

The Hobbit
Film Response, Part One

On Friday, December 14th, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, part one of a three-part film adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's timeless novel, directed by Peter Jackson, who also directed the three fabulous *Lord of the Rings* films, was released. Since you have now read *The Hobbit*, it is only fitting that you see the film and think about how the two compare.

A great part of literary (artistic) study is observation and response. Therefore, for this assignment I would like you to see the film on your own time and then react to it. By its nature, this is a semi-formal assignment; that is, it is not an essay with a unifying argument. However, this semi-formal response paper should be written with an eye towards writing a formal essay, which you will do in class on the week we return from Christmas break.

So what should you look for when you watch the film? Among other things: What differences do you notice between the film and the novel? (There are many.) What aspects of the book do you think the film does well? Poorly? What do you like? Dislike? Think about some of the aspects of the novel that we have discussed...storytelling, fantasy, Bilbo's inner conflict, Bilbo's hero's journey, etc. What do you notice about how these play out in the film? Pay particular attention to the film's effects: What do you notice about the way Jackson visualizes Tolkien's very unique world? Think about some of the larger themes of this course, that we have spent the last three months discussing. Think about the Bilbo we see the beginning of *The Hobbit* (pre-ring and pre-adventure) compared to the Bilbo we see at the beginning of *The Fellowship of the Ring*, which we watched in class. Take notice of how Jackson frames Bilbo's story. (Does it seem familiar?) Notice any characters who aren't in the book at all?

You are not limited to the questions above. Indeed, there is much more you should observe. Essentially, you should take notes on the film and then put these notes into paragraph form when you type them up. The last paragraph or two of the response should be a review in which you discuss what your overall thoughts are of the film. Do not retell the story.

Be thoughtful and observant. Above all, enjoy the film.

Worth: 30 Points

Due: In-class, January 2nd, 2013

Length: 1-3 pages

Format: Standard Typed

You must attach your ticket stub to the paper