

## DOCUMENT THREE

### An extract from *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by Tolkien Book Two, Chapter Five "the Bridge of Khazad-Dûm".

The dark figure streaming with fire raced towards them. The orcs yelled and poured over the stone gangways. Then Boromir raised his horn and blew. Loud the challenge rang and bellowed, like the shout of many throats under the cavernous roof. For a moment the orcs quailed and the fiery shadow halted. Then the echoes died as suddenly as a flame blown out by a dark wind, and the enemy advanced again.

5 'Over the bridge!' cried Gandalf, recalling his strength. 'Fly! This is a foe beyond any of you. I must hold the narrow way. Fly!' Aragorn and Boromir did not heed the command, but still held their ground, side by side, behind Gandalf at the far end of the bridge. The others halted just within the doorway at the hall's end, and turned, unable to leave their leader to face the enemy alone.

10 The Balrog reached the bridge. Gandalf stood in the middle of the span, leaning on the staff in his left hand, but in his other hand Glamdring gleamed, cold and white. His enemy halted again, facing him, and the shadow about it reached out like two vast wings. It raised the whip, and the thongs whined and cracked. Fire came from its nostrils. But Gandalf stood firm.



15 'You cannot pass,' he said. The orcs stood still, and a dead silence fell. 'I am a servant of the Secret Fire, wielder of the flame of Anor.

20 You cannot pass. The dark fire will not avail you, flame of Udûn. Go back to the Shadow! You cannot pass.'

25 The Balrog made no answer. The fire in it seemed to die, but the darkness grew. It stepped forward slowly on to the bridge, and suddenly it drew itself up to a great height, and its wings were spread from wall to wall; but still Gandalf could be seen, glimmering in the gloom; he seemed small, and altogether alone: grey and bent, like a wizened tree before the onset of a storm.

30 From out of the shadow a red sword leaped flaming.

Glamdring glittered white in answer.

35 There was a ringing clash and a stab of white fire. The Balrog fell back and its sword flew up in molten fragments. The wizard swayed on the bridge, stepped back a pace, and then again stood still.

'You cannot pass!' he said.

With a bound the Balrog leaped full upon the bridge. Its whip whirled and hissed.

40 'He cannot stand alone!' cried Aragorn suddenly and ran back along the bridge. 'Elendil!' he shouted. 'I am with you, Gandalf!'

'Gondor!' cried Boromir and leaped after him.

45 At that moment Gandalf lifted his staff, and crying aloud he smote the bridge before him. The staff broke asunder and fell from his hand. A blinding sheet of white flame sprang up. The bridge cracked. Right at the Balrog's feet it broke, and the stone upon which it stood crashed into the gulf, while the rest remained, poised, quivering like a tongue of rock thrust out into emptiness.

50 With a terrible cry the Balrog fell forward, and its shadow plunged down and vanished. But even as it fell it swung its whip, and the thongs lashed and curled about the Wizard's knees, dragging him to the brink. He staggered and fell, grasped vainly at the stone, and slid into the abyss. 'Fly, you fools!' he cried, and was gone.

# Understanding

## 1. Vocabulary:

(line 1) figure	shape, form, outline	(30) gloom	sinister darkness
(1) to yell	shout, shriek, scream	(31) wizened (adjective)	old and wrinkled
(1) pour over	spread, disperse	(33) to glitter	sparkle, flash, shine
(2) to bellow	shout, roar, holler	(35) molten	melted, liquefied (metal)
(3) to quail	tremble, quaver, cower	(38) a bound	a leap, a jump
(6) foe	enemy, rival	(38) to whirl	rotate, spin, swivel
(7) To heed	to pay attention to	(38) to hiss	make an "s" sound
(7) to hold one's ground	stay firm and not retreat	(42) smite smote smitten	strike with a firm blow
(10) span	distance from end to end	(48) asunder	apart, in pieces
(10) staff	long stick	(50) poised	balanced, suspended
(13) to gleam	shine, glow, beam	(50) to quiver	tremble, shake, vibrate
(17) whip	<i>fouet</i>	(52) swing swung swung	move back and forth
(18) thong	strap, string, cord	(52) to lash	beat (with a whip)
(18) to whine	cry, wail, whimper	(52) to curl	make a spiral
(26) wielder	user (of a weapon)	(53) brink	edge
(26) to avail	(literary) help	(53) to grasp at	hold to, clutch at, grip at
(30) to glimmer	shine faintly	(53) slide slid slid	slip, fall, drop

## 2. Vocabulary exercise: consider the words from the text in the list above.

How many words are from Latin root?

How many words have more than two syllable?

## 3. Comprehension and interpretation.

Lines 1-9: what attitude underlines the sense of team spirit in the Fellowship?

Lines 10-27: What words suggest immobility and suspense?

Lines 28-36: How does Tolkien create an opposition between good and evil in the passage?

Lines 37-54: What grammatical device does Tolkien use to create a sense of action (consider the verbs)?

Line 52, "it swung its whip": what do the words suggest?

## Grammar: verbs related to motion + particle.

Fill in the blanks with verbs from the lines 37-54:

Boromir le suivit en sautant.

Boromir \_\_\_\_\_ after him.

Les sangles s'approchaient de ses genoux en virevoltant.

The thongs \_\_\_\_\_ about his knees.

Aragorn retourna sur le pont en courant.

Aragorn \_\_\_\_\_ back along the bridge.

La pierre tomba dans le gouffre avec fracas.

The stone \_\_\_\_\_ (down) into the gulf.

Le sorcier tomba dans l'abîme en glissant.

The wizard \_\_\_\_\_ (down) into the abyss.

## British pronunciation: underline the words which contain the [a:] sound (see pink page n°2).

Dark figure (line1) – raced towards them (line 1) – the fiery shadow halted (line 3) – the enemy advanced again (line 5) – the narrow way (line7) - demand – heed the command (line 7) – the middle of the span (line 10) – leaning on the staff (line 10) – two vast wings (line 16) – you cannot pass (line 21) – no answer (28)