Chapter 1

1. What kind of creature is Bilbo Baggins, and what about him is different from a human?
2. What are some other characteristics of hobbits besides their physical ones?
3. Who are the Tooks? Why aren’t they as respected as the Bagginses?
4. Who is Gandalf? What does he ask Bilbo?
5. Where is the dwarves’ treasure and why don’t they have it anymore?
6. How does the Dwarves’ music affect Bilbo?
7. Gandalf says that Bilbo is “as fierce as a dragon in a pinch.” What evidence is there for or against this claim? Why does Gandalf say this?
8. Why does Gandalf choose Bilbo?
9. Who is Thorin? Does he have faith in Bilbo? How can you tell?
10. What in this chapter is realistic or possible in our world?
11. What in this chapter is imaginary or impossible in our world?

Chapter 2

1. What causes Bilbo to leave his house without a pocket handkerchief?
2. Sometimes in literature a change of clothing is symbolic of a new role. What do you think Bilbo’s change of apparel might mean?
3. How does life on the trail differ from the life Bilbo is accustomed to?
4. What saves the dwarves from the trolls?
5. How do the others react to Bilbo’s mention of the key?
6. What does Bilbo argue about with himself when he sees the trolls?
7. In this chapter, what important help does Bilbo provide toward attaining the dwarves’ goal?
8. What does the company find in the trolls’ lair?

Chapter 3-

1. According to Gandalf, what lay hidden somewhere not too far ahead of the travelers?
2. Who was Elrond? What does he think of Dwarves?
3. What conincidence helps the dwarves during their stay in Rivendell?
4. Explain moon letters.
5. What is Durin’s Day?
6. How does the stop in Rivendell help the dwarves move toward attaining their goal?
7. What mistake did the dwarves make about Durin’s Day? What does this tell you about them?
8. Explain how the dwarves and the hobbit were able to find their way up the treacherous mountain.
9. What did Tolkien mean by a thunder-battle?
10. Describe what the stone-giants were doing.
11. What indication is there that the cave might not be safe?
12. Summarize Bilbo's dream that evening.
13. Why was it fortunate that Bilbo had accompanied the dwarves into the cave?
14. What happened when the crack in the wall snapped shut?
15. Explain how the horses, ponies and donkeys all disappeared.
16. Why were the Great Goblin and many of his soldiers so upset when they saw Thorin's sword?
17. Who came to the rescue of the dwarves and what weapon did they use?
18. What happens to Bilbo at the end of this chapter?
19. Why was Bilbo so frightened when he regained consciousness?
20. What does Bilbo find as he crawls blindly along the floor of the tunnel?
21. Why was Bilbo comforted by his dagger or small sword?
22. How was Bilbo able to see in the darkness?
23. Why was Bilbo reluctant to wade in the water?
24. Who is Gollum and where does he live?
25. How did Gollum get his name? What does he call himself?
26. Explain the basic rules of the riddle game.
27. Explain the power of Gollum's ring.
28. Why did Gollum hurry right past Bilbo?
29. Explain how Gollum unexpectedly aids the hobbit in his escape.
30. Why are the goblins reluctant to pursue Bilbo Baggins once he is outside?

Chapter 6 – “Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire”

1. What did Bilbo Baggins intend to do if he was unable to find Gandalf or the dwarves?
2. What did the dwarves want to do when there was no sign of Bilbo?
3. How might you use the power of the golden ring if you possessed it?
4. Compare and contrast Bilbo’s story of what happened to him with what actually happened. Why are there differences?
5. Why did Gandalf encourage the adventurers to hurry on their way?
6. What noise did they hear as they stepped into the clearing?
7. Explain the significance of the title of this chapter.
8. Why would the ring not protect Bilbo from the wolves (Wargs)?
9. Who helped Bilbo escape into the tree?
10. Why did the wolves alert the goblins to the adventurers who are hiding in the trees?
11. Who rescued the party of adventurers from their perilous position in the trees?
12. What function does the setting play in this chapter?

Chapter Seven-- Queer Lodgings

1. Why did Bilbo pinch the eagle?
2. What announcement caused the dwarves to moan and Bilbo to weep?
3. According to Gandalf what are two possibilities explaining the origin of Beorn?
4. How does Gandalf prove himself to be a great manipulator when he is talking to Beorn?
5. What information did Beorn glean in his travels to the wolf-glade?
6. What gruesome sight did Beorn reveal to the adventurers when asked by Bilbo what had happened to the captured wolf and goblin?
7. What warning does Beorn give the travellers about proceeding through Mirkwood?
8. What shadowy form did Bilbo think he had seen on the third evening of their journey?
9. What were Gandalf's final cautionary words as he bade farewell to the dwarves and Bilbo?
10. What trust does Gandalf lay on Bilbo? Do you think Bilbo can fulfill it? Why or why not?
11. Compare and contrast Beorn and Elrond.

Chapter Eight-- Flies and Spiders

1. Explain how the setting is important to the plot of this chapter.
2. Describe what happened to Bombur as he was about to step into the boat.
3. Explain how Bombur's unfortunate incident slowed their travels.
4. Explain why Bilbo and the dwarves strayed from the path.
5. What did Bilbo discover was happening to him when he awoke?
6. Explain the transformation of Bilbo Baggins' character as he renames his sword Sting.
7. Why is Bilbo horrified when he stumbles upon the dwarves in a dark part of the Mirkwood forest?
8. Explain why Bilbo was so adroit at throwing stones.
9. Summarize Bilbo's rescue of the dwarves.
10. What do the dwarves discover when they take a headcount?

Chapter Nine-- Barrels Out of Bond

1. Where did the Wood-elves take their captives? What leads the Elvenking to imprison them?
2. How did the dwarves react to their interrogation by the Elvenking?
3. Describe Bilbo’s initial reaction to the company’s imprisonment. How does this reaction change?
4. What does the Elvenking order his men to do?
5. How did Bilbo learn that Thorin was being kept captive in the dungeon?
6. Who played a key role in the escape of the dwarves from prison?
7. Briefly describe their final departure from the palace.
8. Compare and contrast the elves’ song with the goblins’ song. Consider the purpose, audience, and points of reference.

Chapter Ten-- A Warm Welcome

1. How does luck continue to be a factor in the plot?
2. Describe the scene as Bilbo approaches the region where the trees ended.
3. Describe the strange town at the mouth of the Forest River.
4. What strange *creatures* inhabited the town?
5. Why did the guards at Lake-town not keep a very careful watch?
6. Why were the raft-men elves so astonished at the appearance of the dwarves?
7. Why does the Master relinquish his own great chair to Thorin despite the fact that he is not completely convinced that the dwarf is who he claims to be?
8. How appropriate is the title of this chapter?
9. How did the Elvenking respond to the news of the dwarves' plans to slay the dragon, Smaug, and capture his treasure.
10. Who was the only person thoroughly unhappy the day of the departure?
11. What do you think the meaning of the chapter title is?

Chapter Eleven-- On the Doorstep

1. What is the role of the setting in this chapter?
2. Why did the men of the town refuse to stay overnight where the dwarves disembarked?
3. Describe their surroundings as the adventurers moved nearer to the Mountain.
4. Which dwarf informs Bilbo that he was in the Dale the day the Dragon attacked?
5. What did Bilbo and his companions see on their scouting expedition?
6. Explain how Bilbo begins to take a leadership role in their quest.
7. Give some examples of advice the dwarves have not taken so far in the book.
8. How does Bilbo finally unlock the riddle and the secret door?

Chapter Twelve-- Inside Information

1. How did the dwarves respond when Bilbo asked for volunteers to accompany him into the Mountain?
2. What took away Bilbo's breath?
3. Describe the dragon.
4. What did Bilbo carry back to the dwarves?
5. How do we know that Smaug kept close tabs on his treasure?
6. What analogy does the author use when describing the dragon's rage?
7. What indication is there that Bilbo is turning into a real leader?
8. What can no dragon resist?
9. What was Bilbo pleased to see when he tricked the dragon into displaying his underside?
10. Why does Bilbo regret his comment about the Barrel-rider to Smaug?
11. Why does Bilbo throw a stone at the thrush?
12. How did the band of adventurers become trapped in the Mountain?
13. What effect does the hoard of gold have on the various characters?

Chapter Thirteen-- Not at Home

1. Explain the significance of the title of this chapter.
2. Compare and contrast Bilbo’s attitude about going down the tunnel and exploring the hoard with the dwarves’ attitude.
3. Why do the dwarves finally relent and make their way down the dark tunnel to Smaug's lair?
4. What does Bilbo confiscate from the mound of treasure?
5. How does Tolkien use the treasure to portray the dwarves in a negative light?
6. What does Thorin offer Baggins as a reward for his assistance?
7. In addition to the gems and gold, what else did the dwarves confiscate?
8. Why did Thorin offer to lead the group of adventurers to the Front Gate?

Chapter Fourteen-- Fire and Water

1. How do the townspeople taking a stroll on the quays, interpret the flickering light at the northern end of the lake?
2. Conduct your own research to discover what a bard was.
3. How do the townspeople react to the initial warnings from the Bard?
4. How does the Bard save the day?
5. What important role does the thrush play in the demise of the dragon?
6. Why does the Master grind his chattering teeth?
7. How does the Master redirect the crowds anger?
8. What did the Elvenking think had happened to Thorin and the dwarves when he received news of Smaug's death?
9. Who came to the Bard's assistance thus enabling the townspeople to survive the approaching winter?
10. What motives guided the wood-elves’ journey east?

Chapter Fifteen-- The Gathering of the Clouds

1. Why would the presence of carrion birds suggest that a battle is imminent?
2. What role(s) have the talking animals played in the plot of the story so far?
3. Who is Roac?
4. What news does Roac bring to the dwarves?
5. What course of action did Thorin choose after hearing the news?
6. How does the Bard justify his claim and also that of his men to Smaug's treasure?
7. What conditions did Thorin insist on before he would negotiate any terms of settlement with the Bard?
8. What causes Thorin’s hardness of heart?

Chapter Sixteen-- A Thief in the Night

1. Why do you think Tokien might have called the chapter “A Thief in the Night” instead of “A Burglar in the Night?”
2. What does Thorin vow to do to anyone who withholds the Arkenstone?
3. Who was the "thief in the night"?
4. How was Bilbo able to escape?
5. Why did Bilbo give the Arkenstone to the Bard?
6. Who delights Bilbo with his presence just as the hobbit is preparing to depart the camp for his return to the Mountain?
7. Do you think the Elvenking’s prediction about Thorin’s reaction will prove to be correct? Why or why not?

Chapter Seventeen-- The Clouds Burst

1. Summarize the events of the battle.
2. How does Bilbo defend himself against Thorin's accusation that he has stolen the Arkenstone?
3. Why were Dain's people refused entry to the Mountain?
4. Why did the dwarf attack against the Bard and the Elvenking end as quickly as it had begun?
5. What role does the hobbit play in this fierce battle?
6. What is the "gleam in the gloom" and how does it turn the tide of the battle?
7. What happens to Bilbo at the end of this chapter?

Chapter Eighteen-- The Return Journey

1. How does Bilbo end up alone on Ravenhill?
2. Who has sent a man in search of Bilbo?
3. Who has been mortally wounded?
4. What apology does Thorin make to Bilbo?
5. Summarize the events that ended the war while Bilbo was unconscious. How do these events tie the plot together?
6. What protagonist from earlier in the story reappears to do battle with the forces of evil?
7. Describe Thorin's final resting place.
8. How was the treasure divided in the end?
9. How do we know that Bilbo was *well guided and well guarded* on his way home?

Chapter Nineteen-- The Last Stage

1. Explain why Gandalf had to leave the party of adventurers near Mirkwood?
2. What did Gandalf and Bilbo do with the troll's gold?
3. Explain the commotion that Bilbo discovers as he arrives at his home.
4. Gandalf tells Bilbo he is not the hobbit he once used to be.  Do you agree or disagree?  Defend your response.
5. What does Bilbo’s poem reveal about him?
6. What does it mean to say that Bilbo had “lost his reputation?”
7. How does Bilbo Baggins still make use of his magic ring?
8. What did Bilbo learn from Balin’s and Galdalf’s visit?
9. Why does Bilbo find the prophecies hard to believe? How does Gandalf’ respond?