

# The Hobbit



THE  
TOLKIEN  
SOCIETY

## Lesson 5: Epic Quests and Adventure Stories

**Subject Areas:** English

**Skills:** Critical Thinking, Literary Analysis, Creative Writing, Communication

### Learning Objectives

- Students will gain an understanding of the Story Circle narrative structure.
- Students will analyse the Story Circle in *The Hobbit* and use it as inspiration to create their own epic adventure stories.

### Materials

- Copies of "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Whiteboard and markers
- Handouts with the "Story Circle" stages
- Writing materials (notebooks, pens, or digital devices)
- Visual aids (images related to *The Hobbit* or other epic quests)

### Lesson Activities

#### 1. Review and Preparation:

- Begin by discussing the concept of a Story Circle and its importance in literature and storytelling.
- Introduce *The Hobbit* as an example of an epic adventure story that follows the Story Circle structure.

#### 2. Exploration and Discussion:

- Explain the stages of the Story Circle using a visual aid or whiteboard.
- Discuss how these stages are common in many epic quests and adventure stories.
- Ask students to brainstorm examples of other stories, movies, or myths that follow the Story Circle structure.

#### 3. Analysing *The Hobbit*:

- Read and discuss key passages from "The Hobbit" that correspond to different stages of the Story Circle. For example, Bilbo's call to adventure, meeting Gandalf, and facing the dragon Smaug.
- Encourage students to take notes on how Bilbo's character changes and grows throughout the story.

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus illustration of a hobbiton-style door. The door is circular, made of light brown wood with vertical planks, and is set into a light blue wall. It has a small blue knob in the center and two black handles on either side. The door is surrounded by green grass, purple flowers, and a small stream in the foreground. The overall scene is bright and cheerful.

#### 4. Create Your Own Adventure:

- Provide students with handouts summarising the Story Circle stages.
- Ask each student to outline their own adventure story, following the Story Circle structure.
- Encourage creativity and originality in their story concepts.

#### 5. Sharing and Discussion:

- Have some students volunteer to share the outlines of their adventure stories with the class.
- 'Discuss the similarities and differences between their story ideas and 'The Hobbit.'
- Emphasise the importance of unique twists and characters in storytelling.

#### Possible Assessment Activities:

- Assess students' understanding of the Story Circle and their ability to apply it in their adventure story outlines.
- Evaluate their creativity and originality in crafting their own epic quests.

#### Extension:

- Assign students to write the first chapter of their adventure stories, keeping in mind the Story Circle structure.