

The Hobbit Riddles: Bilbo vs Gollum

From brainpuzzles.games

1.

Gollum's first riddle asked about something with roots that nobody sees, standing taller than the trees, going up and up yet never growing. What is it?

3.

Gollum's next puzzle described something that cries without a voice, flutters without wings, bites without teeth, and mutters without a mouth. What is it?

5.

Gollum hissed about a thing that can't be seen or felt, heard or smelt, that lies behind stars and under hills, and fills empty holes. What is it?

7.

Gollum asked about a creature that is alive without breath and cold as death, never thirsty yet always drinking, in armor yet never clinking. What is it?

9.

Gollum's final true riddle: this thing devours all things, birds, beasts, trees, and flowers. It gnaws iron, bites steel, and grinds mountains to meal. What is it?

11.

I have a round green door and a perfectly round window, and I sit under a hill but I'm no cave. What am I?

13.

I sleep on gold I never spend, I fly but own no feather, and one missing cup wakes my temper. What am I?

2.

Bilbo answered with a riddle about thirty white horses on a red hill: first they champ, then they stamp, then they stand still. What are they?

4.

Bilbo countered with an eye in a blue face that saw an eye in a green face, saying that eye is like this eye, but in low place, not high place. What is it?

6.

Bilbo's turn: a box without hinges, key, or lid, yet golden treasure hides inside. What is it?

8.

Bilbo's hardest offering: no-legs lay on one-leg, two-legs sat near on three-legs, and four-legs got some. What's the scene?

10.

Bilbo's last question wasn't a fair riddle at all. Fiddling with something in his pocket, he blurted out: what have I got in my pocket?

12.

I arrive uninvited, eat all your seed cakes, and leave your pantry empty, yet you end up thanking me. What am I?

14.

I'm sharp in the dark and I glow blue when the wrong crowd gets close. What am I?

15.

Three of us argued about how to cook our dinner until the sun turned us all to stone. What are we?

17.

By day I set out honey and bread for my guests. By night, something huge and black-furred growls outside the door. I am one host, not two. Who am I?

19.

I'm a black stream in Mirkwood. Drink from me and you'll forget your errand and sleep for days. What am I?

21.

I'm a key that fits no door you can see, and I open a passage only on Durin's Day. What am I?

23.

I'm a game with strict rules, sacred and ancient, played for a hobbit's life in the dark. What am I?

25.

What were the stakes of the riddle game between Bilbo and Gollum?

27.

Gollum solved Bilbo's egg riddle instantly without any trouble.

29.

Bilbo won the riddle game with a proper, fair riddle.

16.

I'm a mark on a door that means burglar wants a good job, plenty of excitement and reasonable reward. Who scratched me there?

18.

I carried fourteen travelers over a burning forest, and no thanks were needed, only wind beneath my wings. What am I?

20.

I'm the one bare patch on a dragon's jeweled waistcoat, and one old thrush told an archer where to find me. What am I?

22.

Escape from my halls came in empty wine barrels, floating down the river to Lake-town. Whose halls am I?

24.

Which answer did Bilbo actually shout for Gollum's riddle about the thing that devours all things?

26.

How many guesses did Gollum demand for the unfair pocket question?

28.

The riddle game in *The Hobbit* is described as an ancient and sacred contest whose rules even wicked creatures fear to break.

30.

Alive without breath, cold as death, always drinking, dressed in silent armor. Gollum's own favorite answer. What is it?

31.

It fills the cave where Gollum paddles his little boat, it lies behind stars and under hills, and no lamp survives it forever. What is it?

33.

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35.

I quietly slipped the Mountain's greatest jewel out of the treasure and handed it to Thorin's rivals, hoping to trade it for peace. Who am I?

37.

I'm the sword the goblins named Beater, forged long ago in a lost elf-city and carried through the quest by a grey wizard. What am I?

39.

Thorin gave me to the burglar as a parting gift: a small shirt of rings, light as a feather yet harder than dragon scales, made of a rare silver metal. What am I?

41.

The goblins sang a cruel song about fifteen birds in five fir-trees as they piled kindling beneath the branches. Who were the fifteen birds, really?

43.

I ruled a foul cavern under the Misty Mountains and demanded to know why dwarves dared trespass, right up until a wizard's bright sword ended me. Who am I?

32.

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34.

I'm the Heart of the Mountain, a great white jewel that shines by its own light, and the one treasure Thorin wanted above all the hoard. What am I?

36.

I'm a famous blade drawn from a troll hoard and carried by a dwarf-king. The goblins who feared me called me Biter. What am I?

38.

A giant Took ancestor once knocked a goblin king's head clean off into a rabbit hole, and folk say that stroke invented a certain game. Which game?

40.

Chatting with the dragon, the hobbit boasted that he was Barrel-rider, Ringwinner, and Luckwearer, but he was far too clever to give this one thing away. What did he withhold?

42.

To lure your many-legged captors away from your friends, you sing insults and call them Attercop and Lazy Lob. What kind of creature are you taunting?

44.

I'm the Last Homely House east of the Sea, where a lord of the elves held Thorin's map to the moon and read the letters hidden on it. What place am I?

45.

I'm secret writing that stays invisible until moonlight shines behind me, and only on a night matching the very season and shape of moon when I was penned. What am I?

47.

I'm a grim archer of the lake, heir to the vanished lords of Dale, and I loosed the shaft that brought the great worm crashing down. Who am I?

49.

I marched from the Iron Hills with five hundred grim kinsmen to stand beside Thorin's people, and after the battle I was named King under the Mountain. Who am I?

51.

We were two young dwarf brothers, sons of Thorin's sister, and we died shielding our fallen uncle with our own bodies. Who were we?

53.

When the wizard turned up leaning on his staff at the garden gate, the flustered hobbit greeted him with two harmless little words, and the wizard promptly picked them apart every way they could be meant. What were the words?

55.

I sit on the hobbit's fire and whistle a cheery song the moment I'm ready to pour out tea. What am I?

57.

Fill me, light me, and watch a contented hobbit puff soft rings of smoke into the evening air. What am I?

46.

I'm a whole town of men built on wooden posts out over the water, living in the long shadow of a dragon's mountain. What am I?

48.

I'm an old bird wise enough to understand the speech of men, and I carried word of the dragon's one bare spot straight to the bowman's ear. What am I?

50.

Men, elves, and dwarves nearly came to blows until goblins and wargs poured down and forced old foes to fight side by side. History named that clash for how many armies?

52.

I'm a creeping madness for gold that settled on Thorin among his recovered treasure, hardening his heart and making him break his given word. What am I?

54.

The dwarves left a note offering the burglar cash on delivery and a share of the total profits, if any. What fraction of the treasure was promised to him?

56.

Hobbits love to hunt me in damp fields after rain, and I pop up overnight with a neat little round cap. What am I?

58.

A hobbit eats breakfast, and because one meal is never quite enough, sits straight back down for me. Which meal am I?

59.

I'm the green and peaceful country of rolling hills and tidy farms where hobbits live far from any adventure. What am I?

61.

Dragons hoard me, dwarves dig me from deep stone, and I gleam bright in the dark though I make no light of my own. What am I?

63.

Small and sturdy, I hauled the dwarves' baggage over hill and dale until trolls and rivers whittled our numbers away. What am I?

65.

I'm a wise old black-feathered bird of the Lonely Mountain, friend to Thorin's people, and I carry their news on swift wings. What am I?

67.

I'm a piece of folded old parchment marked with a Mountain and a hidden door, and Gandalf handed me across the table at Bag End. What am I?

69.

Shout in the mountain halls and I fling the tail of your words back at you, though I own no voice and I die the instant you fall silent. What am I?

71.

I curl up grey from a hobbit's pipe and from a crackling bonfire alike, here for a breath, then gone into the sky leaving no trace. What am I?

60.

I'm a cold hollow deep in the mountain's heart, where Gollum once paddled his boat and something small and golden lay lost for ages. What am I?

62.

I fall soft and silver by night, I reveal the secret letters on a dwarf's old map, and I never warm a single stone. What am I?

64.

Thorin's folk pluck me by firelight, and my deep tune of gold and mountains can make even a hobbit long for far-off caverns. What am I?

66.

I hum through Beorn's tall meadows all day and turn his clover blossoms into sweet golden food for his table. What am I?

68.

I trail the burglar everywhere in the sunlight, copying his every step, yet in Gollum's black cave I vanish completely. What am I?

70.

I dance without feet and eat without a mouth, I swell when you feed me dry sticks, and Smaug breathes me though he is not my master. What am I?

72.

I have no legs yet I run for leagues, no mouth yet I roar over the stones, and a floating barrel once rode my back to freedom. What am I?

73.

I start at a round green door and go ever on,
and though I never stir a step myself, I carry
every traveler bold enough to set foot on me.
What am I?

75.

I'm a dull dry biscuit the Lake-men bake for
long journeys. No treat for the tongue, yet I'll
keep a hungry traveler walking for days.
What am I?

77.

I'm the dark power lurking in a black
southern tower of Mirkwood, the real reason
Gandalf slipped away from the company on
urgent business. Who am I?

79.

We're wild wolves in league with the goblins,
and one fiery night we treed the whole
company in a stand of fir-trees. What are we?

81.

We're scattered like cold jewels across the
night, older than the sun by the elves'
reckoning, and no dragon's hoard can match
our number. What are we?

83.

Gaze into still water and I gaze right back,
matching you move for move, yet I am no
twin of yours and I shatter the moment the
water stirs. What am I?

74.

I'm born a thin silver sliver, I fatten to a full
round coin, then waste away to nothing, and I
do the whole thing over again each month.
What am I?

76.

Bilbo pocketed me at Beorn's house and
planted me back home, where I grew into a
fine tree he loved to sit beneath. What was I?

78.

I'm the goblin captain who led the mountain
host to the great battle to avenge my father,
who fell to the dwarves long ago. Who am I?

80.

I'm tall in my youth and short in my old age, I
weep as I work, and my single bright hair
keeps the dark out of a hobbit's cellar. What
am I?

82.

I creep across the Mountain's stones on cold
nights and write white feathery patterns on
Bilbo's round window, yet a touch of sun
undoes me. What am I?

84.

I am the one thing three squabbling trolls
feared most, for my first pale light over the
hills turned all their bickering into solid stone.
What am I?

Answer Key

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1. A mountain. An easy warm-up for Bilbo, since he'd just walked under the Misty Mountains to get into that cave.
2. Teeth. Poor Bilbo immediately regretted reminding Gollum about eating.
3. The wind. Gollum learned this one long ago, before he crept under the mountains.
4. The sun shining on daisies. A cruel choice, since Gollum hadn't seen the sun in ages.
5. Dark. Gollum knows it well. It came to him easily, living down there in the black.
6. An egg. Bilbo only thought of it while remembering breakfast back in Bag End.
7. Fish. Gollum's favorite meal, which made the riddle easy for him and hard for a hobbit far from any river.
8. A fish on a little one-legged table, a man sitting on a three-legged stool, and a cat getting the scraps.
9. Time. Bilbo only got it by luck, squeaking for more time and accidentally shouting the answer.
10. The One Ring. Gollum demanded three guesses, tried handses, knife, and string or nothing, and lost the game.
11. A hobbit hole. And that means comfort.
12. A company of thirteen dwarves (and one wizard).
13. A dragon. Smaug noticed a single stolen cup out of a whole mountain of treasure.
14. An elvish blade, like Bilbo's sword Sting. It glows when goblins or orcs are near.
15. Trolls. Gandalf kept them bickering until dawn did the rest.
16. Gandalf. He marked Bilbo's freshly painted door so the dwarves could find it.
17. Beorn, the skin-changer who is sometimes a man and sometimes a great bear.
18. An eagle. The Great Eagles rescued the company from the goblins' fire.
19. The enchanted river. Bombur fell in and had to be carried, snoring, for the rest of the forest.
20. The hollow in Smaug's armor, the weak spot Bard hit with his black arrow.
21. The key to the secret side door of the Lonely Mountain, when the last light of Durin's Day reveals the keyhole.
22. The Elvenking's halls in Mirkwood. Bilbo packed the dwarves into barrels and rode one out himself.
23. The riddle game itself. Even Gollum dared not cheat at it openly, for the game was sacred long before his time.
24. Give me more time!. He squeaked for more time to think, and time happened to be the answer. Pure burglar's luck.
25. A way out against being eaten. If Bilbo won, Gollum would show him the way out. If Gollum won, well, Gollum eats what he catches.
26. Three. Three guesses, precious. He tried handses, then knife, then string or nothing. All wrong.

27. False. False. It stumped him for a good while, until he remembered stealing eggs from nests long ago and hissed out the answer.
28. True. True. That's the only reason Gollum agreed to show the way out instead of simply attacking, at least at first.
29. False. False. What have I got in my pocket is a question, not a riddle, and Bilbo knew it. Gollum accepted anyway and lost.
30. Fish
31. The dark
32. A mountain (roots unseen, taller than trees, up it goes). Gollum's opening riddle in emoji form.
33. An egg (a box with no key, golden treasure inside). Bilbo's breakfast-inspired riddle in emoji form.
34. The Arkenstone.
35. Bilbo Baggins.
36. Orcrist, the Goblin-cleaver.
37. Glamdring, the Foe-hammer.
38. Golf.
39. A coat of mithril mail.
40. His real name.
41. The trapped company of Bilbo, Gandalf, and the dwarves.
42. A giant spider of Mirkwood.
43. The Great Goblin.
44. Rivendell.
45. Moon-letters.
46. Lake-town, also called Esgaroth.
47. Bard the Bowman.
48. A thrush.
49. Dain Ironfoot.
50. Five armies.
51. Fili and Kili.
52. The dragon-sickness.
53. Good morning.
54. One fourteenth.
55. A kettle
56. Mushrooms
57. A pipe
58. Second breakfast
59. The Shire

60. A cave
61. Gold
62. Moonlight
63. A pony
64. A harp
65. A raven
66. A bee
67. Thorin's map
68. A shadow
69. An echo
70. Fire
71. Smoke
72. A river
73. The road
74. The moon
75. Cram
76. An acorn
77. The Necromancer
78. Bolg
79. Wargs
80. A candle
81. The stars
82. Frost
83. A reflection
84. The dawn