

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/ENGLISH IB/TOPS/MACS/HOMEWORK 14

NAME: _____ GRADE: ____ CLASS: _____

Read the following selections and answer the questions that follows.**SELECTION 1/4**

There was a ring and clash of steel. An arrow whistled over Frodo's head.

Boromir laughed. 'They did not expect this,' he said. 'The fire has cut them off. We are on the wrong side!'

'Look ahead!' called Gandalf. 'The Bridge is near. It is dangerous and narrow.'

Suddenly Frodo saw before him a black chasm. At the end of the hall the floor vanished and fell to an unknown depth. The outer door could only be reached by a slender bridge of stone, without kerb or rail, that spanned the chasm with one curving spring of fifty feet. It was an ancient defence of the Dwarves against any enemy that might capture the First Hall and the outer passages. They could only pass across it in single file. At the brink Gandalf halted and the others came up in a pack behind.

'Lead the way, Gimli!' he said. 'Pippin and Merry next. Straight on, and up the stair beyond the door!'

Arrows fell among them. One struck Frodo and sprang back. Another pierced Gandalf's hat and stuck there like a black feather. Frodo looked behind. Beyond the fire he saw swarming black figures: there seemed to be hundreds of orcs. They brandished spears and scimitars which shone red as blood in the firelight. *Doom, doom* rolled the drum-beats, growing louder and louder, *doom, doom*.

Legolas turned and set an arrow to the string, though it was a long shot for his small bow. He drew, but his hand fell, and the arrow slipped to the ground. He gave a cry of dismay and fear. Two great trolls appeared; they bore great slabs of stone, and flung them down to serve as gangways over the fire. But it was not the trolls that had filled the Elf with terror. The ranks of the orcs had opened, and they crowded away, as if they themselves were afraid. Something was coming up behind them. What it was could not be seen: it was like a great shadow, in the middle of which was a dark form, of man-shape maybe, yet greater; and a power and terror seemed to be in it and to go before it.

1. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Chasm	
ii. Brink	
iii. Halted	
iv. Brandished	
v. Gangways	

2. Why has the bridge been built as a “slender piece of stone”?

- a. For defensive purposes
- b. For aesthetic purposes
- c. For offensive purposes
- d. For theatrical purposes
- e. For inspirational purposes

3. What literary device is used in the phrase, “*Doom, doom*, rolled the drum-beats”? Choose the best answer or the best combination of answers.

- I. Metaphor
- II. Personification
- III. Onomatopoeia
- IV. Pun

- a. I only
- b. III only
- c. I and II
- d. III and IV
- e. None of the above

SELECTION 2/4

It came to the edge of the fire and the light faded as if a cloud had bent over it. Then with a rush it leaped across the fissure. The flames roared up to greet it, and wreathed about it; and a black smoke swirled in the air. Its streaming mane kindled, and blazed behind it. In its right hand was a blade like a stabbing tongue of fire; in its left it held a whip of many thongs.

'Ai! ai!' wailed Legolas. 'A Balrog! A Balrog is come!' Gimli stared with wide eyes. 'Durin's Bane!' he cried, and letting his axe fall he covered his face.

'A Balrog,' muttered Gandalf. 'Now I understand.' He faltered and leaned heavily on his staff. 'What an evil fortune! And I am already weary.'

The dark figure streaming with fire raced towards them. The orcs yelled and poured over the stone gangways. then Boromir raised his horn and blew. Loud the challenge rang and bellowed, like the shout of many throats under the cavernous roof. For a moment the orcs quailed and the fiery shadow halted. Then the echoes died as suddenly as a flame blown out by a dark wind, and the enemy advanced again.

'Over the bridge!' cried Gandalf, recalling his strength. 'Fly! This is a foe beyond any of you. I must hold the narrow way. Fly!' Aragorn and Boromir did not heed the command, but still held their ground, side by side, behind Gandalf at the far end of the bridge. The others halted just within the doorway at the hall's end, and turned, unable to leave their leader to face the enemy alone.

The Balrog reached the bridge. Gandalf stood in the middle of the span, leaning on the staff in his left hand, but in his other hand Glamdring gleamed, cold and white. His enemy halted again, facing him, and the shadow about it reached out like two vast wings. It raised the whip, and the thongs whined and cracked. Fire came from its nostrils. But Gandalf stood firm.

4. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Fissure	
ii. Wreathed	
iii. Kindled	
iv. Wailed	
v. Faltered	
vi. Weary	
vii. Bellowed	
viii. Cavernous	
ix. Quailed	

5. Who or what does the pronoun “it” refer to in the very first sentence of the first paragraph of the selection?

- a. Gandalf’s horse
- b. A hobbit
- c. An orc
- d. A Balrog
- e. None of the above

6. Following the spirit of the epic moment, how may we describe the characters of Aragorn and Boromir in the way they hold their ground and fail to heed Gandalf’s command? Circle the adjectives that apply.

Silly Self-sacrificial Honourable Naïve Insane

Valiant Brave Rebellious Disobedient

SELECTION 3/4

'You cannot pass,' he said. The orcs stood still, and a dead silence fell. 'I am a servant of the Secret Fire, wielder of the flame of Anor. You cannot pass. The dark fire will not avail you, flame of Udûn. Go back to the Shadow! You cannot pass.'

The Balrog made no answer. The fire in it seemed to die, but the darkness grew. It stepped forward slowly on to the bridge, and suddenly it drew itself up to a great height, and its wings were spread from wall to wall; but still Gandalf could be seen, glimmering in the gloom; he seemed small, and altogether alone: grey and bent, like a wizened tree before the onset of a storm.

From out of the shadow a red sword leaped flaming. Glamdring glittered white in answer. There was a ringing clash and a stab of white fire. The Balrog fell back, and its sword flew up in molten fragments. The wizard swayed on the bridge, stepped back a pace, and then again stood still.

'You cannot pass!' he said.

With a bound the Balrog leaped full upon the bridge. Its whip whirled and hissed.

'He cannot stand alone!' cried Aragorn suddenly and ran back along the bridge. '*Elendil!*' he shouted. 'I am with you, Gandalf!'

'Gondor!' cried Boromir and leaped after him. At that moment Gandalf lifted his staff, and crying aloud he smote the bridge before him. The staff broke asunder and fell from his hand. A blinding sheet of white flame sprang up. The bridge cracked. Right at the Balrog's feet it broke, and the stone upon which it stood crashed into the gulf, while the rest remained, poised, quivering like a tongue of rock thrust out into emptiness.

With a terrible cry the Balrog fell forward, and its shadow plunged down and vanished. But even as it fell it swung its whip, and the thongs lashed and curled about the wizard's knees, dragging him to the brink. He staggered and fell, grasped vainly at the stone, and slid into the abyss. 'Fly, you fools!' he cried, and was gone.

7. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Glimmering	
ii. Wizen	
iii. Poise	
iv. Quivering	
v. Asunder	
vi. Staggered	
vii. Vainly	
viii. Abyss	

8. The fire in Balrog “seemed to die” when Gandalf issues his commands. What has Gandalf done? Choose the best answer or the best combination of answers.

- I. Gandalf has invoked his authority as a servant of the Secret Fire.
 - II. Gandalf has invoked his authority as a wielder of the flame of Anor.
 - III. Gandalf has momentarily reminded Balrog that he has no right to cross the Bridge.
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- a. I only
 - b. III only
 - c. I and II
 - d. II and III
 - e. I, II, and III

9. How does the metaphor, “tongue of rock,” contribute to the sense of epic drama? Choose the best possible answer.

- a. It shows that an ancient language is inscribed somewhere on the rock.
- b. It evokes the sense that no words can adequately describe the stark reality of the broken bridge.
- c. It shows that the bridge needs to be repaired.
- d. It shows that the bridge looks like a wet tongue.
- e. None of the above.

SELECTION 4/4

The fires went out, and blank darkness fell. The Company stood rooted with horror staring into the pit. Even as Aragorn and Boromir came flying back, the rest of the bridge cracked and fell. With a cry Aragorn roused them.

'Come! I will lead you now!' he called. 'We must obey his last command. Follow me!'

They stumbled wildly up the great stairs beyond the door, Aragorn leading, Boromir at the rear. At the top was a wide echoing passage. Along this they fled. Frodo heard Sam at his side weeping, and then he found that he himself was weeping as he ran. *Doom, doom, doom* the drum-beats rolled behind, mournful now and slow; *doom!*

They ran on. The light grew before them; great shafts pierced the roof. They ran swifter. They passed into a hall, bright with daylight from its high windows in the east. They fled across it. Through its huge broken doors they passed, and suddenly before them the Great Gates opened, an arch of blazing light.

There was a guard of orcs crouching in the shadows behind the great door-posts towering on either side, but the gates were shattered and cast down. Aragorn smote to the ground the captain that stood in his path, and the rest fled in terror of his wrath. The Company swept past them and took no heed of them. Out of the Gates they ran and sprang down the huge and age-worn steps, the threshold of Moria.

Thus, at last, they came beyond hope under the sky and felt the wind on their faces.

They did not halt until they were out of bowshot from the walls. Dimrill Dale lay about them. The shadow of the Misty Mountains lay upon it, but eastwards there was a golden light on the land. It was but one hour after noon. The sun was shining; the clouds were white and high.

They looked back. Dark yawned the archway of the Gates under the mountain-shadow. Faint and far beneath the earth rolled the slow

10. For each of the words below, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. Rouse	
ii. Mournful	
iii. Shafts	
iv. Smote	
v. Threshold	

11. Write down the names of all the **good** characters represented in the four reading selections from this homework.

12. In selection 4/4, the narrator mentions that “[t]hey stumbled wildly up the great staircase beyond the door.” Why do they stumble wildly? Choose the best answer.

- They are filled with fear and they are extremely exhausted from the flight.
- The staircase has holes in it.
- The hissing of Balrog's whip is still audible.
- Aragorn and Boromir are shouting at the hobbits to run faster.
- None of the above.

THE END