English II - May 4th-15th Assignments

Teacher: Andy Cochran
Grade: 10th
Subject: English II

Dear Student,

We have almost made it to the end of this crazy journey. All that is left is to write about it, or to write about another journey you have been on before. Because we don't have a lot of time left, it is not mandatory for you to read the rest of *The Hobbit*. However, I have provided summaries of the links so that you can know what happens with the rest of Bilbo's journey if you would like. So if you want to read the rest of the book, DO NOT READ the summaries, or they will spoil the ending. I will just say this about *The Hobbit*: I love the fact that the reason they were all going on the journey in the first place turned out to be only a small part of the big picture. And the inner journey that Bilbo took and who he became by the end was just as important, if not more, than the outer journey he experienced. Whether you decide to read the rest of the novel or just to skim through the summaries, if you have read chapters 1-9, you will have enough to run with for your final and only remaining assignment: The Journey Essay.

Please read through the rubric and directions to make sure you understand what you will be graded on for your Journey Essay. Also, check out the sample I have provided. Students often tend to leave out the direct quotations, or they fail to compare their journey to Bilbo's in a specific way. I need to see that you have read the book and are able to make comparisons to your journey. Make sure you ask me any questions you have before you submit it. I will make a Google doc template available, so you are free to use that to type and submit your essay. If you submit on or before May 11th, I will reward you with some bonus points for giving me extra time to grade. However, I would advise you to have a family member or classmate proofread your paper before submitting to make sure you have the best piece of writing possible.

Lastly, please stop by my room to say hello on Tuesday, May 19th during your locker cleanout day. I will plan to be here, and I would love to wish you a great summer break in person.

I will leave you with Gandalf's advice and my paraphrase from Chapter 7: "Stick to the forest-track, keep your spirits up, hope for the best," and we will make it through to the other side.

Sincerely,

Andy Cochran
Summary: Chapter 10

The barrels, with one hobbit on top and thirteen dwarves inside, flow down the river and out of Mirkwood forest. Looking to the north, Bilbo sees the Lonely Mountain, the group's ultimate destination. For the time being, however, the river takes them toward Lake Town (its alternate name, Esgaroth, is mentioned in Chapter 12). Lake Town is a human city, built on Long Lake, south of the Lonely Mountain. At Lake Town, the barrels are brought to shore when boats from the town row out and cast ropes toward the floaters, and while the men are away, Bilbo frees his companions from the barrels. Everyone has survived, but they are cramped, wet, and hungry.

Thorin, filled with a new sense of purpose, strides proudly up to the town hall and declares to the Master of Lake Town that he, a descendant of the King under the Mountain, has returned to claim his inheritance. The people of the town rejoice. They have all heard the stories of how gold flowed down the river when the King under the Mountain reigned before Smaug came. They treat the dwarves and even Bilbo like kings. After a fortnight, the company is strong and eager again. Though they still have no idea how to deal with the dragon, Thorin feels that they cannot wait any longer. He obtains boats, horses, and provisions from the Master of Lake Town, and the company sets off up the River running toward the Lonely Mountain.
Summary: Chapter 11

As they approach the foothills of the Lonely Mountain, the land turns bleak and barren. All greenery and other living foliage have been burnt away by Smaug. When they reach the foot of the mountain, Bilbo and three dwarves are sent to investigate the main entrance on the south side. The entrance looks far too dangerous—it is the gate that Smaug uses—so the company decides to search out the secret door described on their map, which is on the west side of the mountain.

After hours of searching, Bilbo finally locates a narrow passage along a cliff that leads to a flat, smooth patch on the mountain's side. Though the patch must be the door, the dwarves cannot find a way to open it, as they have forgotten the message that Elrond read from the map. The dwarves bang at the door with picks and axes but to no avail. They grow discouraged.

One evening, Bilbo is sitting outside the door, lost in thought, when a thrush lands nearby and begins to knock a snail against a stone with its beak. Suddenly, the hobbit remembers the riddle on the map. He quickly gathers the other dwarves by the door, and they watch as the sun slowly sets. With the sun's last light, a single ray falls on a part of the door, and there a rock falls away to reveal a keyhole. Thorin quickly takes the key that came with the map and places it in the rock—when he turns it, the door's outlines appear. The dwarves and the hobbit push open the door and stare into the depths of the mountain before them.

Summary: Chapter 12
Dwarves are not heroes, but calculating folk with a great idea of the value of money; some are tricky and treacherous and pretty bad lots; some are not, but are decent enough people like Thorin and Company, if you don’t expect too much. (See Important Quotations Explained)

The dark passage into the mountain stands open before the company. Thorin nominates Bilbo, the official burglar, to go inside to snoop. Bilbo enters, slips on his ring to make himself invisible, and proceeds down the long, dark passage into Smaug’s lair. There, he sees the magnificent, terrible dragon asleep on piles of treasure. Smaug is red and gold, with fiery breath, sharp claws, and a hide as strong as a diamond. Bilbo is horribly afraid, but he works up the nerve to take a single golden cup from one of the piles. He then rushes back up to the dwarves, who marvel over the cup.

Bilbo’s theft does not go unnoticed by Smaug, who takes careful account of his treasure. When he awakens, he is enraged to discover that the cup is missing. He flies around the mountain breathing blasts of flame, and when he sees the company’s ponies at the foot of the mountain, he chases the ponies down and devours them. Meanwhile, the dwarves and Bilbo huddle inside the secret passage, terrified. After a while, Smaug returns to his den and falls asleep. The hobbit works up the nerve to return to the dragon’s lair, only to discover that the dragon has been feigning sleep. The terrible creature is wide awake, and Smaug is waiting for Bilbo.

Although he cannot see Bilbo because of the ring, Smaug smells Bilbo and greets him mockingly. Bilbo is smart, though, and answers Smaug only in riddles, which amuses the dragon enough to quell his anger for a while. Cleverly, the hobbit flatters Smaug into
displaying his thick-skinned underbelly, revealing an open patch in Smaug’s scaly armor above his left breast.

Bilbo rushes back up the passage, just outrunning the dragon’s angry flames. The hobbit tells the dwarves all that he has learned while a thrush sits nearby and seems to listen. Then they hear the roar of the dragon once more and shut the door to the passage just before an avalanche comes down upon it. They are trapped inside the mountain.

**Summary: Chapter 13**

Smaug guesses from Bilbo’s riddles that the company is somehow involved with the men of Lake Town, so he flies there to wreak vengeance. The hobbit and dwarves cower in the dark passage until they can bear it no longer. They slowly creep down toward Smaug’s chamber. When Bilbo determines that the beast is gone, the dwarves run out to the treasure in glee, remembering the prosperous times of old. Bilbo takes only a few things. One of them is the Arkenstone, an incomparable gem that Thorin seeks but which the hobbit decides to keep for himself. Bilbo also finds a marvelous coat of mail made of mithril, a wonderfully strong, light metal that is scarcer and more valuable than silver or gold.

After the excitement has died down, Thorin leads the company through the passages of the mountain and out the main gate at the source of the River Running. They still have no idea what to do about Smaug when he returns. In the meantime, they are desperately hungry, so they follow the river down from the mountain to an old
guard-post cavern that has not been used since the days of Thror, Thorin's grandfather. There, they rest, eat, and wonder where the dragon has gone.

**Summary: Chapter 14**

The narrator suspends telling the story of Bilbo and the dwarves at the mountain and focuses on Smaug as the dragon flies toward Lake Town to wreak vengeance. The people of Lake Town see the dragon coming from a long way off (some think at first that his fire is the river running with gold) and prepare archers and many buckets of water to douse the coming flames. Their readiness is of little help, for Smaug flies over the town and lights every roof on fire. The men’s arrows bounce harmlessly off the dragon’s diamondlike hide. When most of the men have abandoned the city, one man, Bard, the captain of the archers, readies his last arrow. Suddenly, a thrush lands on his shoulder and speaks in a language he can understand. The bird tells Bard to watch for the dragon’s weak spot in the hollow of his left breast. Bard looks, sees the open patch, and lets fly his arrow. It plunges through the chink in the dragon’s armor and buries itself in his heart. The beast comes crashing down, destroying the rest of Lake Town as he dies. Bard manages to dive safely into the water and join the rest of his people, who are mourning the dead and their lost town. Some blame the dwarves for waking the dragon, but most assume that they too are dead. Then the lake men remember the gold in the Lonely Mountain, and they think eagerly of how the wealth could rebuild their town.

News of Smaug’s death spreads quickly. It reaches far and wide, bringing the Elvenking and an army of elves, who stop at Lake Town to lend aid. The humans and elves then
gather together in a single army and march toward the Lonely Mountain. Most of them expect to find a massive treasure left unattended.

**Summary: Chapter 15**

Meanwhile, the thrush returns to the company on the mountain. Finding that they cannot understand its speech, the thrush brings an old raven that can speak in the common tongue. This bird informs Bilbo and the dwarves of Smaug’s death, and they rejoice. However, their rejoicing is short-lived, as the raven goes on to describe the huge army of humans and elves marching toward them, as well as the suffering of Lake Town’s people, who surely deserve some share of the massive treasure in the mountain. Thorin regards the treasure as his inheritance and plans to fight for it, however, regardless of what the people of Lake Town have suffered.

Under Thorin’s orders, the company retreats to the mountain and fortifies it by building a formidable wall at the main gate. From there, they watch as Bard and representatives of the elves approach. Bard informs them that he killed Smaug and that Lake Town has been destroyed. He asks that the dwarves be generous in sharing the wealth of the mountain, since they have benefited so much at the expense of the humans. Thorin flatly refuses. He feels that he owes the humans nothing since the gold belonged to his people originally. Bard gives Thorin some time to reconsider, but Thorin will not change his position. The mountain is declared besieged: nothing and no one will be let in or out if elves and men can help it. Bilbo, for his part, would gladly share the treasure. He is
entirely discouraged by the whole turn of affairs. However, no dwarf questions Thorin, and the hobbit has no say in the dwarves' decision.

Summary: Chapter 16

As Thorin continues to search for the Arkenstone and as the rest of the dwarves worry about the armies camped on their doorstep, Bilbo decides that he must take matters into his own hands. With the help of the ring, he sneaks away from the mountain at night and into the camp of the lake men and the wood elves. There, he reveals himself and is brought before the leaders, Bard and the Elvenking. They are suspicious of him, of course, but they relax when Bilbo reveals his secret weapon; the Arkenstone. He gives it freely to Bard to be used as a bargaining chip against Thorin. Bard and the Elvenking are amazed that the hobbit would risk inciting the anger of the dwarves in order to prevent a war. They ask him to stay in the camp for his safety, but Bilbo decides to return to the mountain. On his way out of the camp, he runs into Gandalf, who pats him on the shoulder for his brave deeds. Gandalf has just arrived from his other affairs to see the end of this touchy matter. Newly hopeful, Bilbo sneaks back to the mountain unnoticed.

Summary: Chapter 17

In the morning, Bard returns with two messengers to entreat Thorin to accept a peaceable agreement. When the dwarf again refuses, Bard reveals the Arkenstone, the one part of the treasure that Thorin values above all the rest. Thorin is crushed, and he turns to Bilbo in rage when the hobbit reveals that he is the one who gave Bard the
treasure. Thorin is about to turn violent, but then one of the messengers throws off his cloak and reveals himself to be Gandalf.

The wizard commands Thorin to let Bilbo speak. The hobbit claims that, in taking the Arkenstone, he only took his fair share of the treasure, as his contract as burglar had specified. Thorin has no choice but to agree, and he angrily offers to pay a fourteenth part of the treasure to regain the stone. The men and elves are satisfied with this. Thorin, however, secretly hopes that before they make the exchange, his relatives, who are marching toward the battlefield with an army under the leadership of Dain, will be able to capture the stone by force.

The new dwarf army threatens the elves and men, and they are about to engage in battle when darkness takes over the sky from the west. Gandalf tells them that a new danger has come: an army of goblins and Wargs who intend to take the treasure for themselves. The dwarves, elves, and humans are thus united against the goblins and Wargs in what is called the Battle of the Five Armies.

The forces of good fight fiercely, but the goblins and Wargs are just as fierce. Bilbo stays on the mountain, a bit removed from the fighting, and watches as the elves and dwarves first send the goblins fleeing but then are forced to retreat from the vicious Wargs. Thorin fights alongside the lake men as mightily as any. However, the goblins slowly gain ground, and Bilbo is forced to retreat to the elves’ camp, which is nearly surrounded. The end seems close at hand when the hobbit’s keen eyes spy something in the distant skies: the great eagles are flying toward the battlefield. At that moment,
however, a stone falls from the mountain and hits Bilbo on the head, and he loses consciousness.

Summary: Chapter 18

*If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.* (See Important Quotations Explained)

When Bilbo awakens, he is still lying with a bad headache on the side of the mountain, but he is otherwise unharmed. From the camps below, he sees that his side has won the battle against the goblins and Wargs. A man comes searching for Bilbo but cannot find him until the hobbit remembers to take off his magic ring. Bilbo is carried back to the camp where Gandalf waits and is delighted to see the hobbit alive. However, there is sad business to attend to. Bilbo must say farewell to Thorin, who is mortally wounded. Thorin asks Bilbo's forgiveness for the harsh words spoken earlier.

Fili and Kili have also been killed, but the rest of the dwarves have survived. Gandalf describes the end of the battle for Bilbo: the eagles, watching the movements of the goblins, came just in time and turned the tide of battle. Yet things still might have gone badly were it not for the sudden appearance of Beorn in the shape of a bear, massive and enraged. This sent the rest of the goblins scattering, and now they are all either dead or in hiding.

Summary: Chapter 19
The dead are buried, and Dain is crowned the new King under the Mountain. The dwarves are at peace with the lake men and the wood elves. Bard is the new Master of Lake Town, and from his share of the treasure, he gives Bilbo a handsome sum. Soon, it is time for the hobbit to return home. He travels with Gandalf and Beorn, taking the long way north around Mirkwood, for nothing could persuade him to enter that forest again. They spend most of the harsh winter at Beorn’s house, with much feasting and merriment.

In the spring, they continue on to Rivendell. There, Gandalf and Elrond exchange many tales of great deeds, past and present, while Bilbo recovers from his weariness and wounds through rest and the magic of the elves. Bilbo learns the reason Gandalf left the company near Mirkwood: he was fighting alongside the council of wizards to drive the Necromancer out of the forest. Finally, Bilbo and Gandalf travel the last, long stretch of road back to the hobbit lands. Approaching his home, Bilbo receives a nasty surprise. He has been presumed dead, and the contents of his hill are being auctioned off.

Though he puts a stop to the auction and recovers most of his valuables, Bilbo is never again really accepted by the other hobbits. They view his adventuring with skepticism, and his return with gold and tales of dragons and war only confirms the hobbits' suspicion that Bilbo has gotten in over his head. This Bilbo doesn't mind—now that he has a wizard, elves, and the occasional dwarf coming to visit him, he does not care much for the company of respectable hobbits. Most important, however, he still has his kettle, his pipe, and all the comforts of his home at Bag End.
Journey Comparison Essay Directions & Rubric

Compare a physical, emotional, relational, and/or spiritual journey that you have taken to that of Bilbo Baggins’ journey in *The Hobbit*. As we read *The Hobbit*, be thinking and jotting notes about certain key points in Bilbo Baggins journey—points where he developed and grew and points where you see him being changed by his journey. As we complete *The Hobbit*, you will finish writing an essay comparing a journey that you have taken to that of Bilbo’s journey. It is important that you begin your writing as we read. Do this by brainstorming, writing down ideas, and taking notes of key quotes and passages within *The Hobbit* that you can compare to your own journey.

You do not have to address all of these questions, since it depends on your journey, but these are some good questions to think about:

- How did Bilbo begin his journey compared to how you began your journey?
- Who accompanied Bilbo on his journey compared to who accompanied you? Did these people help or hinder you? Did Bilbo’s comrades help or hinder him?
- How did you react to challenges/specific points on your journey compared to how Bilbo reacted to his?
- Did you exit your journey changed in any way? Did Bilbo leave his journey changed?

You will complete a typed essay of at least 5 paragraphs. It will be graded using the following scale:

     ____ Title and format (5 pts)

Please format your paper with an MLA heading (see sample and/or use prepared Google doc) and a catchy title on the first page. The paper should be typed using 12-point, Times New Roman Font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins all around.

     ____ Introduction (5 pts)

Have a catchy introduction and a strong thesis statement that will guide your entire essay. Give your reader a broad overview of your journey and any backstory that is necessary.

     ____ 3 Body Paragraphs (10 pts each for a total of 30 pts)

I will be looking at your body paragraphs for the following:

1. Topic and concluding sentences – Strive to make your topic and concluding sentences genuine, not generic and cliché. Remember to use good transitions to help tell your journey.
2. Paragraph content:

- Each paragraph should include accurate information, each covering a different aspect from Bilbo’s journey in *The Hobbit* and a different aspect of your journey.

- As you compare each aspect in your journey to that of Bilbo’s, this comparison should make sense and tie the two journeys together (even if you are comparing differences).

- Quotations and paraphrases should be explained well and should be placed appropriately within each paragraph.

- Each paragraph should contain a proper order and logical flow.

___ **Direct quotations (10 pts)**

Within your essay, include at least two properly formatted direct quotations from the book *The Hobbit*. These quotations should be followed by an in-text citation, containing the author’s last name and the page number (or at least the chapter if you are using the e-book) you found the quotation. (You do not have to have a Works Cited page since we are all using the same source.)

Here is an example of one of my favorite quotes from Gandalf: “There is a lot more in him than you guess, and a deal more than he has any idea of himself” (Chapter 1).

___ **Conclusion (10 pts)**

Your conclusion should restate your thesis using fresh language. It should also leave the reader with something to think about. For instance, you may make a final statement of what Bilbo learned on his journey compared to what you learned. Or you might comment on how the people with you on the journey (and those with Bilbo on his) helped to determine the journey’s results. The conclusion is a great place to make a statement that your readers can look at and possibly apply to their own lives: a theme.

___ **MUGS (15 pts)**

Please edit, looking at your mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling. You have more freedom and creativity here than you do in a formal paper, such as including onomatopoeia and speaking in the first person; however, you should strive to eliminate errors, such as run-ons and fragments, that detract from a quality-written essay.

Enjoy your journey!

**Total = _______/75 pts**
The Student Becomes the Teacher

Just as Bilbo’s journey was two-dimensional, both on an inner level and an outer level, so was my journey to becoming a teacher. My attitude at the beginning of my journey was very different to Bilbo’s, but the challenges I faced during the journey and who I became by the end of my journey are very similar to Bilbo’s journey. Bilbo and I both made the choice to face challenges head on and to allow those challenges to shape us into a different person (or hobbit).

While Bilbo began his journey with apathy and fear, I began my journey with the opposite: expectation and excitement. Bilbo’s apathy is apparent when he says, “Sorry! I don’t want any adventures, thank you” (Chapter 1). He also shows his fear when he “fell flat on the floor” after hearing that he might not make it back from the journey alive (Chapter 1). My feelings on beginning education classes at Mount Vernon Nazarene University were quite the opposite. On the night of student orientation, I was filled with excitement at getting to meet my new classmates and getting to see what my school schedule would be like. I enjoyed meeting one of my classmates, Brian, and finding out that we shared a lot in common. Rather than show fear at this new journey, I was filled with passion at getting to take a big step towards reaching my career goals.

My excitement only carried me so far though, because just as Bilbo had to face difficult challenges during his journey, so did I. Bilbo’s mistake early in the journey of getting caught by the trolls while trying to pickpocket them is a lot like a mistake I made when giving out my first test during student teaching. Bilbo was trying to show that he had what it took as a burglar. He wanted to impress the dwarves. Like Bilbo, I wanted to
show my mentor that I could handle the task of creating and implementing a test in the classroom. I wanted to show him that I had what it took to succeed as a teacher. Things did not go according to plan, however. I created the test—a great test in my eyes. After the students took the test, I realized that I had made it too difficult, since most of them did poorly on it. I was upset at myself because now I would have to reteach the lesson and give them another opportunity to improve their scores. But like Bilbo’s failure with the trolls, my failure was helpful because it gave me an opportunity to learn from it. My mistake cost me and my students time and effort much like Bilbo’s mistake did for him and the dwarves, but I learned a valuable lesson about not expecting myself to know it all as a new teacher.

My identity as a new teacher was especially put to the test when I began my first year with a classroom of my own. I struggled to see myself as a good teacher, just like Bilbo struggled to see himself as a qualified burglar. Bilbo and I both gained confidence as we progressed in our journeys. For example, Bilbo speaks to the feared Smaug, staring him in the face unafraid: “I am the clue-finder, the web-cutter, the stinging fly” (Chapter 8). Bilbo had gained a greater security in his identity and in his ability. I did the same on my journey. My first year of teaching was very difficult. I struggled to create quality assignments, to fill the class period with work, and to manage my classroom. I spent many weekends getting ready for the next week’s lessons, while also trying to catch up on grading from the previous week. I remember questioning whether I was cut out to be a teacher or not. By the time I ended my second year of teaching, I began to gain confidence. I remembered that God had given me the idea to become a teacher in the
first place and that being a teacher is a part of my identity; therefore, I am now more
confident that I am capable of doing my job well, because it is part of who I am.

Bilbo and I both grew on our journeys. We both went through periods where we
lacked self-confidence, and we were both humbled by the mistakes we made. But in the
end, we both emerged more confident of who we are: Bilbo, an adventure-seeking
burglar and me, a teacher who is improving all the time. We both learned that our focus on
a life journey should not be only on what we do but more importantly on who we become
by the end of it.
Journey Essay - Replace with Your Title