

DOCUMENT ONE



A still from *The Community of The Ring*, a film by Peter Jackson

An extract from *The Lord of the Rings*, book two, chapter II, by J.R.R. Tolkien

'Then,' said Erebor, 'there are but two courses, as Glorfindel already has declared: to hide the Ring for ever; or to unmake it. But both are beyond our power. Who will read this riddle for us?'

5 'None here can do so,' said Elrond gravely. 'At least none can foretell what will come to pass, if we take this road or that. But it seems to me now clear which is the road that we must take. The westward road seems easiest. Therefore it must be shunned. It will be watched. Too often the Elves have fled that way. Now at this last we must take a hard road, a road unforeseen. There lies our hope, if hope it be. To walk into peril – to Mordor. We must send the Ring to the Fire.'

10 Silence fell again. Frodo, even in that fair house, looking out upon a sunlit valley filled with the noise of clear waters, felt a dead darkness in his heart. Boromir stirred, and Frodo looked at him. He was fingering his great horn and frowning. At length he spoke.

'I do not understand all this,' he said. 'Saruman is a traitor, but did he not have a glimpse of wisdom? Why do you speak ever of hiding and destroying? Why should we not think that the Great Ring has come into our hands to serve us in the very hour of need? Wielding it the Free Lords of the Free may surely defeat the Enemy. That is what he most fears, I deem.'

15 'The Men of Gondor are valiant, and they will never submit; but they may be beaten down. Valour needs first strength, and then a weapon. Let the Ring be your weapon, if it has such power as you say. Take it and go forth to victory.'

20 'Alas, no,' said Elrond, 'we cannot use the Ruling Ring. That we now know too well. It belongs to Sauron and was made by him alone, and is altogether evil. Its strength, Boromir, is too great for anyone to wield at will, save those who have already a great power of their own. But for them it holds an even deadlier peril. The very desire of it corrupts the heart. Consider Saruman. If any of the Wise should with this ring overthrow the Lord of Mordor, using his own arts, he would then set himself on Sauron's throne, and yet another Dark Lord would appear. That is another reason why the Ring should be destroyed: as long as it is in the world it will be a danger even to the Wise. For nothing is evil in the beginning, even Sauron was not so. I fear to take the Ring and hide it. I will not take the

25 Ring to wield it.'

Understanding

1. Vocabulary: find the synonyms of the verbs which are underlined in the text.

(line 3) To foretell	To use (an instrument)
(line 5) To shun	To avoid
(line 10) To frown	To defeat
(line 13) To wield	To predict
(line 22) To overthrow	To bring your eyebrows together

2. Who said that ...

... the Ring could be a wonderful opportunity for the free people to win the war.
 ... whoever uses the Ring ends up being possessed and infected by it.
 ... no-one is born wicked, but one becomes so after being corrupted by the desire of power.

3. Do you know the story already? If so, then you can answer the next questions.

- Who are Erestor and Glorfindel? (line 1)
- Where does the "westward Road" lead to? (line 5)
- What is Mordor? (line 7)
- Where does Boromir come from? (line 9)
- Who is Saruman and why is he a traitor? (line 11)

Pronunciation (find help from the pink pages): right or wrong?

"the delegates" rhymes with "gates" (pink page 4)
 "dead", "breath", "sweat" and "zealous" all contain the same phoneme. (pink page 3)
 "demanded", "father", "ask" and "castle" all contain the same phoneme. (pink page 2)
 "wilderness" and "wild" are pronounced differently (pink page 2)
 "courage" rhymes with "ridge" (pink page 4)
 "dangerous" rhymes with "Bruce" (pink page 4)
 "village" rhymes with "college" (pink page 4)

right	wrong

Grammar multiple choice test.

- Much of the / Most of the / Each / Every delegates agreed that the Ring should be destroyed.
- Frodo felt a dead darkness in his heart, therefore / although / all the more as / even though he knew the future days would be difficult.
- Boromir looked forward using / to use / to using / use the power of the one Ring.
- Elrond demanded that Frodo is / be / are / Ø escorted by several companions into the wilderness.
- Most of / Lot of / A lot of / Many courage was required to fulfill this dangerous mission.
- Sam was given / was giving / was taken / was willing the permission to follow the party, as well as Pippin and Merry, who came from the same village.