



**Ascent Classical Academy
10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

1. Read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (75th Anniversary Edition; paperback; [978-0547928227](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0618760693)).
2. Write an essay in response to one of the following prompts. The essay should be at least two full pages in length; double-spaced; Times New Roman, 12-point font; with one-inch margins.
 - a. Compare *The Hobbit* to *The Odyssey*, *The Iliad*, or both. You may do what you wish with this prompt, but here are a few recommended topics to explore:
 - i. Compare Bilbo to Odysseus.
 - ii. Compare Tolkienian to Homeric wisdom.
 - iii. Compare the Tolkienian to the Homeric hero.
 - iv. How does the plot of *The Hobbit* mirror those of Homer's epics?
 - v. Is *The Hobbit* an epic? If not, why not? If so, how has the epic changed from Homer to Tolkien?
 - b. According to *The Hobbit*, what is a hero? Which virtues or qualities make someone a hero? Are there different types of heroes in the novel?
 - c. According to *The Hobbit*, what is friendship? Are there examples of lower and higher friendship in the novel? How does friendship contribute to the progress of the journey?
 - d. Who has the right to Smaug's treasure?

Your essay will be collected when classes resume. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richardson at brichardson@ascentclassical.org.