

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

Comprehension Guide by Alyameldir, son of Meldarion —a Bustard



This guide is dedicated to my dear friend Stephen R. Smith in thanks for introducing me to the realm of Arda and for his good fellowship over the years.

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THE LORD OF THE RINGS

How to use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand, and enjoy The Lord of the Rings. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly, it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning or The Case for Classical Christian Education, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

- Fluently read a given selection orally.
- Show an increased desire for reading.
- Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
- Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
- Identify basic Biblical values in the literature being read.
- Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. The students' answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

Example:

Question: Whose birthdays are on September 22nd?

Answer: September 22nd is the birthday of Bilbo Baggins and his nephew Frodo Baggins.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely, and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write. After the grammar stage, students enter the dialectic stage, where they develop an interest in logic, analysis and critical thinking. The Lord of the Rings is a good work to start transitioning students into this stage.

You may wonder how to grade the student's work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth five points.

Note: At the time of printing there is a blog (http://tolkiengeek.blogspot.com) which may serve teachers well as it provides overviews for each chapter.



in the land of mordor where the shadows lie.
—J.R.R. Tolkien

A Long Expected Party

1.	Whose birthdays are on September 22nd?
2.	What was the fate of Drogo Baggins?
3.	Along with stories of elves and dragons, what did Sam Gamgee learn from the owner of Bag End?
4.	To what was the fame of Gandalf in the Shire due?
5.	Why did everyone who came to the party receive a present?
6.	How many hobbits were invited to the special meal under the pavillion?

A Long Expected Party, Page 2

7.	After the feast what three purposes were given as the reason for the assembly?					
8.	Often described as "well-preserved," how did Bilbo describe the way he felt to Gandalf?					
9.	What did Gandalf especially want to make sure was left behind for Frodo?					
10.	What did Bilbo call the object—which once was kept by Gollum—that startled and alarmed Gandalf?					

A Long Expected Party, Page 3

11.	Though most things that were marked to be given away the following day went where
	they were most wanted and welcome, what were given to the following hobbits, and
	what was Biblo saying in a humourous or pointed way with each present?
	Adelard Took's gift:
	The meaning of Adelard's gift:
	Dora Baggins's gift:
	The meaning of Dora's gift:
	Milo Burrows's gift:
	The meaning of Milo's gift:
	Angelica Baggins's gift:
	The meaning of Angelica's gift:
	Hugo Bracegirdle's gift:
	The meaning of the gift:
	Lobelia Sackville-Baggins's gift:
	The meaning of the gift:
12.	Before taking his leave and saying, "Look out for me, especially at unlikely times!" what
	last words of warning did Gandalf give to Frodo about Gollum's old "present?"

Project—Party Invitations

Write an invitation to Bilbo's party in calligraphy to look like the hobbit's own handwriting. If you have experience in calligraphy, you will notice it is very similar to the majuscule script Uncial. Following is an example of what you might write. Remember to include the location and any other details you can glean from the chapter. The lines on the next page are for you to use to practice, before writing on a nice sheet of paper. Draw lines faintly in pencil as guides, then erase them when your invitation is complete.

youare cordially invited on the twenty-second of september, to the eleventy-first birthday of bilbo, son of bundo badains and belladonna took?

fireworks will be provided by and alf the arey.

the party will be held under ...

Project—Party Invitations

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The Shadow of the Past

1.	What odd and unusual custom did Frodo keep year after year?	
2.	What were the names of some of Frodo's friends?	
3.	What news was Frodo able to glean from Elves traveling west and Dwarves on their way to the Blue Mountains?	
4.	What did Sam report one evening at the Green Dragon, during the spring of Frodo's fiftieth year, that his cousin saw in the North Moors?	
5.	Who was Saruman?	5

The Shadow of the Past, Page 2

6.	After it was removed from the fire, what did Frodo see on the ring and what did Gandalf say it meant about the ring?
7.	Why did Sauron the Great, the Dark Lord, want to recover Frodo's ring?
8.	Who helped Gandalf track Gollum the whole length of Wilderland?
9.	Why did the ring cause Bilbo so little hurt from evil and make it possible to escape from owning it?
10.	What punishment did Gandalf inflict on Mr. Underhill's gardener for eavesdropping?

Project 1—Paper Ring

Materials

scissors

glue stick

transparent tape

yellow marker

Directions

Choose which size ring you want and color it gold or yellow. Cut along the solid black line then fold on the dashed line (the top of the band is the inside of the ring). Use stick glue to seal the folded sides together then tape the ends together to complete the ring (you will probably need to trim off an end or two).

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Skalladak oof - They kale sallad oof Skallada oo Skall

Project 2—History Writing

write in your own ifterwards.	words bow the	Dark Lora j	irsi iosi ibe O	ne king ana w	ваі варрепеа і

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: BOOK ONE Three is Company

1.	To whom did Frodo sell Bag End?
2.	What expected guest was missing from the Birthday Party at Bag End the year Frodo moved out?
3.	What did Sam say a final farewell to at Bag End that had Frodo calling after him?
4.	What came across Frodo, Sam and Pippin as they slept on their first night walking to Buckland that thought, "Hobbits! What next? I have heard of strange doings in this land, but I have seldom heard of a hobbit sleeping out of doors under a tree. Three of them!"
5.	Bilbo used to tell his nephew, "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door," and compared the Road to what?

