

The Hobbit

A genre is a classification of different texts and the novel, 'The Hobbit' is a fantasy novel. The text 'The Hobbit', by J.R.R Tolkien clearly reflects the fantasy genre in relation to characters, a setting, a plot, and themes. The story is set in an alternate history of the Earth in a land called 'Wilderlands'. During the story the audience meet characters good, evil, wild and magical. The plot of 'The Hobbit' looks at a journey through the world to recover dwarfish treasure from a dragon. Through the course of this, the main themes J.R.R Tolkien develops are the battle of good vs evils, and greed

In 'The Hobbit', the broad setting reflects the fantasy genre in that the world consists of enchanting, mystical features which create sensations of danger and mystery. This is established from the opening chapter. The opening setting of Bilbo's home is described as 'a comfortable tunnel...with panelled walls and tiled floors.' The adjectives used portray Bilbo's hobbit-hole as a comfortable, homely hole that connects the reader with the features of their own home. During the first encounter at Bilbo's home, the dwarves' song reveals the broader setting of the world. The alliteration 'dungeons deep' and 'hollow halls' give the audience the impression of the dark and mystical world beyond Bagend. The sensory imagery also evokes a sense of touch in some of the verses, 'trees like torches blazed with light' emits the sensory vocabulary. The simile within the quote also assists in building the dangerous setting. In these ways, J.R Tolkien's novel, 'The Hobbit' reflects elements of the fantasy genre.

Much like the broad setting, the characters in 'The Hobbit' are both enchanting and mystical as well as wild and dangerous. The journey forces the main characters to interact with others who vary from good and evil, strange and ordinary and magical, each clearly reflecting an archetype of the fantasy genre. This is first established at the very beginning when Gandalf visits Bilbo. Bilbo's dialogue retells stories that he remembers of Gandalf: 'Not the Gandalf who was responsible for the quiet lads and lasses going off into the blue for mad adventures'. This establishes Gandalf as an already long-standing mentor archetype. In this novel. In these ways, 'The Hobbit' clearly reflects the character archetypes of the fantasy genre.

Just as with the characters, the plot of 'The Hobbit' clearly reflect qualities of the fantasy genre. Through the journey to recover the treasure from the dragon, the protagonist is faced with numerous challenges each of which reveals a developing character. As the story moves along and the challenges get bigger Bilbo is faced with bigger, more dangerous tasks and obstacles and he must increasingly rely on his developing abilities and less on others. For example, when the dwarves are captured by the spiders in Mirkwood, Bilbo rescues them by use of the ring, leading them away before killing multiple. This is iconic in the story because he ends the killing spree by naming his dagger; 'I shall give you a name... and I shall call you sting' which is symbolic of how his confidence has grown throughout the story. As a result, along the journey to regain the dwarfish treasure, the hero develops from a reluctant

thief to a courageous hero. Therefore, the plot of 'The Hobbit' clearly reflects the fantasy genre.

Much like the plot, the theme in 'The Hobbit' focuses on a battle of good and evil although greed is reflected multiple times throughout the story, thus reflecting the fantasy genre. Through the story, special objects symbolise greed and temptation. For example, Gollum is clearly impacted by the ring and continuously talks to himself in third person, as if he was talking to the ring itself. 'Did we say so, precious? Show the nasty little Baggins thing the way out? Yess, yess.' Bilbo is also tempted by the ring, established when he has the dream of his hobbit hole. 'looking for something that he could not remember' However, Bilbo can overcome this temptation and use the ring for the good of others as well. The original reason for the journey to the Lonely Mountain is to defeat Smaug and retrieve the lost gold. Although this is accomplished, Bilbo's role as thief transforms by the end. Whilst like Thorin he is drawn to the Arkenstone, Bilbo resists its enchantment, handing it to the elven king, thus saving Thorin from his greed. On his death bed, Thorin proclaims, 'If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.'" Therefore, J.R.R Tolkien's novel 'The Hobbit' clearly reflects the themes of the fantasy genre.

Therefore, J.R.R Tolkien's novel 'The Hobbit' clearly reflects each of the elements. The setting is enchanting, mystical while wild and dangerous, the characters fulfil the character archetypes, the plot involves the journey to recover the gold and the central theme is good vs evil and greed.

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