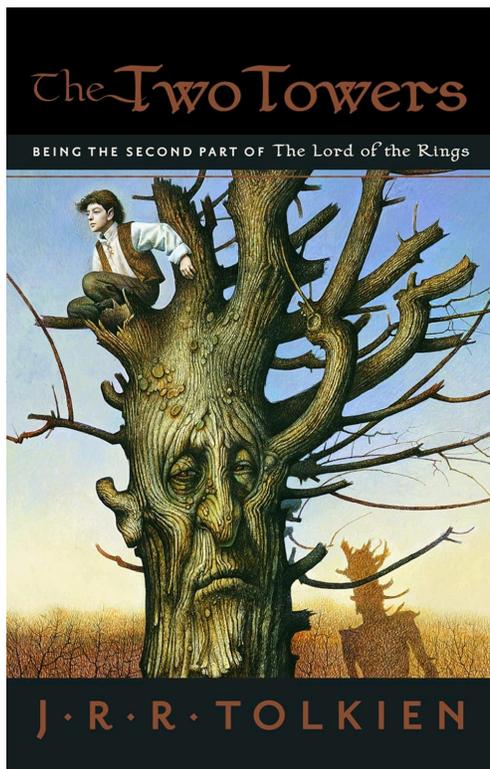


Welcome to *The Two Towers* Summer Reading Study Guide: A Journey into the Captivating World of J. R. R. Tolkien's Masterpiece.



Why do we read the great books and join the Great Conversation?

These books guide us through life by exhibiting a strong moral code, understanding, and perspective beyond ourselves. They show us how we are connected to all humanity—past, present, and future. “The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight” (Proverbs 4:7).

This summer and fall, your role is crucial as we join in the Great Conversation with Tolkien’s epic, *The Two Towers*. Your insights and interpretations will shape our collective understanding as we discuss parts 1 and 2, also known as books III and IV. This study guide will be your companion as you prepare for the 8th grade fall quarter. It’s designed to enhance your analytical and writing skills, preparing you for insightful discussions. Remember, each task is a step towards deeper understanding, so let’s dive in!

If you have any questions as you work on this, please reach out to Mrs. Shoemaker at cfshoemaker@genevaschool.org.

Requirements:

- **Purchase** a personal paperback copy of *The Two Towers* ([ISBN 978-0618574957](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0618574957)). The cover looks like the image above.
- A **composition notebook**, college-ruled, is a required supply for 8th grade English class. All your work for this study guide should be written in your composition notebook along with page numbers. Returning 8th graders may use the composition notebook from 7th grade if there is room.
- Work must be written in **black or blue ink**.
- Handwriting must be neat and in **cursive**. If you are new to Geneva and do not write in cursive, proper printing is expected. No block letter printing allowed (this means all caps).
- Please be attentive to **spelling and punctuation**.
- Answer all questions in **complete sentences**.
- **Drawings and sketches** can be completed in the composition notebook or on a separate piece of plain paper and then fixed in your notebook.
- **Highlight answers in the literature book** and provide page numbers for answers along with the written responses in your composition book; notes should be made in the book (annotations).

Facts:

- This study guide is a homework grade.
- The grading rubric begins at 90.
- Points will be added for well-written answers that are insightful and detailed.
- Points will be deducted for missing key events and information, for wrong information, and for missing chapters.
- Late packets, wrong format, or incomplete answers will be docked points.
- **Completed study guides are due Friday, August 23.**

Helpful hints:

- Answer questions for each chapter immediately after reading.
- Do not watch the movies. These do not follow the book and can confuse you.
- If you are having difficulty following the story, do the following:
 1. Read aloud or use Audible, but follow the story in the book.
 2. Read the comprehension questions before you start reading.
 3. Discuss with a parent or fellow student.

BOOK III CHAPTER 1: THE DEPARTURE OF BOROMIR

1. As they prepare for Boromir's funeral, Aragorn tells Gimli, "We must guess the riddles if we are to choose rightly." Gimli responds, "Maybe there is no right choice." How often does choosing the right course of action depend on correctly guessing "riddles"? In what circumstances might there be no "right choices"?
2. Characters in literature are revealed through their speech, their actions, and how others respond. Write Aragorn, Gimli, and Legolas in your journal, skipping two lines between each. Select traits you have seen in these three characters from the list below. The same traits may apply to multiple characters, and you might only use some of the traits listed.

forthright proud argumentative brave wise loving quick-tempered

conceited trustworthy forgiving judgmental patient indecisive

lighthearted humble dependable

BOOK III CHAPTER 2: THE RIDERS OF ROHAN

1. When they meet the riders, Éomer and his men refer to "old tales" that make him suspicious of our traveling friends, the lady Galadriel, and the hobbits. From what we know, how reliable are his opinions?
2. "The world is all gone strange," laments Éomer. He then asks a question central to *The Lord of the Rings*: "How shall a man judge what to do in such times?" Aragorn answers,

“As he has ever judged.... Good and ill have not changed since yesteryear, nor are they one thing among Elves or Dwarfs and another among Men. It is a man’s part to discern them, as much in the Golden Wood as in his own house.” Read I John 4:1–6. How does this passage help us with the question of discerning “good and ill”?

BOOK III CHAPTER 3: THE URUK-HAI

1. What does Pippin remember about Rohan?
2. How does Grishnakh die?
3. How are Merry and Pippin able to escape?
4. Who kills Uglúk?

BOOK III CHAPTER 4: TREEBEARD

1. Tolkien once wrote: “I am obviously much in love with plants and above all trees and always have been, and I find human maltreatment of them as hard to bear as some find ill-treatment of animals.” Treebeard and the Ents seem to represent this love. Read Genesis 1:28–31 and Psalm 8. What do these passages suggest is God’s attitude toward nature and man?
2. Describe or draw a favorite part of nature that you personally experience and enjoy. Color is encouraged in the artwork.

BOOK III CHAPTER 5: THE WHITE RIDER

1. Describe the old man they meet in the Forest of Fangorn. Who is he?
2. “They were brought to Fangorn, and their coming was like the falling of small stones that starts an avalanche in the mountains.” What do these words point to?
3. What does the old man tell of the enemy? (Give 3 key details.)
4. What affirmation does the stranger give to Aragorn about his decision to follow Merry and Pippin?

BOOK III CHAPTER 6: THE KING OF GOLDEN HALL

1. Tolkien often uses the setting to establish the mood of the story. How is the mood already different here than in the Forest of Fangorn?
2. What chance does Théoden offer Grima to prove himself worthy?

BOOK III CHAPTER 7: HELM’S DEEP

1. After reading the description of Helm’s Deep, sketch what you think it looks like.
2. Aragorn states, “Yet dawn is ever the hope of men.” How do his words prove true?

BOOK III CHAPTER 8: THE ROAD TO ISENGARD

1. Tell the difference between a *parley* and a *fight*.
2. What had the men of the hills and Dunland heard about the men of Rohan?
3. What do you imagine happened to the orcs by morning?
4. What promise do Gimli and Legolas make to one another?
5. How do they notice Isengard has changed since Saruman took over?
6. What seems to have happened to Isengard as they approach the door?
7. Whom do they find, much to their surprise?

BOOK III CHAPTER 9: FLOTSAM AND JETSOM

1. As noted by the following quote, Gimli notices a change in Merry and Pippin. What does Legolas believe has made this difference in their small friends? *“Why your hair is twice as thick and curly as when we parted; and I would swear that you have both grown somewhat, if that is possible for hobbits of your age.”—Gimli*

BOOK III CHAPTER 10: THE VOICE OF SARUMAN

1. What does Gandalf warn the others about Saruman?
2. Under what circumstances does Gandalf offer to let Saruman go free?

BOOK III CHAPTER 11: THE PALANTIR

1. Give 5 details of what Pippin saw in Palantir
2. What are the 9 winged things?
3. Who goes with Gandalf; who goes with Aragorn?