

# The Hobbit

*by JRR Tolkien*

## CHAPTER 1 AN UNEXPECTED PARTY

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort.

It had a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted green, with a shiny yellow brass knob in the exact middle. The door opened on to a tube-shaped hall like a tunnel: a very comfortable tunnel without smoke, with panelled walls, and floors tiled and carpeted, provided with polished chairs, and lots and lots of pegs for hats and coats – the hobbit was fond of visitors. The tunnel wound on and on, going fairly but not quite straight into the side of the hill – The Hill, as all the people for many miles round called it – and many little round doors opened out of it, first on one side and then on another. No going upstairs for the hobbit: bedrooms, bathrooms, cellars, pantries (lots of these), wardrobes (he had whole rooms devoted to clothes), kitchens, dining-rooms, all were on the same floor, and indeed on the same passage. The best rooms were all on the left-hand side (going in), for these were the only ones to have windows, deep-set round windows looking over his garden, and meadows beyond, sloping down to the river.

This hobbit was a very well-to-do hobbit, and his name was Baggins. The Bagginses had lived in the neighbourhood of The Hill for time out of mind, and people considered them very respectable, not only because most of them were rich, but also because they never had any adventures or did anything unexpected: you could tell what a Baggins would say on any question without the bother of asking him.

1. Hobbits live in...  
a) a nasty, dirty, wet hole  
b) a dry, bare, sandy hole  
c) [a hole] filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell  
d) a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort (1 mark)

2. The best rooms looked over...  
a) his garden, and meadows beyond  
b) his vegetable patch and flowerbeds  
c) the town and surrounding houses  
d) the boats on the river (1 mark)

3. Was the hobbit sociable? How do you know that? (1 mark)

4. Did every room have a view? How do you know that? (1 mark)

5. What do you think the author means when he says that Baggins was 'well-to-do'? (2 marks)

6. Do you think that Baggins spent much of his time in his home? How do you know that? (2 marks)

7. Had the Bagginses lived in the hill for many years? How do you know that? (1 mark)

8. What do you think Baggins might have enjoyed doing with his time? Why do you say that? (3 marks)

9. Describe what sort of person you think Baggins was. Why do you say that? (3 marks)

**TOTAL**

**STOP**

**ANSWERS**

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## **PRACTICE PAPER 2:**

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- 1. d)** Hobbits live in 'a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort'.
- 2. a)** The best rooms looked over 'his garden and meadows beyond'.
- 3.** Yes, the hobbit was sociable because 'he was fond of visitors'.
- 4.** No, not every room had a view because the rooms on the left-hand side were the 'only ones to have windows'.
- 5.** I think the author means by 'well-to-do' that Baggins was comfortably well off/wealthy/rich and respectable.
- 6.** Yes, I think that Baggins spent much of his time at home because he enjoyed entertaining visitors/he had a very 'comfortable tunnel' with 'lots of rooms' and facilities/he liked to keep his home clean, e.g. kept his chairs polished.
- 7.** Yes, the Baggins had lived in the hole for many years because it says they had lived there for 'time out of mind', which suggests that they had been there for so long that it was hard to remember a time when they had not lived there.
- 8.** Answers will vary and need to relate to the text: I think that Baggins would have enjoyed spending most of his time inviting his friends to stay, because of his many bedrooms, where he would cook for them storing the food in his many pantries and serving the food in his various dining-rooms. I think he would spend much of his time making his own clothes and choosing what to wear for these house-parties, as he had 'whole rooms devoted to clothes' or spending time looking out of his windows at the views 'over his garden' and beyond.'
- 9.** Answers will vary and need to relate to the text: I think Baggins was the sort of person who was house-proud, honest and decent because people considered him to be 'respectable'/ he was sociable because 'he was fond of visitors'/ he was rather predictable because 'you could tell' what he would say without bothering to ask him, and unexciting because he did nothing that was 'unexpected' and he 'never had any adventures'.