

The Two Towers Study Guide

The Two Towers by J. R. R. Tolkien

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Plot Summary

“The Two Towers” by J.R.R. Tolkien is the second novel in The Lord of the Rings trilogy. The story is set in Middle-earth and tells the story of hobbits, elves, and men. It tells the story of Frodo Baggins, a hobbit, who possesses the One Ring that was lost to the Dark Lord Sauron hundreds of years ago. Frodo must find his way to Mordor to destroy it. The story is divided into two books that tell the story of Frodo and his companions as they fulfill their destinies in the battle for Middle-earth. The books are book three and four, for they follow The Fellowship of the Ring which contained books one and two.

Book Three follows the adventures of Aragorn, Legolas, Gimli, Merry, and Pippin as the fellowship has been broken and each follow their own destinies. Boromir dies attempting to save Merry and Pippin from Orcs. Merry and Pippin become prisoners of the Orcs who travel across Rohan to take the hobbits to Isengard. The Orcs are killed by Riders of Rohan and Merry and Pippin escape into the Fangorn Forest where they meet Treebeard, an Ent. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli track the trail of the Orcs to try to save Merry and Pippin. They cannot travel as fast as the Orcs or without rest and end up days behind the Orcs. They come upon the Riders of Rohan who tell them that they killed the Orcs, but did not see any hobbits. The Riders give them three horses to help them track their friends.

The three meet up with Gandalf, who has returned from death to finish his quest. Gandalf knows the hobbits are safe with Treebeard. He takes the three to Rohan where they save the King of Rohan from a connection with Saruman. Gandalf has the king prepare for battle and his men march to war against Saruman’s army. The men battle Orcs, trolls, and men of the mountains with the help of Hurons, ancient trees who have a hatred of the Orcs for cutting down their brethren. They defeat Saruman’s army and then part of the group travels to Isengard. At Isengard they find that the Ents have entrapped Saruman in Orthanc. Gandalf gives Saruman a chance to flee or end his connection to Sauron. He refuses and Gandalf breaks his staff and leaves him imprisoned. An orb sails out of the window and almost hits Gandalf. Pippin picks it up and gives it to Gandalf who wraps it in his cloak. Pippin feels a strange draw to the orb and steals it that evening and looks into it. It is a communication device of Saruman’s to Sauron. Sauron thinks that Saruman has the hobbits. Gandalf takes Pippin away as quickly as possible and advises the King of Rohan to prepare for battle.

Book Four tells the journey of Frodo and Sam as they try to find their way to the Mountain of Fire to destroy the Ring. They must rely on the guidance of Gollum to help them through the dangers of Mordor. They find the gates of Mordor too heavily guarded and have to trust Gollum to show them an alternative route. Gollum wants the Ring for himself and helps so that the Ring does not fall into the hands of Sauron. He believes by helping the hobbits he will find a way to get the Ring for himself. The hobbits are spied by men from Gondor. Their captain, Faramir, is Boromir’s brother. He knows of his brother’s death and asks the hobbits how it happened. Frodo and Sam do not know, for Boromir was alive when they left the company. They fear that all of the company has perished. Faramir helps the hobbits and warns them against trusting Gollum and



against the path he is taking to Mordor. Frodo and Sam find themselves in Cirith Ungol, the stronghold of the Black Riders. The Riders have ridden out to war, but the place still contains Orcs and Shelob, a giant spider-like creature. Gollum lures the hobbits into Shelob's lair so that once she has killed them Gollum can have the Ring. Shelob attacks Frodo, but Sam fights her to save his master. Sam believes his master to be dead and so takes the Ring to continue the journey on his own. He cannot leave his master, however, and finds that Orcs have taken Frodo — who is not dead, but merely unconscious — from the spider's venom. Sam now has the Ring and must find a way to save Frodo from the enemy.



Book 3: Chapter 1

Summary

Aragorn goes in search of Frodo, who has wandered away from the group. Boromir's horn sounds. Knowing he is in trouble, Aragorn races to find him. He hears Orcs in the woods. Aragorn finds Boromir sitting by a great tree. He is pierced with many arrows, his sword still in his hand, but broken near the hilt. Boromir tells Aragorn that he tried to take the Ring from Frodo. The Orcs have taken the hobbits. Aragorn asks if Frodo was taken, but Boromir has died. Legolas and Gimli come. They fought many Orcs in the woods. Gimli asks after the hobbits. Aragorn believes the Orcs took Merry and Pippin, but he is unsure if they got Sam and Frodo. Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli lay Boromir on a boat and send him down the river with the weapons of his enemy, for they do not have the time or tools to bury him. They find one of the boats missing and deduce that Frodo and Sam have gone to Mordor on their own. Aragorn decides that they have finished their part of the quest with the Ring and Frodo and Sam must go on alone. The three follow the Orc trail to try to save Merry and Pippin.

Analysis

The fellowship has broken. Sam and Frodo have left to find their way to Mordor on their own. Boromir has died trying to save Merry and Pippin. He sees it as a penance for attempting to attack Frodo and take the Ring. He is upset that the Ring made him so obsessive. Aragorn does not share Boromir's confession because he knows the power of the Ring and he respects Boromir. Aragorn must put his misgivings of his leadership abilities aside and decide whether to follow the trail of the Orcs and attempt to save Merry and Pippin or go after Frodo and Sam and continue their quest with the Ringbearer. He chooses Merry and Pippin, since he must follow his destiny and eventually make it to Minas Tirith as he promised Boromir.

Vocabulary

perplexity, summit, cloven, carrion, vanquished, damask, accustom, resolve, endurance, trample



Book 3: Chapter 2

Summary

Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas follow the trail of the Orcs into Rohan. They discover five dead Orcs along the trail. They are Northern Orcs and Aragorn believes there was a quarrel about where to take the hobbits so these Orcs were killed. Aragorn finds hobbit prints off the main trail and the brooch of an elven cloak. The company was given elven cloaks when they left Lorien. The three are happy to see evidence that their friends are alive. Riders of Rohan come upon the three. Their leader, Eomer, informs them that he and his riders killed a group of Orcs crossing their land. They burned the bodies of all the Orcs and saw no hobbits. Eomer says that Saruman has declared lordship over all the land and Rohan has been at war with him for many months. Eomer lends them horses since they are determined to search for their friends. Aragorn promises that once they have found the hobbits the group will return the horses and pay their respects to the King of Rohan.

Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli follow the trail and find where the Riders of Rohan killed the Orcs. It is late, so they camp so that they can search in the morning. An old man comes in the night, and when Aragorn speaks to him the man disappears. The three find their horses are gone. They believe the man was Saruman.

Analysis

Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli will not give up their search for Merry and Pippin even after Eomer tells them that he and his men killed the Orcs. There is a bond between the fellowship and they will not lose any more members if they can help it. They feel responsible for the young hobbits that have been loyal to the fellowship and have suffered many hardships for it. The hobbits are innocent creatures that have had little experience in the world outside the Shire and Aragorn feels that he must preserve that innocence and save Merry and Pippin from any harm. The Riders of Rohan are noble men who understand camaraderie and help the three by giving them horses so that they can travel faster to see if their friends are still alive. Eomer does this even though he can be punished for allowing strangers to wander on their land without permission of the king. He trusts his instincts about them. Trust is an important value, and the enemy Orcs are shown not to have it, since they fought amongst themselves and killed their own kind.

Vocabulary

furrow, amiss, overtaken, kindled, escarpment, hearten, prevail, contrive, bestow, tribute, chafe



Book 3: Chapter 3

Summary

Merry and Pippin are with the Orcs — they had run into the woods to look for Frodo and crashed into a group of them. Boromir fought the Orcs, but there were too many. Pippin's last memory of Boromir is of him leaning against a tree pulling out an arrow. Pippin remembers nothing else till he wakes up with his wrists, legs, and ankles tied with cords. He wonders why they are not dead. The Orcs discuss why they do not kill the hobbits. They have orders to keep them alive. It is said that they have something that is wanted for the war. The group is made up mostly of the Uruk-hai, the servants of Saruman. They are taking the hobbits to Saruman. They kill the Northern Orcs for talking against Saruman and wanting to take the hobbits to Sauron. The hobbits are whipped to keep them moving, for the Orcs rest little. Pippin takes a chance and runs away from the trail to leave a clue for anyone following them. They are moving swiftly toward Isengard. The group is attacked by the horsemen of Rohan. An Orc attempts to carry Merry and Pippin away during the chaos. He is killed and Merry and Pippin are able to free themselves and crawl away. They are not seen doing so, since they are wearing their elven cloaks that help them blend with the ground. The hobbits venture into Fangorn Forest to escape the battle around them.

Analysis

Pippin knows that Aragorn will mount a rescue for them and bides his time to leave some clue that Aragorn will recognize. The Orcs do not know why they have taken the hobbits. They only do what they are told. There is some division between the Orcs that follow Saruman and those that follow Sauron. This shows the reader that Saruman is trying to obtain the Ring for himself without Sauron's knowledge. The Orcs are mere muscle and cannot be trusted to know why the hobbits are important. Some Orcs are smarter than others and know the reason the hobbits are important and attempt to escape with them during the battles with the men of Rohan. The Riders of Rohan keep the young hobbits from falling into the hands of Saruman where they could have perhaps compromised Frodo and Sam's quest.

Vocabulary

nuisance, abominable, venture, captive, berth, besiege, heedless, lichen, furtive, resolute



Book 3: Chapter 4

Summary

Merry and Pippin make their way through Fangorn Forest to a stream and get some water to drink and wash their tired feet. The two then come upon an Ent. The Ent, Treebeard, looks like a tree with arms, feet, and a face. The Ent has never heard of hobbits and decides to take them to the other Ents to see what is to be done with them. Merry and Pippin tell Treebeard about their adventures and the loss of Gandalf. Treebeard knows Gandalf and says he is the only wizard who truly cares about trees. There are few Ents left, for they have lost their Entwives and cannot find them. Treebeard takes care of the hobbits and feeds them. The Ents are slow to involve themselves in the world outside Fangorn forest. Treebeard is upset because Orcs have been coming from Isengard and cutting down trees in the forest. These trees are his friends. There is a meeting of the Ents to decide what to do about Saruman and his invasion into their forest. The Ents are not rash and take a long time in their deliberations. The Ents decided to go to war with Isengard. The fifty Ents start their march toward Isengard. Merry and Pippin join the march riding on Treebeard.

Analysis

The Ents are not ones for action. They like to take things slowly and ponder the outcome. Merry and Pippin are young and rash. Their behavior influences the Ents and makes them act more swiftly and perhaps more rashly than if the hobbits had not been there. Treebeard trusts the hobbits because they are friends of Gandalf and he trusts Gandalf. The hobbits make the Ents think of the other creatures and forests that Saruman could destroy. They make the Ents look beyond their own forest. Destiny is an important aspect in the novel and Merry and Pippin seem destined to help the Ents retake their place in the world by helping with the fight against the evil that is building up across Middle-earth.

Vocabulary

stifling, vigor, gleam, irresistible, extraordinary, impression, trodden, deliberate, entangle, changeable, immense



Book 3: Chapter 5

Summary

Aragorn finds evidence that the hobbits have gone into Fangorn Forest, and Gimli is not happy about going there. The group follows the two-day-old trail. Aragorn sees the marks of the hobbits on the hill where they met Treebeard, but does not know the strange marks that join the hobbits. An old man comes up to the three as they stand contemplating what to do. Gimli believes it to be Saruman. Legolas takes out his bow, but will not shoot an old man unchallenged. The man tells them that he wishes to speak to them. The man knows that they are looking for two hobbits. He tells them that the hobbits climbed the hill yesterday and met someone they did not expect, and then reveals himself to be Gandalf. The three are happy to see him. The eagle told Gandalf about the captivity of Merry and Pippin, but he knows little of Frodo. He is happy to learn that Sam is with Frodo. Aragorn tells Gandalf of their journey since they parted his company. Gandalf tells them that Saruman wants the Ring for himself, and sent the Orcs to capture the hobbits. Gandalf tells them that the hobbits are with the Ents. Aragorn asks if they are to go find their friends and to see Treebeard. Gandalf says they instead must go to Rohan to see Théoden, King of Rohan for they are needed there. First, they beg to hear what happened to Gandalf when they were separated. He tells them he fell off the bridge with the Balrog and fell into deep water. He followed the Balrog through the tunnels that had been made by nameless things through the secret ways of Khazad-dum to the Endless Stair, where he climbed to Durin's Tower. Gandalf killed the Balrog and then darkness took him. He says he was sent back for a brief time to finish his task. An eagle sent by Lady Galadriel came to his rescue and carried him to Lothlorien, where he was healed. When they come to the end of Fangorn Forest, Gandalf whistles for the horses and Shadowfax comes with the horses Aragorn and Legolas were riding. The group moves quickly toward Rohan.

Analysis

Aragorn and Legolas must trust their instincts when the old man approaches them in Fangorn Forest. Aragorn does not believe the man is Saruman, since he is not dressed in the same manner as Eomer mentioned. This trust is warranted, for Gandalf has come to unite with his friends. Gandalf hints that his return is only to finish their quest. He was spared from death because what they are doing is important and will impact all of Middle-earth. They each have a part to play in the journey before them. Merry and Pippin are fulfilling their destinies by influencing the Ents and the others must start by seeking their destinies in Rohan and help the Riders of Rohan battle the army of Saruman.

Vocabulary

errand, sorcery, daunt, expectancy, perceive, guile, guardian, surety, abyss, perceptible



Book 3: Chapter 6

Summary

The group rides to Edora, the home of Théoden, the King of Rohan. They are halted at the gates and told only friends of the Riddermark can enter. Aragorn tells the man that Eomer gave them two horses and they are returning them as he requested. The man will say nothing of Eomer, but was informed by the King's counselor, Wormtongue, that no strangers should pass through the gates. Gandalf gives their names so that the man can ask the king for entrance for them. They are allowed to enter, but they are not allowed to take their weapons with them to see Théoden. Gandalf persuades the man to let him have his staff. Théoden looks old and bent over and leans on a staff. The man is not happy to see Gandalf. Wormtongue has poisoned Théoden against Gandalf. Gandalf throws Wormtongue away from Théoden and Gandalf takes him outside to see that all is not dark and the years fall away from the man. The king feels newly awakened. Gandalf asks Théoden to send for Eomer, who is imprisoned. Wormtongue advised Théoden to imprison him when Eomer rebelled against his commands and threatened death to Wormtongue. He does as Gandalf asks. Gandalf tells Théoden that they must ride to war. Théoden sends word for the men to assemble to leave that day. Wormtongue is given the choice to ride to battle with his king or to leave and never be seen in the land again. Wormtongue decides to leave. The King has healed and will ride to war with his men so he chooses Lady Eowyn to rule over his people while he is gone and if he or Eomer, his heir, do not make it back. The four companions ride to war with the men of Rohan.

Analysis

Wormtongue is a minion of Saruman. He has cast a spell on Théoden to keep him from hindering Saruman's plans to conquer the land. Gandalf ruins this by breaking the spell and casting out Wormtongue. Théoden takes back his kingdom and frees Eomer from prison. Eomer wanted only to save the king from the Wormtongue's evil and make Théoden see that they must fight Saruman's army. Théoden now sees the wisdom of the man's advice and his loyalty to his king. Théoden sweeps away the vestiges of evil that attempted to corrupt his mind and instead sees the loyal people who tried to make him see clearly. This type of loyalty is important when riding into battle where the odds will most likely be against them.

Vocabulary

sentinel, warily, sunder, naught, prudence, sooth, deceit, toil, summon, cringing, irksome, defile, slain



Book 3: Chapter 7

Summary

The group rides to the Fords of Isen in hopes of finding the king's men who are holding back Saruman's minions. The next day in the distance, Legolas can see a darkness moving from Isengard, great shapes that are moving down the river. A horseman comes riding up telling them they are too late if they came to help the fight. Saruman has sent out his entire army plus armed the wild hill men and the herd-folk of Dunland. All the men who survived are headed to Helm's Deep and some are scattered. Gandalf tells Théoden to ride for Helm's Deep as quickly as possible. Gandalf leaves them to run a quick errand, but promises to be there for them at Helm's Deep. The group heads to Helm's Deep, a stronghold dug into a cliff. Scouts for the group report that a host of Orcs and wild men are headed to Helm's Deep. It is believed the leader of the king's men holding back the Orcs, Erkenbrand, will not make it to Helm's Deep before he is overtaken by Orcs. Gandalf has been seen passing hither and thither across the plain and word is that Wormtongue passed going northward with a company of Orcs. The group hurries on to Helm's Deep. Eomer places his men at strategic points along the wall in Helm's Deep. They await the armies of the enemy to arrive. They fight long into the night with Aragorn and company having to fall back as the enemy takes the wall. Théoden decides to ride out into the enemy at daybreak to fight or perish. Aragorn rides by his side. The men fight through the Orcs and wild men fighting their way through the gates. There they see a forest where an open plain should be. The Orcs are trapped between the forest and the king. They are terrified of the forest. Riders appear on the ridge with Gandalf ahead of them. He leads the army of Erkenbrand.

Analysis

The battle of Helm's Deep is a precursor of the battle yet to come against Sauron. It unites the men of Rohan behind their king and the heir of Isildur. The men rally behind Aragorn, for he is the heir to the throne of Gondor and is their hope for the future. Aragorn shows his regal bearing and leadership skills during the battle of Helm's Deep. He is shown to be the future King of Gondor. The uniting of Men and Ents also shows the strength of Sauron's future opposition. It gives the men faith in themselves that they can fight against the evil army. The win at Helm's Deep also gives them faith in their leaders and in their cause.

Vocabulary

bivouac, kindred, thither, vanguard, sombre, helm, cloven, clefts, tempest, battlements, smote, hewn, tumult, quail, parley



Book 3: Chapter 8

Summary

The men rejoice in their victory over Saruman's army. Gandalf takes Théoden, Eomer, Aragorn, Gimli, Legolas and twenty of Théoden's men to Isengard. He is taking them there to talk rather than fight. The Riders are wary to ride into the forest that appeared during the night. Gandalf leads them inside. There is no sign of any of the Orcs that ventured into the forest. When they clear the forest, the riders see strange shapes that are twelve feet tall with strong bodies, long limbs and many-fingered hands. Gandalf says they are the shepherds of the trees, the Ents. As the men travel, they find that the river is dry. Théoden is upset that they will have to pass the place where many of his men lost their lives the night before trying to hold back Saruman's army. They find that the men have been buried. Gandalf left some men to bury the dead, sent some to Edoras, and led others to Helm's Deep to help their king. The group sees smoke and vapor hanging over the vale toward Isengard. They camp by the river. During the night, a darkness passes moving northward. Gandalf warns them not to draw weapons, and that it will pass. The river begins to flow again during the night. At the gates of Isengard, they find the gates twisted and lying on the ground. Saruman's tower, Orthanc, lies beyond the ruin encircled by water. The king and his men marvel that Saruman has been overthrown. Merry and Pippin welcome the men and tell them where they can find Treebeard and the other Ents. Gandalf and the king and his men go to see Treebeard, while Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli stay with their hobbit friends.

Analysis

The burial of the king's men shows that men care for their fellow soldiers, while the Orcs just leave their comrades to lie where they fall. Men have an appreciation for life, while the enemy embraces violence and desecrates the dead. As the group travels up the river, they see signs that the land has changed. The river is dry and the forest has changed. They understand the reasons for this when they see that Isengard has been attacked and flooded. They rejoice at the sight, for not only has Saruman's army been defeated, but Saruman is trapped within his tower. The fellowship is partially restored with the rejoining of Merry and Pippin. They have fulfilled their destiny with the Ents and can rejoin their friends.

Vocabulary

feigned, deluded, impenetrable, ruinous, pilgrimage, translucent, raiment, devour, reek, descry, sullen, delved, riven



Book 3: Chapter 9

Summary

Aragorn, Legolas, Gimli, Merry, and Pippin catch up while they share a meal. The hobbits tell them about Ents and share the pipe weed they found in Saruman's cellar. Aragorn is worried that the pipe weed is from the Shire. He believes that there is a spy of Saruman in the Shire. Merry and Pippin tell them how the Ents attacked Isengard. They watched the entire army swept from Isengard, and then attacked. They broke through the gates and Saruman — who had been watching his army — ran toward Orthanc. The Ents just missed catching him before he entered. They smashed what they could, but could not harm Orthanc. Gandalf came during the night and talked to Treebeard and then went off again. The Ents broke the dam and flooded the area. They stopped the inflow during the night and the water is now receding. Wormtongue came that morning. Treebeard knew he was coming and made him go inside with Saruman. He had to go through the water up to his neck and a hand came and yanked him inside. Treebeard told Merry and Pippin that twenty-five men were coming and they needed food for them so he ordered Merry and Pippin to find some. They went through the stores and found food and the pipe weed.

Analysis

Gandalf spent the night uniting the forces against Saruman's army. He traveled to the Ents and enlisted their help and counseled them how to contain Saruman. Gandalf also told of the coming of Wormtongue and that he was to be allowed to go to Saruman since he was in league with him. Saruman did not count on the Ents interfering with his plans and their violent attack caught him off guard. His disregard of them led to his downfall. The Ents are incredibly old and are not seen as a threat, but the hobbits helped them to see what was happening in the outside world, so they chose to fight for their brethren who were slain by the Orcs at Saruman's request.

Vocabulary

plunder, laden, provender, unabashed, salvage, dainty, moot, sallow, infuriate, flotsam



Book 3: Chapter 10

Summary

The whole company goes with them when Gandalf and Théoden go to talk to Saruman. Gandalf tells them to beware of Saruman's voice. They stand in front of Orthanc and demand to see Saruman. Saruman speaks and everyone is enchanted. He tells Théoden that only he can offer the aid the king needs for his land and people. Théoden is swayed by the voice, but refuses to bow to it. He denounces Saruman for all of his evil. Gandalf offers him a chance to leave Orthanc, but he refuses. Gandalf casts Saruman from the order and the Council and breaks his staff. Saruman falls back and crawls away. Something heavy and shining falls from the window toward Gandalf's head. It misses and rolls down the stairs unharmed. Pippin runs to pick it up. Gandalf believes the object was thrown by Wormtongue and Saruman would not have thrown it away. He quickly takes the globe from Pippin and wraps it in his cloak. Gandalf is not happy that Saruman did not take the chance he gave to renounce Sauron and Mordor. Aragorn, Gimli and Legolas meet Treebeard. Treebeard is sad to see the hobbits leave. He has even included them into his Long List of names so that all Ents will know of hobbits. Gandalf leaves Treebeard and the Ents to watch over Saruman to make sure he does not escape from Orthanc.

Analysis

Saruman tries to use his powers to turn Théoden and his men to his side. His powers are not as strong since he has formed an alliance with Sauron. His anger gets the best of him and what he has wrought is destroyed by his temper. Gandalf remembers how great the wizard once was and gives him the chance to denounce evil, but Saruman will not break his allegiance with Sauron. He knows the power of his master and prefers to take his chances with Sauron rather than with Gandalf. Sauron is very powerful and his army is greater than anything Gandalf can muster. Saruman has chosen his path and will stick with it no matter the consequences. Gandalf gives him this chance out of respect for his old friend. Gandalf shows Saruman his power by breaking his staff and casting him out of the order and the Council. Gandalf is now the most powerful wizard, and the men of Rohan are amazed by his power.

Vocabulary

desolation, counterfeits, embrasures, gainsaid, melodious, aggrieved, fathom, benevolent, boset, embroil, valiant, endeavor, redress, remonstrance, commodious



Book 3: Chapter 11

Summary

The group gets ready to ride to Edoras. Merry rides with Gandalf and Pippin rides with Aragorn. Merry tries to get information from Gandalf, but he has too many things to think about. Pippin cannot sleep because he keeps thinking about the globe. He finds Gandalf asleep with the globe under his arm. Pippin takes it and places a rock by Gandalf's arm. He then takes the globe to a nearby hill, stares into it and screams. Gandalf and the others find him lying on the hill. He awakens and tells Gandalf what he saw. A voice asked Pippin who he was and he tried to fight it, but could not. He answered that he was a hobbit. The voice laughed and told him to tell Saruman that this dainty was not for him — that he will send for it at once. Gandalf tells the others that they have had a narrow escape. He asks Aragorn to take the Orthanc stone to guard it. Aragorn believes it is the palantir of Orthanc from the treasury of Elendil set by the Kings of Gondor. It rightfully belongs to Aragorn. Gandalf asks him not to use it. The company prepares to ride quickly, for it is not safe to be near Isengard if Sauron is sending for the hobbit he believes to be in Isengard. Gandalf takes Pippin with him on Shadowfax to get him away as quickly as possible. Gandalf talks to Pippin about the globe and tells him that it was not made by Sauron, but that he turned it to evil uses. In the old days the men of Gondor used them to see far off and to converse in thought with one another. It helped guard and unite their realm. Gandalf does not know what Sauron will do about Saruman. He is taking Pippin to Minas Tirith before the war begins there.

Analysis

Pippin feels an attachment to the globe after having touched it. The globe is how Sauron communicates with Saruman, using it to keep in contact and coordinate their plans. This is how Sauron knows what is happening. Gandalf believes that Saruman used it out of curiosity and was drawn in by Sauron, and was then unable to withstand Sauron's power. Gandalf is amazed at how the hobbits are able to withstand powers that would defeat men. Sauron's impatience to obtain the hobbit and his obsession with obtaining the Ring have led him to make a mistake in not questioning Pippin further while he had the chance. This was a fortunate thing for Pippin and the fellowship.

Vocabulary

solemn, rankle, testy, inquisitiveness, wheedling, hummock, stealth, hillock, haggard, disastrous



Book 4: Chapter 1

Summary

Frodo and Sam are stuck on a mountainside in full view of Mordor. They have tried for several days to find their way and keep coming to dead ends. Sam uses the rope the elves gave them to lower themselves down to safety. Gollum is following them. Sam and Frodo devise a plan to capture Gollum. Their first thought is to tie him up so that he cannot get away and make him lead them to Mordor, but he claims the elven rope burns him. Gollum swears by the Ring that he will not harm Frodo and will guide him where he wants to go. Sam does not trust Gollum and keeps a close eye on him.

Analysis

Frodo and Sam have no clue how to find their way to the Gates of Mordor. They have wasted time wandering around so use Gollum as a guide since he is following them anyway. At least they can keep an eye on him if he is with them. They go by the idiom “keep your friends close and your enemies closer.” Sam proves himself loyal to Frodo by climbing down the mountainside on the rope first so that he can make sure it is safe for Frodo. Frodo is tenderhearted and looks for the good in Gollum, while Sam does not trust him at all and lets Gollum know it.

Vocabulary

despondent, barren, impassable, livid, gaunt, rampart, forlorn, venomous, avenge, agility, caper



Book 4: Chapter 2

Summary

Gollum leads the hobbits through the Dead Marshes because Orcs do not use the marsh. His expertise helps them traverse the terrain in the dark, for it is dangerous to travel by day and Gollum does not like the sun. Gollum cannot eat the food the hobbits have because it tastes like ash to him; instead he is hungry for raw meat. The hobbits sleep in shifts to keep an eye on Gollum. The marshes are frightening and contain the bodies of the dead that died centuries before. As they travel closer to the Gates of Mordor, Frodo feels the Ring growing heavier and heavier. Gollum has a vocal debate with his other consciousness, Smeagol, about taking the Ring from Frodo. Sam overhears him saying how much he wants the Ring, but is scared to take it since the hobbits outnumber him. Gollum seems to be hatching a plan of some sort to have the Ring for himself. Sam worries that the call of the Ring will be too much for Gollum. The group makes it through the marshes, and Frodo asks Gollum to take him to the Gates of Mordor. Gollum tries to talk Frodo out of this, but Frodo is adamant.

Analysis

Gollum leads the hobbits where they are not likely to run into Orcs. This means they must go through the marshes, which contain the bodies of those that died in the first battle against Sauron. The battlefield has become a marshland and mystical candles light the dead bodies in the water, drawing the hobbits to the light. Gollum warns them against this or they will join the dead and have candles of their own. This gives a link between the past and present, as Sauron again attempts to gain power and will once again battle in the land. Sam sees the power that the Ring has over Gollum and knows that this is the chief concern rather than Gollum's hunger for raw meat (meaning he might want to eat them). Gollum has two personalities — Gollum and Smeagol. Smeagol is the hobbit he used to be and Gollum is the ugly creature the Ring has made him. Smeagol wants to keep his promise to Frodo and help him, while Gollum is obsessed by the Ring and will have it at any cost. Gollum attempts to persuade Smeagol to his way of thinking and knows of someone he believes will help him get the Ring from the hobbits.

Vocabulary

brink, stagnant, famished, protrude, spasm, malice, reproach, remorse, sullen, tussock, noisome, flounder, dismal



Book 4, Chapter 3

Summary

Sam, Frodo, and Gollum make it to the Gates of Mordor. The gates are heavily guarded and more men are arriving to fortify Sauron's army. Frodo knows of no other entrance so is determined to enter. Gollum tells him that he cannot do this for it is like handing the Ring to Sauron. He tells Frodo that there are other ways to get in. Frodo takes time to decide which way to take. He decides to go south to Cirith Ungol and try to enter the mountain that way.

Analysis

Frodo was hoping that his quest would soon be over once they made it to the Gates of Mordor. He is crestfallen when he discovers how heavily fortified the gate is. Frodo must decide if he will take his chances trying to make it through the gate or trust Gollum to find another way into the mountain. After watching the men entering the gate, he decides to follow Gollum and hopes to make it secretly into Mordor.

Vocabulary

fallow, resolute, submerge, shrewd, incompatible, grovel, remnant, sincerity, pinion, recite



Book 4: Chapter 4

Summary

Sam is very hungry and is worried about the thinness of his master, so he asks Gollum to hunt for some food. Gollum brings back rabbits. Sam prepares a small fire to cook the rabbits because he refuses to eat them raw as Gollum does. Gollum believes it is dangerous to build a fire, but Sam promises to keep a watch on it and keep it from smoking. He makes a rabbit stew and he and Frodo eat their first real meal in weeks. Sam goes to wash his pots in the stream and sees smoke from his fire he forgot to put out. He runs to put it out. The two hobbits hide in a bed of fern as they hear voices approaching. Four men surround them. Frodo and Sam stand back to back with swords ready. They are relieved to find that the men are from Gondor and their leader is Faramir, Captain of Gondor. Frodo tells the men that he and Sam had been traveling with seven companions and gives the names of Aragorn and Boromir. The men are excited to hear the name of Boromir. The men are preparing to attack the armies that are making their way to Mordor. Faramir leaves two men to guard the hobbits and goes to lead his men in battle. Frodo and Sam can hear the battle and Sam is happy to see an Oliphant. Both Sam and Frodo are very tired and decide to sleep.

Analysis

Sam is very hungry and believes that he and Frodo need some hot food to help them continue on with their journey. Sam worries about the necessities of the trip such as proper nourishment and keeping an eye on Gollum. Frodo is too weary from carrying the Ring to take anything else into account. Sam sees how the trip is wearing on his master and believes that a good meal will set him right. It will comfort them and give them the strength they need to continue on their journey. Sam beats himself up that he let the fire smoke and brought attention to him and Frodo. He was only trying to look out for his master.

Vocabulary

solitude, ruinous, encroach, wanton, ballast, furtive, gangrel, doughty, forayer, perilous, girth



Book 4, Chapter 5

Summary

Sam awakens to find Frodo being questioned by Faramir. Faramir is not happy with the story that Frodo is telling about why he is in this land and with only Sam as a companion. He also wants to know why Boromir did not lead the group after the fall of Gandalf. Frodo tells him Aragorn is a direct descendant from Isildur and bears the sword of Elendil. The men are happy that the sword of Elendil is coming to Minas Tirith. Faramir informs Frodo that Boromir is dead. This makes Frodo believe that the rest of his companions are also dead. Faramir had hoped Frodo could tell him how Boromir died, since he only knows that he watched a boat bearing his brother's body sail down the river Anduin. Frodo tells him that Boromir was alive when he left the Company. Faramir takes Sam and Frodo with him to a secret hideout they have in the woods for after their battle, when Sauron's minions will be patrolling the area. Faramir believes it will not be safe for the hobbits to travel at the present time. Faramir tells Frodo and Sam the history of Gondor. Boromir and Faramir are descendants of the steward of Gondor who took over when the last king had no heir, so their father is not a true King of Gondor. That right falls to the descendant of Isildur. Faramir senses that the hobbits did not fully trust Boromir. Sam lets it slip about the Ring and Boromir's desire for it. Faramir tells them that he does not desire the Ring and that the hobbits are safe in his care.

Analysis

Faramir is an honorable man who sees that the hobbits are on a dangerous quest. He knows that Frodo is not telling him everything and takes the hobbits into his care to learn more about the reason they have left their companions and are running around alone on the border of Mordor. He can tell by Frodo's expression when he mentions Boromir that something has happened between them. When he learns that Frodo has the Ring of Power, Faramir knows the thoughts that would have gone through his brother's head.

He understands Boromir's desire to help Gondor, but Faramir knows that possessing the Ring is not the way to save Gondor. Unlike his brother, Faramir has no desire for the Ring, but only pity for the poor hobbit that carries the burden. Faramir is more steadfast than his brother and knows that the Ring would only bring more trouble to Gondor. This kind of power is not meant for anyone and if it was decided it should be destroyed then that is what is best. Faramir thinks of what is best for all and not just for Gondor.

Vocabulary

foray, appease, thirst, forfeit, affray, contention, suffice, perchance, victuals, rustic, niche, idleness, prowess, discern



Book 4: Chapter 6

Summary

Faramir awakens Frodo during the night and asks him to come with him. Sam follows to keep an eye on his master. Faramir takes him to look over a small pool near their hideout. Gollum is fishing in the pool. This is an act that is punishable by death. Frodo asks Faramir to spare Gollum, because he is their guide into Mordor. Faramir allows Frodo to go to Gollum and help his men capture him. Faramir questions Gollum about the route he plans to take to Mordor. He does not like the creature nor the path he plans for the hobbits, because the Nine Riders reside in the place where Gollum is taking them. Faramir advises Frodo not to follow the path to Cirith Ungol, but Frodo knows no other way and must make it to the mountain to destroy the Ring.

Analysis

Faramir tries to warn Frodo not to trust Gollum. The path that he is planning is not one that Faramir believes Gandalf would approve. Faramir does not harm Gollum, since Frodo says he needs him to guide him, but he is wary of leaving the hobbits with such a creature. He believes Gollum will not be helpful in their journey. Frodo, however, has to make it to the Fire to destroy the Ring and Gollum is the only one who has been inside and can help them find their way. Frodo understands Faramir's concerns, but he has no other choice than to trust Gollum, for he and Sam cannot find the way on their own. Frodo and Gollum need one another, yet do not trust each other. Gollum alone understands the burden that Frodo feels carrying the Ring and this gives them a bond.

Vocabulary

rouse, refrain, trickery, erring, recess, unbidden, entreat, canker, troth, holden, blanch



Book 4: Chapter 7

Summary

Faramir gives the hobbits food and he and his men lead them out of their land. Gollum, Frodo and Sam march on to Cirith Ungol. Gollum disappears when they stop for their rest and does not reappear until it is time to start their journey again. He returns and tells them they must hurry, but will not tell them where he has been or why they must hurry. They come to the Crossroads. The Orcs have vandalized the statue of the King of Gondor — its head has been knocked off and lies near the roadside. The head is ringed by a trailing plant with small white flowers that looks like a coronal.

Analysis

Gollum's sense of urgency tells the reader that he is up to something. He has been off on his own and the reader can only guess what kind of plans he is making. The earlier conversation he had concerning "she" who could help him makes the reader believe Gollum is plotting with someone. The vandalized statue of a King of Gondor shows the disrespect that the Orcs have for men. The lives of men mean nothing to them and violence is in the Orc's nature. The fact that Frodo sees the flowers encircling the king's head like a crown foreshadows the story of Aragorn and his journey to Minas Tirith as the heir of the kingdom of Gondor.

Vocabulary

portend, stave, virtue, disregard, hoist, overridden, covert, abide, interminably, stealth, oppress, reverence



Book 4: Chapter 8

Summary

The group travels into Mordor. The Ring becomes heavier once Frodo passes the Crossroads, and he becomes weary as they travel toward the tower of Minas Morgul. The group crosses the bridge and the Ring leads Frodo to hurry toward the gates of Minas Morgul where the Riders reside. Sam and Gollum stop him and drag him in the other direction. Frodo goes as far as he can, but he is so exhausted he must stop to rest. The Leader of the Black Riders emerges from Minas Morgul with an army behind him. He stops as if he senses the Ring's presence, and Frodo fights the desire to put on the Ring. The Rider turns and he and his army move out toward Gondor. Frodo's heart goes out to Faramir and wishes him well. Gollum leads the hobbits up the stairs of Cirith Ungol. They are very tired after the long climb and find a place to rest and eat. Gollum slips away while the hobbits eat and talk. Sam accuses Gollum of sneaking around when he returns. Frodo offers to let Gollum leave if the hobbits can find the rest of the way by themselves. Gollum says that that time has not yet arrived. There is a tunnel they must be shown.

Analysis

The Ring senses the Black Rider and tries to lead Frodo to the gates of Minas Morgul. Frodo is able to control the Ring, but it is very strong and takes all of his strength to resist. The power of the Ring is becoming very strong as the hobbits make it closer to their destination. The weariness that drags Frodo down will only increase as they move closer; this incident shows where the Ring wants to be and that evil is what draws it. The Ring could never be used for good and that is why it has to be destroyed. Frodo's weariness is not only physical but mental, for the Ring battles his mind as well as weighs heavily on his body. It is trying to discourage him from continuing on his journey by battling him each step by the only way it can, which is attempting to guide him toward those that will take it to its master. Frodo is able to fight it now, but one can see that the effort is taking a toll and next time he may not have the strength to resist.

Vocabulary

radiant, exhalation, devious, bestial, loathsome, wrench, trudge, agitation, inclination, chasm



Book 4: Chapter 9

Summary

Gollum leads Frodo and Sam into the lair of Shelob. She is a giant spider-like creature who is very evil. Sauron allows her to live in the tunnels of Cirith Ungol because she keeps people from entering his domain. He also likes to feed her prisoners and hear how she plays with them. Gollum has made a deal with Shelob that she may have the hobbits and he will have the Ring. Shelob cares only for food and nothing for the outside world. Frodo and Sam use the star-glass that Galadriel gave to Frodo to ward off the creature with its painful light. They are able to keep her away, but find their escape blocked by webs. Frodo must use his sword Sting to cut the web. The elven blade is very sharp and cuts through the cords. He gives the phial of light to Sam while he cuts the web. Frodo then runs and Sam has a hard time keeping up with him. Shelob runs to get Frodo, while Gollum grabs Sam to keep him from helping. Gollum had promised not to hurt Frodo, but made no promises about Sam. Sam fights valiantly and Gollum runs away. In a blind rush of violence, Sam follows him, but soon thinks of his master and rushes back to Frodo.

Analysis

Gollum makes his attempt to claim the Ring by leading Frodo and Sam into the lair of Shelob. This is the “she” he has been conversing with, whom he believes will help him get the Ring. Gollum believes it is a great plan since he is sure there is no way for the hobbits to escape Shelob’s lair. He does not know of the phial that Frodo carries, which was given to him by Galadriel. This knowledge thwarts his plans, as does his underestimation of Sam Gamgee. Gollum believes Sam to be dimwitted and does not understand that Sam’s love for his master makes him a force to be reckoned with. Love is a powerful weapon and Sam’s loyalty to his master gives him the strength to fight and defeat Gollum.

Vocabulary

veritable, resistance, stench, reel, hoarse, resolution, aloft, potency, daunt, gloating, baleful, quail, dissipate, glut, bereft



Book 4: Chapter 10

Summary

Sam finds Frodo lying on the ground with Shelob bending over him, so he quickly goes on the attack. He uses Sting to cut the spider's legs, blind some of her eyes and slash her underbelly. He then holds up the light to blind her, which causes her to crawl away to her hiding place. Frodo lies on the floor wrapped in cords. Sam cuts them away, but Frodo does not stir. Sam believes him to be dead and that it is now his mission to carry on without Frodo. He takes the Ring, Sting, and the phial of light to help him on his journey, and leaves Frodo. He has not gone far when he hears Orcs. He puts on the Ring to keep from being caught and goes back to his master for he cannot bear to leave him. The Orcs have found Frodo and have orders from Sauron to hold him. There is word that something nearly slipped through their defenses. The Orcs know that there was another, since someone had to cut the cords from around Frodo, but they believe it must be a huge warrior, for only such a person could defeat the formidable Shelob. Sam likes this description of himself. He follows the Orcs as they carry Frodo's body through the tower. Sam is not quick enough, however, and is locked out as the gate is shut and barred before he can make it inside. The enemy has his master.

Analysis

Sam is a loyal and valiant follower. He shows that he can be counted on to step up when things get tough. He is only a small hobbit, but he has a big heart and will face down anything that threatens his master. Sam is always there when Frodo needs him. His loyalty and love are the reason that Gandalf chose him for Frodo's companion and why Gandalf was glad to hear that Sam was with Frodo when he ventured off to Mordor without his other companions. Sam's devotion and sense of duty make him venture where he is scared to go. He does everything for Frodo. This type of devotion is not something that the enemy would understand. Sauron uses intimidation and greed to build his army, while Sam follows Frodo out of love and devotion. This shows the difference that divides the two factions and could be the difference between victory and defeat.

Vocabulary

onslaught, convulsive, anguish, rend, indomitable, firmament, confer, clamour, jostling, enquire, intrusion, tumult



Characters

Frodo Baggins

Frodo Baggins is Bilbo Baggins' relative and heir. He must take over the burden of the Ring of Power that is left in his care, and becomes the Ring Bearer.

Samwise Gamgee

Samwise Gamgee is Frodo's gardener and loyal follower. He is the official companion of the Ring Bearer.

Gandalf

Gandalf is a wizard who knows much of the history and the happenings of Middle-earth. He is very powerful and is a friend of the hobbits. He is one of the nine of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Merry Buckland

Merry Buckland is Frodo's relative and friend. He is one of the nine of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Pippin Took

Pippin Took is a friend of Frodo's and one of the nine of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Aragon

Aragon is the descendant of the ancient kings of old who helped defeat Sauron many years ago. He is a Ranger who knows the lands well and is liked by elves and men. He is the proper King of Gondor.

Legolas

Legolas is the son of the King of the Elves of Mirkwood. He is selected as one of the nine of the Fellowship of the Ring.



Gimli

Gimli is the son of Gloin and a dwarf. He is selected as one of the nine of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Boromir

Boromir is the son of the ruling King of Gondor. He is selected as one of the nine of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Saruman

Saruman is a wizard who has become obsessed with finding the One Ring. The obsession has turned him evil.

Théoden

Théoden is the King of Rohan. He leads his men into battle against Saruman's army.

Eomer

Eomer is Théoden's relative and heir. He is the ward of the Third Marshal.

Eowyn

Eowyn is Théoden's relative. Théoden leaves her in charge of his kingdom when he goes off to war.

Treebeard

Treebeard is an Ent. He is a shepherd of the trees.

Faramir

Faramir is the brother of Boromir. He is Captain of Gondor.

Gollum (Smeagol)

Gollum once had the Ring. It was taken from him by Bilbo Baggins and he follows Frodo to try to get it back. He calls the Ring his "precious." The Ring has left him with split



personalities. One is who he once was — Smeagol, a hobbit; the other is Gollum, a creature who cares only about the Ring.

Sauron

Sauron is the Dark Lord looking for the One Ring.

Shelob

Shelob is a giant spider-like creature that lives in the tunnels of Cirith Ungol. Gollum leads Frodo and Sam to her lair so that she will kill them and he can have the Ring.



Objects/Places

Ring

The Ring was forged by Sauron to control dwarves, elves and men and have dominion over the world.

Fangorn Forest

Fangorn Forest is where the Ents live. Men and Orcs are afraid to go into the forest.

Mordor

Mordor is the land of the Dark Lord, Sauron. It houses Sauron and his servants.

Gondor

Gondor is the land of men that borders Mordor.

Rohan

Rohan is the home of the horse breeders. They are allies of the Men of Gondor.

Palantir

The palantir is the globe that Sauron uses to communicate with Saruman. It was made by the Men of Gondor as a way to govern their kingdom during the days of Elendil.

Dead Marshes

The Dead Marshes are marshes where the bodies of those lost in battle during the war lie, where Sauron lost his Ring. The bodies are surrounded by lights that draw the living to them.

Minas Morgul

Minas Morgul is the tower of the Nine Riders.

The Eye

The Eye is the ever watchful eye of Sauron searching for the Ring.



Themes

Friendship

Friendship is a theme in the novel. Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli travel many days without rest to track Merry and Pippin. They are worried about their friends and wish them to be safe. The three also form friendships with Eomer and the Riders of Rohan. Their camaraderie is proven in battle as they forge their friendship by standing with the men against the army of Saruman. Merry and Pippin befriend the Ents and help them with their war against Saruman. Frodo and Sam befriend Faramir and the Men of Gondor. Faramir proves his friendship by allowing Frodo and Sam to continue their journey and by not harming Gollum.

Loyalty

Loyalty is a theme in the novel. The Fellowship is loyal to one another. Boromir loses his life trying to save Merry and Pippin from the Orcs. Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli show their loyalty to Boromir by making sure he has a burial that befits him. They also show their loyalty by pursuing the Orcs and never ceasing to look for Merry and Pippin. Sam shows his loyalty to Frodo by staying with his master no matter where it may lead them. He is willing to go with Frodo through the Gates of Mordor if that is where Frodo decides to go. He fights for his master, never thinking of the harm that may come to him.

Good vs. Evil

Good versus Evil is a theme in the novel. The Fellowship and their friends are trying to thwart the evil plans of Sauron and Saruman to take over their world. They know that it will be a difficult journey for each of them, but they do what they know is right. Aragorn, Gimli, Legolas and Gandalf fight Saruman's army with the aid of the Riders of Rohan and the Ents. Faramir and his men fight battles to try to thwart the increase in number of Sauron's army.

Obsession

Obsession is a theme in the novel. Gollum is obsessed with the Ring and will follow Frodo anywhere to obtain it. He is scared of Sauron, but his obsession for the Ring leads him into Mordor where the Eye is always looking for the Ring. Gollum is so obsessed, he puts himself in danger to get the Ring back. Sauron's obsession to obtain the hobbit he believes has his Ring leads him to neglect to question Pippin thoroughly when he sees him in the palantir. He instead sends a messenger for him, assuming the hobbit is a prisoner of Saruman. His obsession to obtain the Ring leads him to make an error that cost him knowing where he could find the Ring.



Style

Point of View

The story is told from the third person omniscient point of view. The narrator is all seeing. The original nine who set out on the quest to destroy the Ring are now split into three groups, so the book follows the three groups as they fulfill their destinies.

Setting

The novel is set in Middle-earth. It is a land inhabited by hobbits, dwarves, elves, wizards, and men. Mordor is the land of the Dark Lord, Gondor is the land of men, Rohan is the land of the Horse-Breeders, and Isengard is the land of Saruman.

Language and Meaning

The language of the book is poetic. Tolkien makes up his own Elven language and uses song and poems to tell part of his story. Because the book is set in another fantastic land, some of the language is difficult. Tolkien makes up his own language to go with his world. There is text of the Elven language and of other inhabitants of Middle-earth. Tolkien translates each language to help the reader understand the text and how it applies to the novel. It is a complex novel that draws the reader into the world Tolkien has created.

Structure

The book is divided into two books. Book III tells the story of Aragorn, Gimli and Legolas as they track the Orcs who have taken Merry and Pippin. It also tells the story of Merry and Pippin during their capture and escape into Fangorn Forest. Book IV tells the story of Sam and Frodo as they attempt to find a passage to Mordor to destroy the Ring.

The main plot of the story is the plight of Frodo to bear the Ring to Mordor to destroy it. Subplots include Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli's tracking of the Orcs that have kidnapped Merry and Pippin, Merry and Pippin's time with the Orcs and the meeting of Treebeard. Other subplots include the battle of Rohan against Saruman, the war of the Ents against Saruman, the battle of the Men of Gondor against Sauron, and Sauron's building up of his army and his ever-present Eye watching for the Ring.



Quotes

Farewell Aragorn! Go to Minas Tirith and save my people! I have failed. (Book III: Chap. 1)

My heart speaks clearly at last: the fate of the Bearer is in my hands no longer. The Company has played its part. (Book III: Chap. 1)

Kill all but NOT the Halflings; they are to be brought back ALIVE as quickly as possible. That's my orders. (Book III: Chap. 3)

And this I also say: you are our captain and our banner. The Dark Lord has Nine. But we have One, mightier than they: the White Rider. He has passed through the fire and the abyss, and they shall fear him. We will go where he leads. (Book III: Chap. 5)

I feel a great wrath about me. Do you not feel the air throb in your ears? (Book III: Chap. 8)

But still I am afraid. And yet, as you see, I will not touch the creature. For now that I see him, I do pity him. (Book IV: Chap. 1)

But slowly, very slowly. Very carefully! Or hobbits go down to join the Dead ones and light little candles. Follow Smeagol! Don't look at lights. (Book IV: Chap. 2)

And here in the wild I have you: two halflings, and a host of men at my call, and the Ring of Rings. A pretty stroke of fortune! A chance for Faramir, Captain of Gondor, to show his quality! (Book IV: Chap. 5)

Always forgives, he does, yes, yes, even nice Master's little trickses. Oh yes, nice Master, nice Smeagol. (Book IV: Chap 7)

And Frodo wouldn't have got far without Sam, would he, dad? (Book IV: Chap. 8)

It may well be, O yes, it may well be that when She throws away the bones and the empty garments, we shall find it, we shall get it, the Precious, a reward for poor Smeagol who brings nice food. And we'll save the Precious, as we promised. (Book IV: Chap. 9)

Don't trust your head, Samwise, it is not the best part of you. (Book IV: Chap. 10)



Topics for Discussion

Topic 1

Did Boromir redeem himself by trying to save Merry and Pippin from the Orcs? Why did he confess to Aragorn that he tried to take the Ring from Frodo?

Topic 2

Did Merry and Pippin influence the Ents' war against Saruman? What role do they play within the company? Is it an important role?

Topic 3

Why does Frodo trust Gollum? Does he feel Gollum is his only chance to find his way through Mordor? Why or Why not?

Topic 4

Who makes up Sauron's army? Why would these people want to fight with Sauron? What could he offer them?

Topic 5

Is Sam a good companion for Frodo? How does he help Frodo? Why does Gollum think Sam is not very intelligent? Is Sam more intelligent than he is given credit for? Why or Why not?

Topic 6

How do Boromir and Faramir differ? How are they similar? Does Frodo respect Faramir more than he did Boromir? Why or Why not?