

Hero's Journey: The Hobbit Chapters 3-4 Analyzing Poetic Elements

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY VOCABULARY

Prose:

Poetry/Verse:

Mood:

Syntax:

Diction:

Euphony:

Cacophony:

YOUR TASK:

You will analyze Tolkein's use of poetic elements in *The Hobbit* by looking at the songs/rhymes.

BACKGROUND: Before writing *The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkein was a professor and studied many languages, including ancient languages such as Old Icelandic, Old Norse, Anglo-Saxon (what modern English is based on), and many other ancient and/or dead languages. Professor Tolkien was deeply interested in words, their meanings, and the ways they could be used. He loved rhymes, riddles, proverbs, sayings, songs, folktales, and stories. A careful reader will notice Tolkien's use of verse/poetry in telling us about his characters.

1. Read and annotate this verse from a goblin song, making note of specific sounds and the mood those sounds develop:

*Clap! Snap! The black crack!
Grip, grab! Pinch, nab!
And down, down to Goblin-town
 You go, my lad!
Clash, crash! Crush, smash!
Hammer and tongs! Knocker and gongs!
Pound, pound, far underground!
 Ho, ho! My lad!*

Standards: QC.A.5.e: Identify, analyze, and evaluate the ways in which the devices the author chooses (e.g., irony, imagery, tone, sound techniques, foreshadowing, symbolism) achieve specific effects and shape meaning in increasingly challenging texts

QC.A.5.g: Describe what makes an author's style distinct from the styles of others

QC.B.2.d: Create first and final drafts of responses to literature that organize an insightful interpretation around several clear ideas, premises, or images and support judgments with specific references to the original text

Assessment: _____ EXCEEDS _____ MEETS _____ NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

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*Swish, smack! Whip crack!
Batter and beat! Yammer and bleat!
Work, work! Nor dare to shirk,
While Goblins quaff, and Goblins laugh,
Round and round far underground
Below, my lad!*

(pg. 60-61)

Write down three EMOTION words to describe this verse:

Why did you choose those words? Explain in at least two sentences.

2. Read and annotate this verse from an elf song, making note of specific sounds and the mood those sounds develop:

*O! Will you be staying
Or will you be flying?
Your ponies are straying!
The daylight is dying!
To fly would be folly,
To stay would be jolly
And listen and hark
Till the end of the dark
To our tune ha! ha!*

(pg. 49)

Write down three EMOTION words to describe this verse:

Why did you choose those words? Explain in at least two sentences.

Standards: QC.A.5.e: Identify, analyze, and evaluate the ways in which the devices the author chooses (e.g., irony, imagery, tone, sound techniques, foreshadowing, symbolism) achieve specific effects and shape meaning in increasingly challenging texts

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3. Read and annotate this verse from the dwarves when they sing a funny song about Bilbo's apprehension when they are washing the dishes at his house after the party following their unexpected arrival:

*Dump the crocks in a boiling bowl;
Pound them up with a thumping pole;
And when you've finished, if any are whole,
Send them down the hall to roll!*

*That's what Bilbo Baggins hates!
So, carefully! carefully with the plates*

(pg. 12)

Write down three EMOTION words to describe this verse:

Why did you choose these words? Explain in at least two sentences.

4. ANSWERING AN ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Choose one of the verses provided above. Write AT LEAST TWO paragraphs (each one using quotes from the original text as evidence) to answer the question: *How does Tolkien use poetic devices such as syntax, diction, euphony, and cacophony to develop a specific mood through the use of verse within a prose novel?*

***Use notebook paper OR the back of this sheet to ensure you have plenty of room to write!*

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