

Task 4: The following is an excerpt from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Following the passage are a number of statements that may or may not be BS. Put a 1 next to each statement if it is correct and 0 if it is incorrect. Then concatenate the numbers (top to bottom → left to right) and convert it to base 9 + 1 (also pronounced "ten"). What is that number?

Passage:

Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caves where never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea;
5 Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grass and over stone,
And under mountains of the moon.

Roads go ever ever on
10 Under cloud and under star,
Yet feet that wandering have gone
Turn at last to home afar.
Eyes that fire and sword have seen
And horror in the halls of stone
15 Look at last on meadows green
And trees and hills they long have known.

Statements:

- Following the Shakespearean distinction in which verse is used to express love and prose for baser sentiments, this passage's ABABABAB rhyme scheme and iambic pentameter reflect the speaker's unexpressed longing to return to the home where his love resides.
- The speaker's anastrophe-emphasized reflexive use of synecdoche within the context of the journey illustrates the parallel between the externalization of the self from the body and the externalization of the body from the home.
- The speaker's abundant use of prepositions is an amplification of the length, tortuousness and scenicness of the road.
- The use of consonance on the voiceless glottal transition indicates the speaker's traumatic preoccupation with the image of stone halls, which is alleviated by his return home but remains unprocessed.
- This passage is about Bilbo's return to the Shire.