

Discussion Questions for *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

1. Who is reading *The Hobbit* for the first time? Who is rereading it?
2. Did the author do a good job of world building? Why or why not?
3. Which of the characters did you like the most? Which did you dislike? Were you able to keep the characters straight?
4. Were there parts of the book you especially enjoyed, or parts you did not like?
5. Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable?
6. What was the most influential factor in drawing you in or turning you off the book? (Pick a passage, a character, a scene, an idea, etc.)
7. Bilbo takes a cup from Smaug's hoard. When Smaug wakes up, he discovers it missing. The author writes:

His rage passes description – the sort of rage that is only seen when rich folk that have more than they can enjoy suddenly lose something that they have long had but have never before used or wanted.

After the dragon is killed by the lake men, Thorin refuses to even consider compensating them for the losses they have suffered. What is Tolkien saying about lust for material things?
8. *The Hobbit* is 75 years old. Why do you think we are still reading it (and making movies of it)?
9. A frequent complaint about *The Hobbit* is the amount of songs and poems included. Did you read them? If you did, did you enjoy them?
10. Do you want to read the sequel, *The Lord of the Rings*?
11. What do you like or dislike about works of epic fantasy?
12. If you could talk to the author, is there a question you would ask him?
13. Are there any questions you would like to ask, or other issues or elements you would like to discuss?