

Date 12 / 29 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle The Hobbit: The Desolation of SmaugAuthor / Director / Peter Jackson

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I saw *The Hobbit: The Desolation at Smaug* at Century Stadium 14 after looking up the movie on the Fandango app on my phone.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )

*The Hobbit: The Desolation at Smaug* begins at the Inn of the Prancing Pony in Bree, in which Gandalf influences Thorin Oakenshield to travel to the Lonely Mountain and to obtain the Arkenstone, in order to unite all of the dwarves. The movie then moves ahead one year later to the events occurring after the previous movie (which I also saw when it came out), as Thorin and his company are pursued by a group of Orcs on their way to Lonely Mountain. After they reach Mirkwood, Gandalf decides to suddenly flee, and Bilbo Baggins, the hired "burglar" to steal the Arkenstone, must lead the dwarves with the protection of the One Ring, which he obtained in the previous movie. This ring allows people who wear it to turn invisible, but it also has darker powers. After Bilbo and his company are captured by the Wood Elves and eventually escape, they meet a man named Bard, who smuggles them into Esgaroth, a lake-town on the path to Lonely Mountain. Thorin promises the master of Esgaroth a share in the wealth inside of Lonely Mountain in order to receive weapons from the town, and then they receive a grand farewell and much good luck. Meanwhile, Gandalf is approached by the Necromancer, who reveals himself as the Dark Lord Sauron (important for *Lord of the Rings*). Back on their journey to Lonely Mountain, Bilbo discovers the hidden entrance and enters to receive the Arkenstone. He and the dwarves trick the dragon, Smaug, and they attempt to drown him in gold. Smaug breaks through and flies towards Esgaroth to get revenge on the town for aiding the dwarves in their expedition.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

A quest and a perilous journey is a significant theme in the *The Hobbit: The Desolation at Smaug*, as the entire movie is about a difficult and dangerous quest to obtain the Arkenstone for the sake of the dwarves. The evolution and developing maturation of the protagonist, an individual quest, is always significant within the novel *The Hobbit* but also particularly in this movie. Through his journey of maturation, Bilbo gains a sense of identity and confidence as he transforms under the parental influence of Gandalf. In the first *The Hobbit* movie and in the beginning of this one, Gandalf is viewed as the leader of the expedition to achieve justice for the dwarves. Nevertheless, when Gandalf notices the remanifestation of the Dark Lord Sauron in the forest of Mirkwood, he departs and leaves Bilbo to be the leader of the dwarves, a reality that the dwarves do not fully support. Never giving up in pursuit of a goal, no matter the obstacles or difficulties that hinder one's abilities to achieve that goal, is also a major theme in this movie. Though captured by the Wood Elves, pursued by Orcs, and almost incarcerated by the people of Esgaroth, the hobbit and his company never even think about abandoning their expedition. Moreover, even when they are unable to discover the keyhole at Lonely Mountain and begin heading home, Bilbo remains and alters his approach to the situation until he succeeds in finding the keyhole and thus the entrance to the mountain. Without Bilbo's optimistic hope and staying behind, the journey would have been ultimately a complete waste of time.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

The ring that Bilbo finds is obviously the most important symbol in *The Hobbit*, and it continues to be important in the following series entitled *The Lord of the Rings*, as it becomes something to destroy in order to prevent the Dark Lord Sauron from fulfilling his conquest of the Middle-earth. Nevertheless, in this movie, the ring symbolizes Bilbo's growing maturity and confidence. After he finds the ring, he is able to do things in an invisible state, and he realizes the ring can get him by during tough situations. The ring represents Bilbo's change from a sheltered and protected coward to an independent and confident leader. The Arkenstone, another significant object in *The Hobbit*, is also symbolic. The stone represents greed, as Thorin so desires to return to his thriving childhood in the mountain where it was discovered, and it also represents peace. This stone becomes more important in the third movie that hasn't come out yet. Finally, the Lonely Mountain, which contains both the extremely dangerous dragon Smaug and the treasures of Thorin, so it symbolizes an end, or goal, as well as the company's hardships and fears.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections /

Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Despite the adventurous and bold spirit of the movie *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*, which I am usually accustomed to liking, I was left unsatisfied for some odd reason at the end of the movie. Because the movie is essentially about a long and drawn out journey, though full of much excitement and action, I was left almost bored with its repetitiveness and monotony. Moreover, combined with the fact that I was extremely tired from the day, I even almost fell asleep once or twice throughout the course of the movie. Not to be overly critical, but I was also quite confused with some of the storyline pertaining to Gandalf and his interactions with the Necromancer. I personally have never read *The Hobbit* or *The Lord of the Rings*, and I feel as if this movie made too many confusing, preliminary references to the plot of *The Lord of the Rings*. After researching further into the movie at home, I grew to understand the plot at least somewhat better. Despite all of this ambiguity and monotony, I at least did think the concept of the movie was poetic, even if it wasn't portrayed in the best of ways. Much like the valiant quests of the mythological fiction novel *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White and practically any goal or ambition in life, obstacles and hinderances will always inhibit the pathway to success. There may be times of doubt and depression in which a person has lost all hope and feels as if nothing can be accomplished, but this movie urges people to find or create some sort of inner motivation and drive to keep pursuing their dreams, for the lowest point is oftentimes the place where the tides will turn. Bilbo and his companions defied all odds in reaching and entering Lonely Mountain, and their expedition serves as a shining hope that anything is possible and can be achieved.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)