. Dwalin
6. Oin
7. Gloin
8. Ori
9. Dori
10. Nori
11. Bifur
12. Bofur
13. Bombur
14. Bilbo Baggins
15. Gandalf

# TOOK VS. BAGGINS: PAGE 5

- Lineage - a family that traces descent from a common ancestor
  - The people you descended from is important
  - Your ancestors help shape who you are
  - Your family matters

## PAGE 5

- List 5 characteristics that Bilbo gets from his Took side and 5 from the Baggins side.
- NOTE: It may help to work on this list throughout your reading of *The Hobbit*.