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English 404 - Adolescent Literature

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The Hobbit - J.R.R. Tolkien

1) Age Group

This book is ideal for ages 12 and up. This is also an excellent introduction to the work of Tolkien, as it's well paced and relatively short.

2) What Is The Theme Of The Story?

The Hobbit has many themes, but my favorites are maturity and appreciation. The main character leads a life of comfort. Throughout the journey, he is reminded of this frequently, but also gains a great deal of maturity about the world, and looks at his home through new eyes.

3) List 3 Books you could recommend to a child who likes this story and wants to read more.

Three books that I would recommend that are similar to this book are:

David Eddings' *Pawn of Prophecy*, The beginning of a series with many similar themes.

Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman's *Dragons Of Autumn Twilight*. The beginning of a series, also with a long journey.

C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

4) Review

In *The Hobbit*, we are taken along for the journey as Gandalf the White pulls our titular character Bilbo Baggins out of his comfortable home, life and Shire, and into a wondrous

journey. Bilbo is accompanied on his journey by Thorin Oakenshield, a dwarf, and his company, who need Bilbo to join, so that their party will not be comprised of 13 members (considered most unlucky). These dwarves, and Thorin in particular are on a quest to reclaim their ancient dwarven kingdom. The main peril (although there are many) that stands in the way is the feared dragon Smaug. This book is a true classic - it is entertaining and timeless. Young readers will enjoy the setting, characters and story, and (unlike many of Tolkien's works), it is not too long or wordy. It is well paced, well written, and serves as an effective gateway and prequel to Tolkien's later works.

Works Cited

Eddings, David. *Pawn Of Prophecy*. Del Rey, 1986. Print

Lewis, C. S. *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. HarperCollins, 1994. Print.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*. Unwin Books of London, 1966. Print

Weis, Margaret and Tracy Hickman, *Dragons of Autumn Twilight*. TSR, 1984. Print