

The Hero's Journey Outline of "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien

Stage One: The Departure

1. **The Ordinary World:** Bilbo Baggins is living a comfortable and uneventful life in his hobbit hole, until the wizard Gandalf arrives and invites him on an adventure.
2. **Call to Adventure:** Gandalf asks Bilbo to join him and a group of dwarves on a quest to reclaim their homeland from the dragon Smaug.
3. **Refusal of the Call:** Bilbo initially refuses, citing his lack of experience and preference for staying at home, but ultimately decides to join the group.
4. **Meeting the Mentor:** Gandalf serves as Bilbo's mentor and guide throughout the journey, providing wisdom and support when needed.
5. **Crossing the Threshold:** Bilbo and the group leave the safety of the Shire and begin their journey through treacherous lands and encounters with various enemies.

Stage Two: The Initiation

6. **The Road of Trials:** Bilbo faces numerous challenges, but also gains allies in the dwarves and unexpected friendships with creatures like Gollum.
7. **Approach to the Inmost Cave:** Bilbo and the group enter the Lonely Mountain, where Smaug resides, in order to reclaim the treasure and restore the dwarves' homeland.
8. **Ordeal:** Bilbo faces Smaug in a battle of wits and cunning, eventually finding and exploiting a weak point in the dragon's armor to defeat him.
9. **Reward:** Bilbo and the group obtain the treasure and fulfill their quest, with Bilbo gaining newfound confidence and courage in the process.

Stage Three: The Return

10. **The Road Back:** Bilbo and the group face new challenges on their journey back home, including a battle with the goblins.
11. **Resurrection:** Bilbo must confront and defeat the greed and betrayal of his ally, Thorin, who becomes obsessed with the treasure.
12. **Return with the Elixir:** Bilbo returns home, bringing with him treasures and knowledge that will enrich his life and the lives of those around him.