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# Tolkien's World Activities **B1** **B2**

## **Detailed reading comprehension**

**After reading your assigned text, and going over the answers in class, you can check your comprehension with these activities.**

A. Tick the correct answer (more than one answer is sometimes possible)

1. Tolkien spent his time creating

- illustrations for his stories.
- sculptures of his characters.
- timelines of his stories.
- spin-off products of his books.
- detailed maps.
- new languages.

2. He was very good at

- teaching modern texts and languages.
- understanding ancient texts and languages.
- telling stories.

3. The exhibition is a compilation of

- books, illustrations and objects collected by fans.
- chronologies and documents created by the author.

4. His prolific chronologies and maps were necessary

- for readers to understand his fictional world.
- for his work at Oxford University.
- for him to write his books.

5. Many of his illustrations were

- used for book covers and interior illustrations.
- never needed for publication.

6. His son Christopher

- patiently and meticulously collected his father's work.
- helped publish his father's later work posthumously.
- gave his collection to the Bodleian Library.

7. Tolkien invented

- wizards
- trolls
- dwarfs
- hobbits
- elves
- goblins
- dragons

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**B. Match the characters' names to what they represent.**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Bilbo Baggins | <input type="checkbox"/> a. a gold-thirsty dragon   |
| 2. Gandalf       | <input type="checkbox"/> b. Bilbo's young cousin  |
| 3. Smaug         | <input type="checkbox"/> c. a dwarf   |
| 4. an Ent        | <input type="checkbox"/> d. talking and walking tree  |
| 5. Gollum        | <input type="checkbox"/> e. a troll   |
| 6. Frodo         | <input type="checkbox"/> f. a hobbit  |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> g. a wizard  |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> h. a strange creature (actually a hobbit obsessed with his ring, which altered his appearance) |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> i. an elf  |

**C. Finish these sentences.**

1. Tolkien initially told stories for \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hobbits are \_\_\_\_\_

**Watch your language!**

**A. 1. Identify all the verbs in the first paragraph of the article. Find at which tense they are conjugated and explain why each tense is used.**

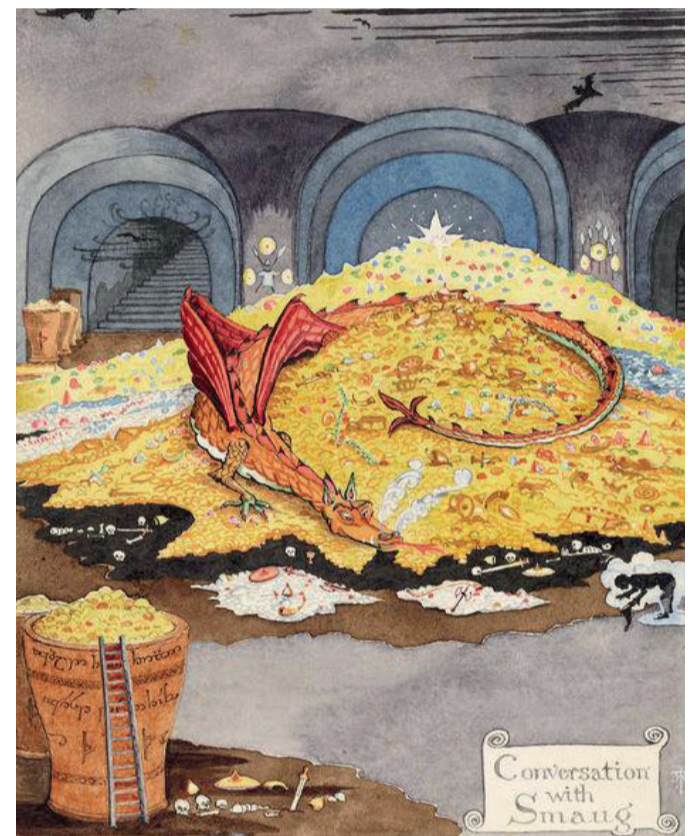
“Anyone who has read *The Hobbit* or *The Lord of the Rings* knows that JRR Tolkien was a past master at creating astonishing worlds and civilizations. A new exhibition in Paris shows that his published work is merely the tip of the iceberg. Detailed maps, chronologies, and dozens of illustrations give a glimpse of the entire universe Tolkien spent his life inventing.”

**B. Now look at the following two illustrations and conjugate the verbs at the correct tense.**



1. Mountains \_\_\_\_\_(surround) the elvish town of Rivendell. A river \_\_\_\_\_(flow) nearby and between the mountains. There \_\_\_\_\_(be) steps across the mountains to get to the town. The vegetation \_\_\_\_\_(be) lush.

2. A dragon \_\_\_\_\_(sit) on a pile of gold and precious stones. He \_\_\_\_\_(seem) annoyed as smoke \_\_\_\_\_(come) out of his nostrils and he \_\_\_\_\_(breathe) fire out of his mouth. Bilbo Baggins \_\_\_\_\_(wear) his ring as he \_\_\_\_\_(look) transparent (or surrounded by mist). They \_\_\_\_\_(have) a conversation where clearly Smaug \_\_\_\_\_(get) angry. This illustration of a famous scene in the \_\_\_\_\_(film) *The Hobbit* between 2012 and 2014.



**B. There are many functions for the verbs ending in -ING. Match each verb form from the article and columns to their function.**

1. at creating
2. astonishing worlds
3. inventing
4. his learning
5. started inventing
6. a BBC documentary showing
7. discussing his work
8. the author is showing
9. talking, walking trees
10. amazing stories
11. they are trying

**as part of a verb**

- a. present participle in the progressive form BE + VB-ING to show a process

**as a participle**

- b. present participle after a verb of perception (see, watch, hear...)
- c. present participle after a verb of movement, action or position to indicate parallel activities (sit, walk, cook, lay...)
- d. present participle in the role of an adjective, including in a participial phrase

**as a gerund**

- e. the gerund as the subject of the sentence or a noun
- f. the gerund after a preposition
- g. the gerund after certain verbs (like, enjoy, hate, imagine...)
- h. the gerund in compound nouns