



THE HOBBITON HERALD

THE SHIRE'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

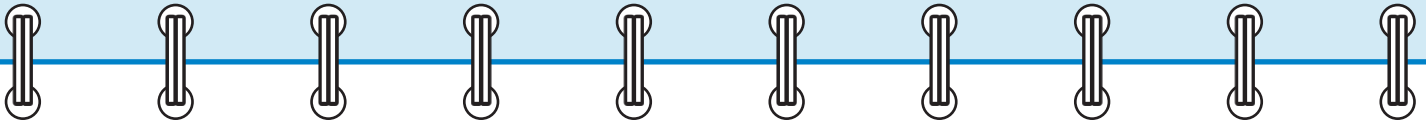
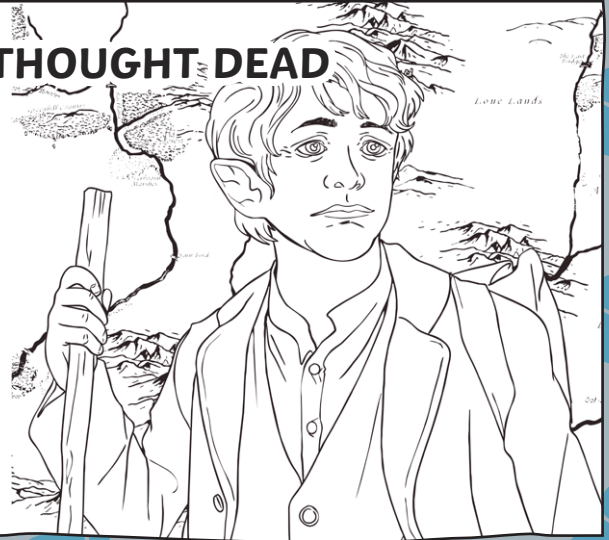


BAGGINS IS BACK!

SURPRISE RETURN OF HOBBIT THOUGHT DEAD

By Andwise 'Andy' Roper

The quiet village of Hobbiton-on-the-Water was yesterday in uproar due to the unexpected re-appearance of Mr Bilbo Baggins, who left the Shire months ago, accompanied by the wizard Gandalf. Where has he been all this time?



1. ...in uproar.

What does this tell you about how the people of the village were feeling?



2. Find and copy an example of a rhetorical question in the text. Why has the author used this?



3. Complete this table:

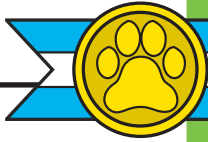
	True	False
The article was written by Bilbo Baggins.		
Bilbo Baggins left the Shire with a wizard.		
The people of Hobbiton-on-the-Water always knew that the Hobbit would return one day.		



4. Find and copy **two** synonyms for 'unanticipated' that are used in the text.

- _____
- _____

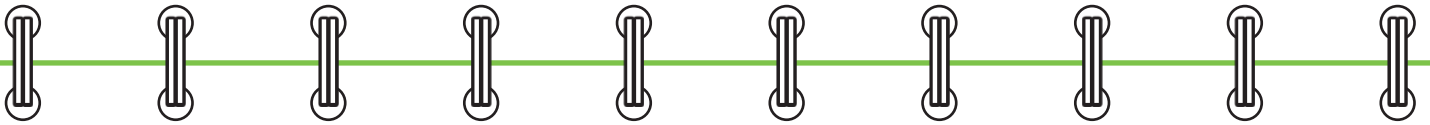




The Railway Children

They were not railway children to begin with. I don't suppose they had ever thought about railways except as a means of getting to places. They were just ordinary suburban children, and they lived with their Father and Mother in an ordinary red-brick-fronted villa, with coloured glass in the front door, a tiled passage that was called a hall, a bathroom with hot and cold water, electric bells, French windows, and a good deal of white paint, and 'every modern convenience', as the house-agents say.

There were three of them. Roberta was the eldest. Of course, Mothers never have favourites, but if their Mother had had a favourite, it might have been Roberta. Next came Peter, who wished to be an Engineer when he grew up; and the youngest was Phyllis, who meant extremely well. Mother was almost always there, ready to play with the children, and read to them, and help them to do their home-lessons. Besides this she used to write stories for them while they were at school, and read them aloud after tea, and she always made up funny pieces of poetry for their birthdays and for other great occasions, such as the christening of the new kittens, or the refurnishing of the doll's house, or the time when they were getting over the mumps. These three lucky children always had everything they needed: pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wall-paper. They had a kind and merry nursemaid, and a dog who was called James, and who was their very own.



1. What do you think a 'house-agent' is?



2. What impression do you get of the children's lives from these introductory paragraphs? Give **two** reasons to justify your opinion.



3. List **three** things that you know about the children's home.

- _____
- _____
- _____



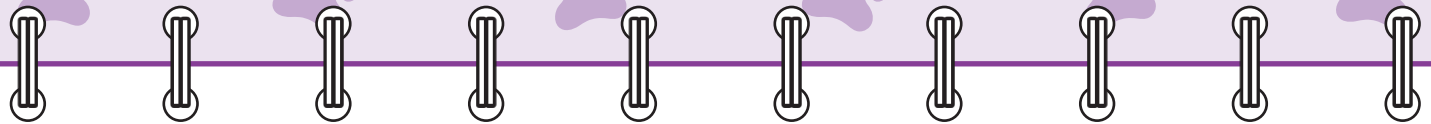
4. Based on what you have read, what do you think might happen to the children later in the story?



The Listeners

'Is there anybody there?'
 said the Traveller,
 Knocking on the moonlit door;
 And his horse in the silence
 champed the grasses
 Of the forest's ferny floor:
 And a bird flew up out
 of the turret,
 Above the Traveller's head:

And he smote upon the door a
 second time.
 'Is there anybody there?' he said.
 But no one descended to the
 Traveller;
 No head from the leaf-fringed sill
 Leaned over and looked into his
 grey eyes,
 Where he stood perplexed and still.



1. Which of these facts is true about the Traveller? Tick **two**.
- He knocked on the door twice.
 - He has grey eyes.
 - He leaned over from the sill.
 - He descended from the turret.



2. What do you think the word 'champed' means?



3. Find and copy an example of alliteration from the text.



4. **...he stood perplexed and still.**
 Explain what this description suggests about the Traveller.



Baggins Is Back Answers

1. **...in uproar.**

What does this tell you about how the people of the village were feeling?

If the people are 'in uproar', it means there is a huge sense of angry confusion surrounding the whole incident.

2. Find and copy an example of a rhetorical question in the text.

Why has the author used this?

'Where has he been all the time?'

The author has used the rhetorical question so that people read on further into the article to see if the question is answered.

3. **Tick** true or false in the following table:

	True	False
The article was written by Bilbo Baggins.		✓
Bilbo Baggins left the Shire with a wizard.	✓	
The people of Hobbiton-on-the-Water always knew that the Hobbit would return one day.		✓

4. Find and copy **two** synonyms for 'unanticipated' that are used in the text.

- **surprise**
- **unexpected**

The Railway Children Answers

1. What do you think a 'house-agent' is?

A 'house-agent' is a Victorian equivalent of today's estate agent: a person who sells houses.

2. What impression do you get of the children's lives from these introductory paragraphs? Give **two** reasons to justify your opinion.

Award a mark (up to a maximum of two) for any reference to the children having fortunate/privileged lives because:

- **they have a comfortable house 'with every modern convenience'.**
- **they have a Mother who obviously loves them very much and spends a lot of time with them.**
- **they celebrate birthdays and other 'great occasions'.**
- **they have pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wall-paper.**
- **they have a kind and merry nursemaid (nanny).**
- **they have a dog of their very own.**

3. List **three** things that you know about the children's home.

Award marks for any three of the following:

- **it was an ordinary red-brick-fronted villa;**
- **it had coloured glass in the front door;**
- **it had a tiled passage that was called a hall;**
- **it had a bath-room with hot and cold water;**
- **it had electric bells;**
- **it had French windows;**
- **it had a good deal of white paint;**
- **it had 'every modern convenience'.**

4. Based on what you have read, what do you think might happen to the children later on in the story?

- **You get the impression that the children are somehow going to become more familiar with railways.**
- **You get the impression that the children's privileged lifestyle is about to change.**

The Listeners Answers

1. Which of these facts is true about the Traveller? Tick **two**.

He knocked on the door twice.

He leaned over from the sill.

He has grey eyes.

He descended from the turret.

2. What do you think the word 'champed' means?

'Champed' means the horse was chewing noisily.

3. Find and copy an example of alliteration from the text.

forest's ferny floor

4. **...he stood perplexed and still.**

Explain what this description suggests about the Traveller.

Award marks for responses that explain the Traveller's confusion, e.g.

- **he stood still because he didn't know what else to do because no one was coming to the door.**
- **he was confused that no one was answering.**