

# THE HOBBIT

## CHAPTER ABSTRACTS – CHAPTER 1

- Gandalf selects the respectable and seemingly unadventurous hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, to take part in an adventure, knowing that he has adventurous ancestry.
- Bilbo invites Gandalf to tea in an attempt to avoid involvement in the adventure.
- In response to a secret sign made by Gandalf on Bilbo's door, thirteen dwarves arrive unexpectedly and without invitation at Bilbo's house. As a good host, Bilbo makes them all welcome and shows them great hospitality.
- The dwarves sing about their history and lost treasure; their song awakens Bilbo's desire for adventure.
- Stung by the dwarves' dismissal of him as unsuitable, Bilbo asks to join the adventure.
- Gandalf gives Thorin a map of the Lonely Mountain, which reveals a secret entrance into the dragon's lair, along with a key to the secret door.
- Thorin recounts the history of how they were driven from their home where Thorin's grandfather was king and robbed by Smaug of all their treasures.
- Bilbo is introduced as an unlikely hero, which is typical of the quest-adventure genre.
- Tolkien describes unfamiliar aspects of his imaginary world - hobbits and Gandalf - in great detail.
- The style or tone of this chapter is kept informal and the reader/listener is addressed directly by the author as if they are children listening to a father-figure or familiar and well-loved storyteller (Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit* as a bedtime story for his children).
- The informal tone of this chapter makes the lengthy description easy to read.
- One of the themes of this book - the desire to return to one's true home - is introduced via the dwarves - they do not merely wish to recover their treasures but also to return to their long-lost home after ages of exile.

