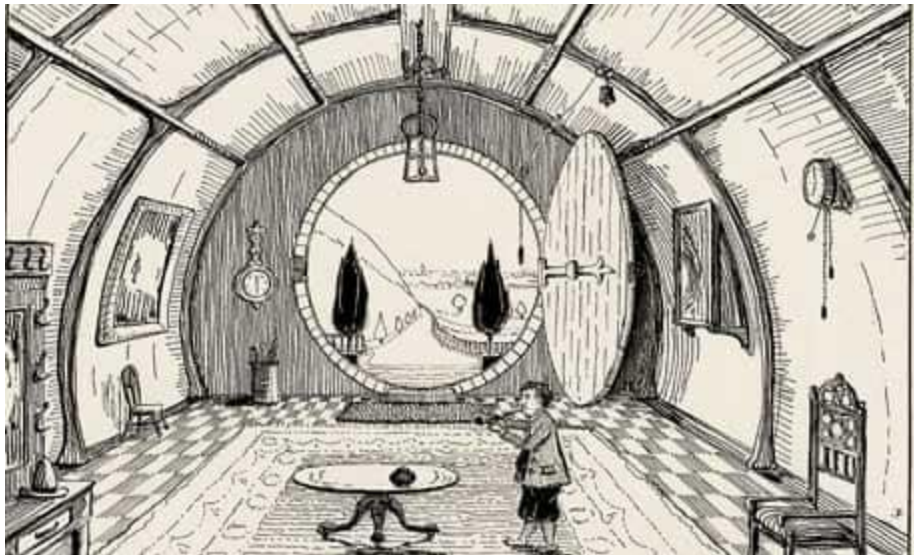


Book Report for The Hobbit

By J.R.R Tolkien

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The story is about the adventures of one particular *hobbit* named Bilbo Baggins. Hobbits are plump carefree creatures who are somewhat similar to humans but are three to four feet tall and have furry feet. One day Bilbo's peaceful life is interfered by the great wizard, Gandalf and a company of dwarves who present him with opportunity to go on an adventure. The leader of the company was a burly, stoic dwarf named Thorin. The dwarves' quest was to reclaim their treasure from the fearsome dragon Smaug. Despite being skeptic of each other, the dwarves and Bilbo after a bit of persuasion from Gandalf, set out for their journey.

After outsmarting a band of trolls, they reach the elfish settlements in Rivendell. Where from lord Elrond they receive guidance necessary to continue their quest. From here the group sets out for Misty Mountains. During an unfortunate encounter with goblins Bilbo is separated from the rest of the company. Here we are introduced to the *Ring* and *Gollum*. The *Ring* is a magic ring which grants invisibility to the person who wears it but its power isn't as straightforward as it is initially shown. *Gollum* is a shriveled up creature who resembles more with a decaying corpse than with a human. After winning a game of riddles (plus some trickery) Bilbo manages to escape from *Gollum* with the *Ring*. Eventually a boastful Bilbo manages to rejoin the company of the dwarves and the wizard.

After Gandalf leaves the party to attend to some other business, the band enters Mirkwood. Here Bilbo proves his worth by saving the dwarves not once but on two separate occasions, once from the Giant spiders and once from the Wood Elves. After regrouping in Lake town, a human settlement nearby, the party reaches the Lonely Mountain.

Bilbo then sneaks into the mountain to scout further. But unfortunately, he meddles with Smaug's treasure and ends up enraging him. Smaug in turn flies and unleashes his wrath on Lake town. Here he meets his end by the arrow of a heroic archer named Bard.

The people of Lake town and the elves of Mirkwood head to the Mountain to seek a portion in the treasure. Thorin, now poisoned with greed refuses. War seems eminent. Bilbo tries to negotiate a truce with humans, but this further enrages Thorin, who banishes him.

Then suddenly an army of Wargs (basically sized up wolves) and Goblins march towards the mountain. The Elves, Humans and dwarves are forced to join hands and fight together. Although its only the arrival of the eagles and some other allies which gives them the victory. Here a mortally wounded Thorin amends his friendship with Bilbo.

Bilbo now returns to the peaceful life in his hole, with enough stories and treasures for a few lifetimes.

"The Hobbit", written by J.R.R Tolkien is a well-known fiction novel for young adults. It's a precursor to, arguably, the greatest work in fiction, The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Nowadays it basically serves as a template for newer works in fictions.

It is an instant classic, upon which I doubt I can give any new praise. Tolkien's world building is elite as always, the ensemble of the vibrant characters is delightful and the detail in every aspect is second to none.

Two key themes Tolkien tries to convey here are heroism and greed. Bilbo's character shows how one can go beyond their limitations to the greater deeds. Greed is represented via various characters and the book shows how it can corrupt one.

If I were to be critical and try to nitpick, I'd add that the first few chapters meander a bit and the book doesn't really elevate the stakes in the story that much.