EXPLANATIONS

Choose the best explanation.

NOTE: A good explanation includes a definition and gives reasons why the example shows the characteristic.

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| **Chapter 4 – The Hobbit Excerpt 1**  *Now* *goblins* *are cruel, wicked, and bad-hearted.*  *“Who are these miserable persons?” said the Great Goblin.*  *“Dwarves, and this!” said one of the drivers, pulling at Bilbo’s chain so that he fell forward onto his knees.* |

**Statement**

Goblins are cruel.

**Example**

When they caught Bilbo and the dwarves, one of them pulled at Bilbo’s chain “so that he fell forward onto his knees”.

**Explanation**

1. This shows the characteristic because goblins are cruel and this action was cruel.
2. Cruelty causes mental or physical suffering. The goblin showed no consideration for how his pulling the chain would physically hurt Bilbo’s knees.
3. The goblin deliberately wanted to hurt Bilbo.

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| **Chapter 4/5 – The Hobbit Excerpt 2**  *“Why, O why did I ever leave my hobbit-hole!” said poor Mr. Baggins bumping up and down on Bombur’s back.*  *“Why, O why did I ever bring a wretched little hobbit on a treasure hunt!” said poor Bombur, who was fat, and staggered along with the sweat dripping down his nose in his heat and terror.* |

**Statement**

Mr Baggins and Bombur feel sorry for themselves.

**Example**

When they were escaping from the Goblins’ cave, they both asked themselves “Why?” they had got into this situation.

**Explanation**

1. Bilbo is sorry for himself because “Bilbo wished again and again for his nice bright hobbit hole.”
2. Bombur was sad and annoyed because he had to carry Bilbo on his back.
3. When people feel sorry for yourself, they pity themselves and consider their situation to be worse than anyone else’s. Both Bilbo and Bombur considered that their circumstances were sufficiently difficult to arouse the feeling of pity for themselves.

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| **Chapter 2 – The Hobbit Excerpt 3**  *“Excellent!” said Gandalf, as he stepped from behind a tree, and helped Bilbo to climb down out of a thorn-bush. Then Bilbo understood. It was the wizard’s voice that had kept the trolls bickering and quarrelling, until the light came and made an end of them.* |

**Statement**

Gandalf is an intelligent wizard.

**Example**

When the dwarves were trapped by the trolls, he disguised his voice to sound like a troll and kept them arguing until the dawn arrived to turn them to stone.

**Explanation**

1. People with Intelligence are clever and quick-thinking. When Gandalf disguised his voice, he understood that the trolls were stupid enough to believe it was one of them. He also had the knowledge that trolls turn to stone with the dawn which helped him to calculate the time he needed to deceive the trolls and cause their death.
2. Gandalf out-smarts the trolls by using a voice that imitated one of them.
3. Gandalf is really clever. He knows lots of things and can disguise his voice to make him sound like a troll. He tricked the trolls and made them confused. He helped Bilbo and the dwarves who would have been smashed by the trolls otherwise.

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| **Chapter 12 – The Hobbit Excerpt 4**  *It was. As he went forward it grew and grew, till there was no doubt about it. It was a red light steadily getting redder and redder. Also it was now undoubtedly hot in the tunnel. Wisps of vapour floated up and past him and he began to sweat. A sound, too, began to throb in his ears, a sort of bubbling like the noise of a large pot galloping on the fire, mixed with a rumble as of a gigantic tom-cat purring. This grew to the unmistakable gurgling noise of some vast animal snoring in its sleep down there in the red glow in front of him.*  *It was at this point that Bilbo stopped. Going on from there was the bravest thing he ever did.* |

**Statement**

Bilbo is extremely courageous.

**Example**

When the dwarves wanted to gain access to the gold within the mountain, it was Bilbo’s job to sneak in first to discover if the dragon was there.

**Explanation**

1. People who are brave make us want to admire them. We wish we were like them and are amazed at their ability to set fear aside and inspire others by their actions.
2. Nick Corley, a New Zealand Police Officer also showed bravery in 2008 when he rescued a drunk driver from a car that had caught fire in Mount Wellington. Nick suffered painful burns by rescuing the man from certain death and must have been afraid to approach a car engulfed in flames.
3. Bilbo showed courage because he faced his fears and continued regardless. Bravery means having the courage to do something even though it might be frightening. Bilbo overcame his fear of the dragon because he believed helping the dwarves was the right thing to do.