

# Dear Future 8th Graders,

Welcome to 8th grade! You're in for an exciting journey—one filled with discovery, creativity, and new challenges. To help you start strong, we have a summer reading assignment designed to introduce you to one of the most beloved adventures in literature: ***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien.**

Through this story, you'll travel across Middle-earth, face dragons and trolls, and discover how even the most unlikely hero can change the world. The activities that follow will help you dive deeper into the story and bring your own creativity to the adventure.

I can't wait to see what you create and hear your thoughts when we come together in the fall. This will be one of the first Reading and Writing grades of the new school year and will be due the first day of school. Happy reading—and enjoy the journey!

Sincerely,

Miss. Dawkins

**\*\*Rubric Attached at End\*\***

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To help make life easier, my recommendation is to follow the reading schedule below. This will make sure you do the most manageable amount of reading possible. **Do not wait until the week before to read the book and complete the activities.**

Week and Dates	Chapters to Read	Assignments and Tasks
Week 1	Ch. 1 – <i>An Unexpected Party</i> Ch. 2 – <i>Roast Mutton</i>	- Complete logs for Chapters 1–2 - Begin character notes
Week 2	Ch. 3 – <i>A Short Rest</i> Ch. 4 – <i>Over Hill and Under Hill</i>	- Logs for Chapters 3–4 - Track new creatures or magical events
Week 3	Ch. 5 – <i>Riddles in the Dark</i> Ch. 6 – <i>Out of the Frying-Pan into the Fire</i>	- Logs for Chapters 5–6 - Focus on Gollum and the Ring
Week 4	Ch. 7 – <i>Queer Lodgings</i> Ch. 8 – <i>Flies and Spiders</i>	- Logs for Chapters 7–8 - Sketch ideas for passport stamps
Week 5	Ch. 9 – <i>Barrels Out of Bond</i> Ch. 10 – <i>A Warm Welcome</i>	- Logs for Chapters 9–10 - Choose 2 travel companions for passport
Week 6	Ch. 11 – <i>On the Doorstep</i> Ch. 12 – <i>Inside Information</i>	- Logs for Chapters 11–12 - Begin writing 2–3 location entries for passport
Week 7	Ch. 13 – <i>Not at Home</i> Ch. 14 – <i>Fire and Water</i>	- Logs for Chapters 13–14 - Continue building your passport
Week 8	Ch. 15 – <i>The Gathering of the Clouds</i> Ch. 16 – <i>A Thief in the Night</i>	- Logs for Chapters 15–16 - Add art or stamps to passport
Week 9	Ch. 17 – <i>The Clouds Burst</i> Ch. 18 – <i>The Return Journey</i>	- Logs for Chapters 17–18 - Begin final reflection for passport
Week 10	Ch. 19 – <i>The Last Stage</i> Review earlier chapters if needed	- Final log entry - Revisit any chapters you found confusing
Week 11	No New Reading	- Complete Passport Project

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## Part I: Reading Comprehension

For **each chapter**, complete the following:

1. **Chapter Summary** (3–5 sentences): Describe the major events of the chapter.
2. **New Characters/Creatures Introduced:** List and briefly describe any new ones if there are any.
3. **Important Quote:** Choose one meaningful quote and explain why you think it's important or interesting (2–4 sentences).

You may write these logs by hand or type them. Make sure they are neat and organized.

## Example:

### Chapter 1: "An Unexpected Party"

#### 1. Chapter Summary:

Bilbo Baggins, a quiet hobbit who loves comfort and routine, is unexpectedly visited by Gandalf the wizard. Soon after, thirteen dwarves arrive at Bilbo's home, turning his peaceful evening into a loud and chaotic party. The leader of the dwarves, Thorin Oakenshield, explains that they are on a quest to reclaim their homeland and treasure from the dragon Smaug. To Bilbo's surprise, Gandalf has chosen him to join the adventure as their burglar. Though nervous and unsure, Bilbo is swept up in their plans.

#### 2. New Characters/Creatures Introduced:

- **Bilbo Baggins:** A polite, comfort-loving hobbit who is unexpectedly invited on an adventure.
- **Gandalf:** A wise and mysterious wizard who believes Bilbo has hidden potential.
- **Thorin Oakenshield:** The proud and determined leader of the dwarves.
- **The Dwarves:** Dwalin, Balin, Kili, Fili, Dori, Nori, Ori, Oin, Gloin, Bifur, Bofur, and Bombur—all with unique personalities and skills.

#### 3. Important Quote:

"I am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it's very difficult to find anyone."

➡ *This quote is important because it sets the stage for the entire story. It shows how rare and special it is to go on an adventure in the world of hobbits, and it hints that Bilbo's life is about to change in a big way.*

## Part II: Creative Activity: "Middle-earth Passport" Project

Your "Middle-earth Passport" should include:

1. **Cover Page:** Title ("Bilbo's Passport"), your name, and a drawing of what you think Bilbo might look like.
2. **Stamped Locations:** Choose **5 major locations** Bilbo visits (e.g., The Shire, Rivendell, Mirkwood, etc.). For each:
  - Draw or decorate a "stamp" for the location.
  - Write a short **travel entry** (4–6 sentences) from Bilbo's perspective describing the place, what happened there, and how he felt.
3. **Travel Companion Page:** Choose **two characters** who traveled with or helped Bilbo. Write a short paragraph about who they are and how they contributed to the journey.
4. **Final Reflection Page:** Write a paragraph (5–7 sentences) on how Bilbo changed from the beginning of the book to the end.

**\*\*Be creative! You can draw, use color, include maps or symbols, or even design it like a real passport.\*\***

**Rubric**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Excellent (10 pts)</b>	<b>Good (8–9 pts)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (6–7 pts)</b>	<b>Incomplete (0–5 pts)</b>
<b>Chapter Summaries</b> (30 pts)	All summaries are complete, accurate, and clearly written in the student's own words.	Most summaries are complete and understandable, with a few minor details missing.	Some summaries are incomplete, vague, or confusing.	Many summaries are missing or copied; little effort shown.
<b>Quotes &amp; Explanations</b> (10 pts)	Each chapter includes a meaningful quote with a thoughtful explanation.	Most chapters include quotes with brief but clear explanations.	Some quotes are missing or explanations lack depth.	Few quotes are included; explanations are unclear or missing.
<b>Personal Reactions</b> (10 pts)	Personal thoughts show strong engagement and thoughtful reflection.	Reactions show some connection to the story.	Reactions are basic or off-topic.	Few or no reactions included.
<b>Creative Passport Project</b> (40 pts)	Project is highly creative, complete, colorful, and clearly demonstrates knowledge of the story.	Project is complete and shows effort and understanding.	Project is missing some elements or shows minimal creativity.	Project is incomplete or shows little effort or understanding.
<b>Neatness &amp; Presentation</b> (10 pts)	Work is neat, organized, and visually appealing.	Mostly neat and easy to read.	Some sections are messy or disorganized.	Work is hard to read or poorly presented.