

# ***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (Published by Ballantine Books)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 8

## **Summary**

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to live quietly in comfort until the wizard Gandalf came along and changed his life. Bilbo was soon drawn into a wonderful adventure to Lonely Mountain. He faced many trials along the way and discovered not only gold, dragons, and trolls but he also discovered himself. In the end, he confronted the dragon and his own fears in this epic tale of triumph and courage.

## **Connection to the Curriculum**

This novel is full of rich, colorful language, and imagery. It entices the imagination and draws the reader into the story. It is challenging and full of life with strong theme, plot development, and characters. It allows students to explore figurative language and symbolism. It is a classic that is culturally relevant and age appropriate. The rewarding story line leaves a lasting impression on the reader due to its strong merit and classic voice. Students can apply reading strategies to work through the challenging plot.

## **Standards**

### **Course Objectives (Benchmarks)**

**Reading:** 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

**Literature:** 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

### **Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)**

#### **Reading:**

1.2.1- The student uses knowledge of conventions and text features to read fluently at instructional and independent reading levels.

1.2.2- The student reads expressively with appropriate pace, phrasing, intonation, and rhythm of speech.

1.2.3- The student uses knowledge of complex sentence structure to read fluently at instructional or independent reading levels.

1.2.4- The student adjusts reading rate to support comprehension when reading narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts.

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.3.8- The student identifies and determines the meaning of figurative language including similes, metaphors, analogies, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, personification, and idioms.

1.4.17- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (characters' traits and motives, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

1.4.20- The student identifies the topic, main idea(s), supporting details, and theme(s) in text across the content areas and from a variety of sources in appropriate-level text.

1.4.21- The student explains the relationship between elements of author's style in text (e.g., word choice, sentence structure) and his or her purpose for writing the text.

#### **Literature:**

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of characters (e.g., their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and analyzes how major characters are developed (through their thoughts, words, speech patterns, actions) and how they change over time.

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and analyzes connections between the setting and other story elements (e.g., character, plot).

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor elements of the plot (e.g., conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) and explains how these elements relate to another.

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g. moral, lesson, meaning, message, author's ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit/explicit information from the text.

2.1.5- The student identifies the use of literary devices (foreshadowing, flashback, figurative language, imagery, symbolism) in a text and how the author uses such devices to help establish tone and mood.

## **A Note on the Text**

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

*This novel includes elements of fantasy such as wizards, trolls, and dragons. It also includes a battle scene at the end.*

## **Additional Unit Design Connections**

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities