

THE TWO TOWERS

8TH GRADE SUMMER READING

Edition: The Two Towers by J. R. R. Tolkien (ISBN: 9780547928203, Houghton Mifflin 2012)



BOOK FOUR

You will need:

- A blue or black pen
- These documents printed on white paper and 3-hole-punched
- A NAVY blue folder WITH BRADS
- A copy of The Two Towers with ISBN number above

Expectations:

- You will complete this work **independently** but your parent may help occasionally
- You will finish these questions before you return to school on August 22
- All work will be in CURSIVE
- Answers will be complete sentences (unless otherwise noted in the question) with proper spelling, punctuation and capitalization
- Answers will be written on these pages, but you may finish your answer on lined paper if you exceed the space given (Please use the given space wisely)
- You will READ THIS BOOK and not rely on published summaries or the previously completed work of others

Planning ahead:

- You are reading only Book Four, pages 589-725 of *The Two Towers*
- Plan to complete 12-15 pages of reading at a time
- Read the questions before reading the chapter
- ANNOTATE, ANNOTATE, ANNOTATE; underlining is not annotation, nor are symbols or drawings in the margins. You should be noting literary devices, key events, character traits and important action in the spaces and margins of the book
- **Do not be tempted to watch the film instead of reading.** The film does not mirror the book and taking this shortcut may lead to substantial confusion
- Write short chapter summaries in the blank spaces at the end of each chapter, then reread each of them before continuing. This will help refresh your memory about characters and events

If you feel overwhelmed:

- Listen to the audiobook **and read along with it**; this may help those who learn through audial and visual input (just listening is not effective; you must follow the text as well)
- Talk about the book with a friend or parent
- Go back and revisit previous chapters as you make progress through the story as this may help you develop more understanding of the big picture
- Read aloud; you may remember better since you will be speaking, seeing and hearing the words
- Keep notes about key people and places to refresh your memory

A note about using online summaries or published notes:

I was once asked why it wasn't acceptable to read the online summaries rather than the story itself since she would essentially get the gist of the story anyway. While the summaries may be a useful tool for reading after having read the original text, solely reading them will ultimately be to the disadvantage of the student. The price of a Geneva education isn't merely tuition; it is time, discipline and hard work. The result is, hopefully, a thoughtful and educated disciple of Christ. You read the book to learn the moral of the story, to be drawn into the characters, the plot, and the excellent use of words. The book itself is a piece of art. The summaries are just a description of that artwork, not the art itself. Reading online summaries rather than reading the text is like traveling all the way to Paris to go to the Monet museum, standing in the lobby and asking the docent to give you a 20-minute description of Monet's best paintings because you are too busy to go look at them yourself. While you may get a good idea of what is in the paintings and be able to tell your friends that you went to the museum, you will be the one missing out.

--Jennifer Blackstone, former Geneva Rhetoric School Humanities faculty

Grading:

- **Each student's work will begin with a score of 90**
- Points will be added for insight and detail
- Points will be subtracted for inaccurate factual content, missing information, errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation, and/or illegibility
- Late work will be assessed as our handbook describes
- This work will count as TWO QUIZ grades for first quarter

CHAPTER 1: THE TAMING OF SMEAGOL

"It's my doom, I think, to go to that Shadow yonder, so that a way will be found. But will good or evil show it to me?" ~ Frodo

1. Sam and Frodo use a gift from Lothlorien to solve the problem they are facing with the cliffs. Describe the gift and tell what is noteworthy about it.

2. Describe Gollum’s approach to Sam and Frodo, including the animal-like qualities Tolkien gives him. To what animals would you compare Gollum?

3. How do Sam and Frodo disagree over how to treat Gollum when they capture him?

4. What effect does the elven rope have on Gollum? _____

5. At the end of Chapter 1, Frodo makes Gollum swear by the Ring. What oath does Gollum make by the Ring? _____

****Check for excellence****

***Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?
Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE _____***

CHAPTER 2:THE PASSAGE OF THE MARSHES

“Here! We can get down here. Smeagol went this way once: I went this way, hiding from Orcs.” ~Gollum

1. We learn about Gollum’s favorite food in Chapter 2. What does he long to eat?

_____ (page _____)

And when the hobbits offer some of their food, what is Gollum’s reaction? _____

2. What is causing the change Sam sees in Frodo as they cross the marshes? _____

3. Frodo is greatly troubled by something else as they travel with Gollum through the marshes. He says on p. 616 that “its potency beat upon his brow.” What is Frodo talking about?

4. Gollum, Sam and Frodo are seen by Sauron’s spies in this chapter. Read pages 615 and 616 and describe these creatures in detail below, including the effect they have on Gollum’s behavior.

5. With whom is Gollum arguing towards the end of Chapter 2, and what is the argument about?

Check for excellence

*Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?
Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE_____*

CHAPTER 3: THE BLACK GATE IS CLOSED

“I am commanded to go to the land of Mordor, and therefore I shall go,” said Frodo. “If there is only one way, then I must take it. What comes after must come.”

1. Who are “Stinker” and “Slinker”, and how are they distinguished from each other?

2. When Frodo and Sam arrive at the Black Gate, it is closed. Why did Frodo ask Gollum to take him to the gate, and what solution does Gollum offer to Frodo and Sam to get them into Mordor?

3. What warning does Frodo give Gollum about the ring while they are outside the gate?

4. Why is Sam surprised as he listens to Frodo warning Gollum about the ring?

5. How many times do Frodo and Sam ask Gollum if the way into Mordor is guarded?

_____ (pages _____ and _____)

6. Sam speaks a poem at the end of Chapter 3. What animal is he speaking of in the poem? (just the word for your answer is okay!) _____ What do WE call this animal? (Just the word here too, please!) _____

****Check for excellence****

***Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?
Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE _____***

CHAPTER 4: OF HERBS AND STEWED RABBIT

“What a hobbit needs with coney,” he said to himself, “is some herbs and roots, especially taters—not to mention bread. Herbs we can manage, seemingly.” ~Sam

1. Our characters move from a barren and dismal land into one that is much more pleasant. Below, list six adjectives that describe this land, Ithilien, after reviewing pages 635-637.

2. What is the Yellow Face? _____

3. Sam asks Gollum for help with a few things in this chapter. The first thing Gollum helps Sam find is _____, which Gollum calls coney, and the second thing Gollum gets for Sam is _____ for his pans.

4. Describe the men that Sam and Frodo meet in Chapter 4. Be sure to include how many there are, their appearance, their clothing and their weapons. _____

5. For what purpose are Faramir and his men in Ithilien? _____

6. What does Sam finally get to see as this chapter comes to an end? _____

*Your initial **HERE** _____ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.*

You're doing great. Keep going! I can't wait to see you in August.

CHAPTER 5: THE WINDOW ON THE WEST

“And I do not need any to teach me of our peril.” ~ Faramir

1. What city is Faramir from, and how long ago did he leave that place?

2. How did Faramir learn of his brother Boromir's death? _____

3. When Frodo learns that Boromir was murdered, what does he assume has happened to the Fellowship? _____

4. In talking with Faramir, Frodo realizes that Faramir and the people of Minas Tirith know "the Grey Pilgrim", who has been to their city a few times since Faramir was a boy. Who is "the Grey Pilgrim" and what news does Frodo share with Faramir about him? _____

5. Why does Faramir blindfold Sam and Frodo before taking them to the secret place?

6. What is the name of the place Faramir takes them and why is it called that? _____

****Check for excellence****

***Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?
Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE _____***

CHAPTER 6: THE FORBIDDEN POOL

“Frodo, I think you do very unwisely in this,” said Faramir. “I do not think you should go with this creature. It is wicked.”

1. Why does Faramir wake Frodo in the middle of the night? _____

2. What warning does Faramir give Gollum about traveling in his lands?

3. What is Faramir’s warning to Frodo, and why does Frodo not take Faramir’s advice?

4. How has the relationship between Faramir and Frodo changed since they met?

5. Find two similes in this chapter. Write them below, with page numbers. (A simile is a comparison between two unlike things which uses the word "like" or the word "as".) _____ p. _____

_____ p. _____

6. According to Faramir, what should happen to Gollum if he is ever found by any man of Gondor without Frodo by his side? _____

****Check for excellence****

Did you write in cursive and in blue or black ink? Are your answers complete sentences?

Is spelling correct? Is penmanship legible? Initial HERE _____

I know this is hard, but you can do hard things!

CHAPTER 7: JOURNEY TO THE CROSS-ROADS

“Most gracious host,” said Frodo, “it was said to me by Elrond Halfelven that I should find friendship upon the way, secret and unlooked for. Certainly I looked for no such friendship as you have shown. To have found it turns evil to great good.”

1. Faramir has provided the hobbits with some supplies. What has he provided in their packs, and what does he give them before they depart? _____

2. What advice does Faramir give the hobbits about the direction they should travel and what they will find as they move on? _____

3. What news have Faramir’s scouts brought back news about the land where Frodo will be traveling?

4. What do Sam and Frodo notice about the ground? (Not that it is steep. It’s something more disturbing.) _____

5. Gollum disappears for a while. He seems different when he returns. Describe his demeanor when he comes back. _____

6. What does Frodo notice about the daylight? _____

7. The hobbits find an old artifact at the Crossroads, and it is not in good shape. Describe the artifact and its condition when the hobbits find it. _____

8. What does Frodo see that gives him hope? _____

Your initial HERE _____ means you did an excellence check for this chapter, including spelling, cursive, penmanship and that you answered in sentences.

You are amazing. You've got this.

CHAPTER 8: THE STAIRS OF CIRITH UNGOL

“Hold up, Mr. Frodo!” muttered Sam in Frodo’s ear. “Come back! Not that way. Gollum says not, and for once I agree with him.”

1. Frodo is really struggling as this chapter begins. Why is he having such a hard time? (Think. You will not find this answer spelled out in the novel.) _____

2. Why does Frodo resist the urge to put on the ring as the Black Rider approaches him?

3. What does Frodo grip instead of the ring? _____

4. Gollum leads the hobbits further into Mordor. Describe the two sets of stairs, including what Gollum calls them, that the hobbits and Gollum climb before they get to the tunnel. _____

5. What are Frodo and Sam imagining on pages 696 and 697? _____

Did you answer EVERY PART of EVERY QUESTION?

Your initial HERE _____ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.

CHAPTER 9: SHELOB'S LAIR

“The star-glass?” muttered Frodo, as one answering out of sleep, hardly comprehending. “Why yes! Why had I forgotten it? A light when all other lights go out! And now indeed light alone can help us.”

1. What are the two most notable things Frodo and Sam notice as they stand at the entrance of the tunnel? _____

2. What happens when Sam tries to break the web with his sword? _____

3. How do Sam and Frodo finally break through the web cords? _____

4. What had Gollum promised Shelob? _____

5. How does bringing the hobbits to Shelob help Gollum get what he wants? _____

6. How does Sauron benefit from Shelob’s presence? (What good does Sauron get from having Shelob in the tunnel?) _____

7. How does Shelob benefit from Sauron? (What good does she get from him?)

8. Why does Gollum attack Sam in the tunnel? (It's not just that Gollum hates Sam. Attacking Sam helps Gollum achieve a goal. What is it?)

Your initial HERE _____ means you did an excellence check for this chapter.

CHAPTER 10: THE CHOICES OF MASTER SAMWISE

“Now come, you filth!” he cried. “You’ve hurt my master, you brute, and you’ll pay for it. We’re going on; but we’ll settle with you first. Come on, and taste it again!”

1. How does Sam finally get Shelob away from Frodo? Describe all the injuries Sam gave her, and how she eventually retreated from the hobbits.

2. Which objects does Sam leave with Frodo’s body and which objects does he take with him?

3. How does Sam finally learn of Frodo's condition? Be specific about what Sam hears and sees.

When you are finished and have checked for excellence on every part of this work, hole-punch these pages and insert them properly into the brads of your navy blue folder. Clearly label the front of your folder with the following information, **in a block exactly like this, in the upper LEFT corner:**

Your first and last name
8th ELA, The Two Towers
August 22, 2024