

**Summer Reading  
8th Grade Accelerated English  
New Albany Middle School**

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**TEXT:**        *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

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**MATERIALS:** Three-prong report folder

Loose leaf notebook paper

Blue or black ink only

**FORMATTING:** Begin each of the assignments on a new page. Each assignment should have the student's name and the name of the text in the top left corner of the page.  
staple the pages of the assignment together.

**The assignments should be handwritten in blue or black ink or typed in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1" margins.**

Write in complete sentences and write only on the front side of the paper.

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**GRADE VALUE:** The summer assignment counts as a major grade. The assignment is due the second day of school; your grade will drop a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

Students should thoroughly read the book, not just one of the many summaries that are widely available. The movie **will not** help you with this assignment.

Students should do their own work on the summer assignments. **Copying the work of other students or material that is available on the internet is considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero.**

Students may discuss the novel with classmates but should not work in groups

to complete assignments. One purpose of the summer assignments is for the teacher to get a sense of each student's personal voice and writing style.

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Students should use their best organizational and writing skills and proofread carefully for grammatical errors. Be sure to follow all instructions.

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#### **ABOUT: *The Author***

J.R.R. Tolkien was born on January 3, 1892. After serving in the First World War, he embarked upon a distinguished career as a professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford University. He is the renowned creator of Middle Earth and author of the great modern classic, *The Hobbit*, the prelude to his epic masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*. Other works by J.R.R. Tolkien include *The Silmarillion*. J.R.R. Tolkien died in 1973 at the age of 81.

#### *The Novel*

Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit, lives in a peaceful sort of cozy hole in the Shire, a place where adventures are uncommon and rather unwanted. So when the wizard Gandalf whisks him away on a treasure hunting expedition with a troop of rowdy dwarves, he's not entirely thrilled. Encountering ruthless trolls, beastly orcs, gigantic spiders, and hungry wolves, Bilbo discovers within himself astonishing strength and courage, and at the ultimate confrontation with the fearsome dragon Smaug, the hobbit will brave the dangers of dark and dragon fire alone and unaided.

You will be creating a portfolio about *The Hobbit*. A portfolio is a compilation of your best work, so make sure you only put in your BEST!

#### **You portfolio MUST have:**

1. A cover: Design a cover (different from one that already exists) for *The Hobbit* using scenes and characters from the novel. You may draw your own or design one on the computer (**no screenshots/posters from the movie**). Make sure to include the title, the author, your name, and your period. The cover will be the **FIRST** thing in your portfolio.
2. A table of contents: Number and title each entry. The entries must be listed in the same order they appear in your portfolio. The table of contents will be the **SECOND** thing in your portfolio.
3. Bibliographic Information: This will be Entry #1 in your table of contents and the third thing in your portfolio. **FOLLOW THIS FORMAT EXCATLY**. There is no room for creativity with bibliographic information. All lines **AFTER** the first must be indented.

Author's last name, first name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication:Publisher, earliest copyright date. Print.

4. Choose **THREE (3)** vocabulary words from each chapter and write their definitions. **DO NOT** pick simple words that you already know, or you will not get credit for this section. Make sure these are difficult words that you do not already know, and you may not repeat words already used.

To complete your portfolio, you will have a total of 4 entries including the bibliographic information (entry #1) and vocabulary (entry #2).

**Pick 1 of the following options :**

Option #1: Watch the either movie version of *The Hobbit*. In a 5-paragraph essay, highlight three key differences between the movie and the novel. Why do you think the director made these changes? Cite specific evidence (examples) from both the movie and the novel to support your claim.

Option #2: Research information on the Indonesian “Flores Man”. Who is he? How does he compare with the hobbits described in the novel? How is he different? In a 5-paragraph essay, describe the “Flores Man” and compare and contrast him to the hobbits in the novel using specific examples from your sources and the novel to prove your argument.

Option #3: A *theme* is a lesson or message that the reader infers by reading between the lines of a story. There are many different themes in every story. Pick three themes found in *The Hobbit*. Write a 5-paragraph essay explaining themes you picked and use short *quotes* (examples taken word-for-word from the story; does NOT have to be something a character says) and examples to prove your theme is a valid part of the story.

**Pick 1 of the following options:**

Option #1: *The Hobbit* has creative chapter titles that describe major events in each chapter. Pick one of these titles and create either a **detailed** drawing or collage that illustrates the part of the chapter referenced in the title. Write an 8-10 sentence paragraph on the back of your picture that explains the title and the scene you chose. The drawing or collage must be on plain, white printer paper or small poster board. Collages must be cut-and-paste, NOT entirely done on the computer.

Option #2: Tolkien spends a great deal of time describing the personalities of hobbits as well as their surroundings. Design a hobbit hole by drawing a full-color “blueprint” of the floor plan (including furniture) along with an illustration of the outside of the hole (including landscaping). Write an 8-10 sentence paragraph justifying your decisions by using evidence from the novel. DO NOT simply re-create Bilbo’s hobbit hole. This MUST be ORIGINAL work.