

Pre-AP English 10 Summer Reading Assignment

Read *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien. The books should be available at our local book stores. It is strongly recommended that you finish reading this book before school starts. After reading the book, complete the reading assignments. Complete the assignments in the text if you have your own copy, or keep a record of these assignments in a notebook. If you use a notebook, record the page and paragraph number next to the passage. The purpose of these assignments is to have you interact with the text and boost your reading comprehension. The more effort you put into the assignment, the better prepared you will be for the reading quiz over the novel. **The assignments will be due and the reading quiz will be given on Friday, Sept. 4.**

Creating Trails . . .

As you read your novel, keep notes in the margins of what is taking place. Make a trail so when you return to the novel when school starts, you can follow your notes. **Mark specific descriptions of the characters, conflicts, and setting in the text if you have your own copy, or keep a record of these important literary devices in a notebook.** The trail you create should make a rereading of the story easier.

Establishing Territory (and looking for themes) . . .

As you read your novel, where can you see yourself? Do you identify with a character? A struggle? How do you identify with the theme of the novel? A theme is an important message that the author is trying to convey about one of life's truths. **Choose a theme or themes from the list below. Mark 3 to 5 specific passages in the text that convey this theme, or keep a record of these passages in a notebook. In the margin or the notebook, explain how each quote supports, enhances, or illustrates the author's message.**

Themes found in *The Hobbit*

- learning to accept responsibility for one's self
- the need for/responsibility of a personal code of morality
- a moral code seen as a code that bonds society
- the importance of learning the art of selflessness

Noticing Style . . .

All good authors choose their words carefully. The great ones pay attention to the length of their sentences, the way they link phrases together, and their use of vocabulary and figurative language.

- **Choose 5 sentences that stand out to you because of their diction or their structure. Mark the sentences in the text, or record them in a notebook. Explain why you like them in 2-3 sentences.**
- **Mark 25 vocabulary words in the text and write a definition in the margin.**
- **Identify author's use of metaphor, simile or personification throughout the novel.**