

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Like many epic adventures, *The Hobbit* is a tale of the battle between good and evil, which are represented throughout the story by light and darkness. Bilbo Baggins begins his adventure in the sunny land of the Hobbits, but he soon finds himself traveling through dark nights, dark caverns, and dark forests where he must fight against evil creatures to survive. Along the way, however, he also learns that light and darkness can be deceptive, for evil can disguise itself with brightness while good sometimes conceals itself in the dark.

PART 1 Explore the role of light and darkness in the following three episodes from the middle chapters of *The Hobbit*. For each episode, use the graphic organizer to gather words and phrases that describe light and dark aspects of the scene or the action. Focus especially on words and phrases that describe Bilbo's point of view. Then use the evidence you have collected to discuss with your classmates what Bilbo learns about good and evil in each episode.

Episode	Light	Darkness
The Visit to Beorn's Home		
The Journey through Mirkwood		
The Descent into Smaug's Treasure Room		

PART 2 Now use the back of this sheet to create your own original adventure scene using images of light and darkness to represent the forces of good and evil. Your scene can be an episode that takes place in the world of *The Hobbit* or one from the story you imagined for the character you created in Activity One.

PART 3 The middle chapters of *The Hobbit* come to life in the new film, *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. When you see the film, notice how the director, Peter Jackson, uses light and darkness to portray the episodes you have examined in the novel. Discuss in class how this added visual element helps dramatize the battle between good and evil in the story.



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THE HOBBIT
THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

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