

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 4

CONTEXT: Literary Traditions and Beyond

Borrowing From Tradition: The World of Tolkien

The most beloved fantasy literature is probably that written by J.R.R. Tolkien (1892–1973), who created a world of hobbits, dwarves, dragons, and wizards. The world is pure fantasy, magic, and make-believe, and yet Tolkien’s writing makes it seem as real as our own. This world was introduced in *The Hobbit* and was explored in three later novels, which compose *The Lord of the Rings*, commonly called the Ring Trilogy. To create his fantasy world, Tolkien built on the ancient myths and legends of the northern European peoples. The result is a highly imaginative series of adventure tales that have delighted generations of readers.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Tolkien’s Middle Earth and its inhabitants. Below are ten vocabulary words that will be used in these exercises.

- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| citadel | emissary | garb | meditate | retrieve |
| defile | entice | herald | omen | undergo |

EXERCISE 1

Mapping

Directions. In the item below, a vocabulary word is provided and used in a sentence. Take a guess at the word’s meaning and write it in the box labeled **Your Guess**. Then look the word up in your dictionary and write the definition in the box labeled **Definition**. In the **Other Forms** box, write as many other forms of the word, such as adjective and noun forms, as you can think of or find in your dictionary.

Then, following the same procedure, draw your own map for each of the nine remaining vocabulary words. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

citadel

→

In *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins’s adventures begin when he joins a group of dwarves in their quest to regain the mighty **citadel** Erebor from Smaug, a dragon who occupies that fortress.

↓

Your Guess:

↓

Definition:

Other Forms:

←

HRW material copyrighted under notice appearing earlier in this work.

EXERCISE 2 *Context Clues* 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A

COLUMN B

- _____ 11. word: _____
v. to make filthy or dirty; to corrupt; to damage a reputation

- _____ 12. word: _____
v. to attract; to tempt; to lure

- _____ 13. word: _____
v. to think quietly and deeply; to make a plan

- _____ 14. word: _____
v. to endure; to experience

- _____ 15. word: _____
n. a sign of what will happen in the future; a warning

- _____ 16. word: _____
n. a fortress overlooking a city; a stronghold; a place of fortification

- _____ 17. word: _____
v. to get again; to recover; to find and bring back

- _____ 18. word: _____
n. a person sent on a mission to represent another's interest; an agent or messenger

- _____ 19. word: _____
n. someone who carries messages or announces things to come; someone who designs banners and colors for knights;
v. to announce; to foretell

- _____ 20. word: _____
n. clothing; outfit; *v.* to dress

- (A) In the first volume of *The Lord of the Rings*, the arrival of the Ringwraiths **heralds** the approach of disaster. Frodo and his friends have, fortunately, heard Gandalf's earlier warning and begun their journey.

- (B) Elrond, the Master of Rivendell, calls for representatives of free peoples to discuss the growing threat of the Black Lord. Gimli is the dwarves' **emissary** to the meeting, while Legolas represents the wood-elves.

- (C) Saruman occupies Orthanc, a **citadel** originally built by the Men of Gondor, but the Ent-folk are able to destroy the walls of the fortress.

- (D) Saruman the White allows his desire for power to **defile** him, and he becomes a servant of the evil Dark Lord.

- (E) Saruman attempts to **entice** the noble Gandalf to join in his betrayal, but Gandalf cannot be tempted.

- (F) Following his battle with the balrog, Gandalf the Grey is transformed into Gandalf the White. The wizard thus **garbs** himself in robes of white.

- (G) If Sauron, the Dark Lord, is able to **retrieve** the Ring of Power, he will get back the power necessary to dominate the free people of Middle Earth.

- (H) Frodo Baggins and his faithful friend Sam Gamgee **undergo** much suffering in their difficult struggle to reach the Crack of Doom and destroy the ring.

- (I) As Frodo and Sam approach Minas Morgul, a great darkness comes from Mordor. This darkness is an **omen** of the battle to come.

- (J) Frodo is faced with a difficult decision after Gandalf disappears. He **meditates** for some time before deciding that he should make the journey to Mordor alone.

HRW material copyrighted under notice appearing earlier in this work.

EXERCISE 3**Sentence Completion** 

Directions. For each of the following items, circle the letter of the choice that best completes the meaning of the sentence or sentences.

21. Grima the Wormtongue is actually _____ who represents the evil Saruman. Grima hopes to _____ King Theoden to do Saruman's bidding.
- (A) a herald . . . retrieve
(B) a citadel . . . retrieve
(C) an emissary . . . entice
(D) an omen . . . defile
(E) a garb . . . entice
22. The Ringwraiths were once mortal men who allowed their desire for power to _____ and corrupt all that was good within them.
- (A) garb
(B) meditate
(C) defile
(D) retrieve
(E) entice
23. Throughout his journey, Frodo is stalked by Gollum, who wants to _____ the ring that he lost years ago.
- (A) defile
(B) retrieve
(C) entice
(D) garb
(E) herald
24. In the _____ of an ordinary rider, the Lady Eowyn saves the _____ of Minas Tirith, the fortified city of Gondor, when she slays Chief Nazgul in battle.
- (A) garb . . . citadel
(B) citadel . . . garb
(C) herald . . . emissary
(D) omen . . . herald
(E) emissary . . . citadel
25. Those who attended the council of free people in Rivendell had been watching the darkness grow for several years and had had time to _____ upon what it might _____.
- (A) meditate . . . herald
(B) retrieve . . . undergo
(C) herald . . . entice
(D) entice . . . herald
(E) meditate . . . garb
26. Carrying the ring causes Frodo to _____ a great change, but the change he experiences does not _____ or seriously corrupt him.
- (A) defile . . . entice
(B) meditate . . . defile
(C) herald . . . retrieve
(D) undergo . . . defile
(E) undergo . . . garb
27. Glorfindel is the _____ that Elrond sends in search of the Ringbearer.
- (A) meditation
(B) emissary
(C) garb
(D) omen
(E) citadel
28. Orcs are vile and disgusting creatures that _____ anything they touch.
- (A) entice
(B) meditate
(C) garb
(D) undergo
(E) defile
29. Boromir believes that the dream he has is _____, and he travels to Rivendell to discover from Elrond what the dream might mean.
- (A) a citadel
(B) a garb
(C) an enticement
(D) an omen
(E) an emissary
30. *The Lord of the Rings* has been so popular with readers that publishers consider it a good _____ when a new fantasy series is compared to Tolkien's work. They believe the comparison will _____ fans to read the new series.
- (A) garb . . . entice
(B) herald . . . defile
(C) emissary . . . meditate
(D) omen . . . retrieve
(E) omen . . . entice

