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Thorin Oakenshield
A Character Analysis

ENS241L Thesis for a BA degree in English

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I dedicate this thesis to my husband and my family, who supported me every
step of the way.

Abstract

Today the world has limited resources such as energy, minerals and clean water. People become increasingly selfish and greedy as the resource become scarce. Money becomes so important in our life that we often forget that there is more to life than material wealth, such as happiness. Tolkien wrote down moral lessons in his children's story called *The Hobbit*. One of the important protagonists is the dwarven king Thorin Oakenshield, which this thesis will analyze in detail. It compares him with other characters, examines his actions throughout the story and his death. Tolkien shows that the crownless king (Thorin) has so much weight on his shoulders that his only desire is to take back that which rightfully belongs to him. He becomes blind to the presence of the people around him and focuses only on Erebor and the great jewel called the Arkenstone. These factors lead to his fall into 'dragon-sickness'. Those who fall into its grips will become oblivious to anything but their own advancement in wealth. Thorin's actions lead him to his doom in the end. However, he manages to free himself from the dragon-sickness before his death at which time he admits his wrongs to Bilbo; the world would be a better place if people cherished friendship and joy over wealth and success, as the hobbits do.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Tolkien and <i>The Hobbit</i> Novel	3
3. Analysis of Thorin’s Character	4
3.1 Thorin’s appearance	4
3.2 Dwarves.....	4
3.3 Leadership	6
3.4 Dragon-sickness	8
3.5 Ambition.....	9
3.6 Greed	10
4. Comparisons between Thorin and other Tolkien’s Characters	14
4.1 Thorin and Smaug	14
4.2 Thorin and the Elvenking.....	15
4.3 Thorin and Bard	16
4.4 Thorin and The Master of Lake-town	17
4.5 Thorin and Bilbo	18
4.6 Thorin and Boromir.....	19
4.7 Thorin and Aragorn	20
5. The Death of Thorin	22
6. Conclusion	24
Works Cited	25

Chapter 1: Introduction

One summer's day long before *The Hobbit* story existed. "[J.R.R. Tolkien] was sitting by the window in his study at Northmoor Road [his Oxford home] ... [One of his students' papers that he was supposed to give a grade for was empty, then, he wrote on it the famous sentence:] 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit'" (Carpenter 230; Whelpton) before he knew what hobbits were like and how *The Hobbit* story would be. Later Tolkien created *The Hobbit* original story for his children John, Michael, and Christopher. He had not typed or written it down, but rather, it was in his imagination. He would tell the story to his children after tea time in the evening; the ending, however, was roughly done (Carpenter 236). Without the student's empty examination paper and Tolkien's children, *The Hobbit* story would never have existed and if *The Hobbit* had never existed, there would be no Thorin Oakenshield.

Thorin Oakenshield is a dwarven king who lives in exile because of a greedy dragon named Smaug. For a long time, Thorin awaits an opportunity to take back what the evil dragon has stolen from him and his kin. Fortunately, he has his Company that consists of twelve dwarves on which he can rely. He is also assisted by a wizard (Gandalf) and a hobbit (Bilbo Baggins). They help him to reclaim the Lonely Mountain, also known as Erebor, home of Durin's Folk in the Third Age (Foster 127). Thus, the quest is called by Gandalf 'the Quest of Erebor' (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 415-435) where the adventure of *The Hobbit* takes place.

Thorin Oakenshield is one of the protagonists that many readers believe to be a hero when reading *The Hobbit* in the beginning chapters. However, as the story progresses, the reader starts to see what kind of a person he truly is. Thorin's objective has always been to reclaim Erebor and the gold and jewels it contains. Perhaps the most significant objective is the Heart of the Mountain called the Arkenstone. He cherishes the treasure and especially the Arkenstone, above his friendship and merriment which later turns him from a hero to a villain. This thesis will analyze his character and personality in detail such as Thorin's leadership and ambition in chapter 3.3, 3.5 and Thorin's greed in chapter 3.6 which is Thorin's fatal flaw. In addition, this thesis will also analyze what actions have forced Thorin to walk the dark path in chapter 3.4. His character will be compared with other characters such as Bilbo Baggins and Smaug. Thus, this thesis will demonstrate Thorin's imperfections and flaws; it also shows that anyone can fall into the darkness (e.g. avarice). Finally, this thesis will examine Thorin's

death; whether or not it is fair to say that Thorin deserves to die in the end because of all his actions throughout *The Hobbit* story (e.g. greed and mistrustful).

Chapter 2: Tolkien and *The Hobbit* novel

Although conceived as entertainment for his own children in the early 1930s, Tolkien's *The Hobbit* was not published until September 1937 (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* xiii). Even though there were some changes made from the original story in the published version, Tolkien did not want his story to be too intense and serious. Therefore, both the tale for his children and the published story were made with the only purpose in mind: to amuse children (Carpenter 238).

Tolkien was a man who loved the countryside because he grew up and spent a great amount of time in the Warwickshire village of Sarehole. A simple way of life without most of the machines of the industrial age was so integrated into his ideas of life that it inspired the creation of an entire race in his story (Pearce 154-156). His race of hobbits is also modelled somewhat by the people in the Midlands that can be completely content with their way of life, without having to be wealthy.

Chapter 3: Analysis of Thorin's character

3.1 Thorin's appearance

According to Tolkien, Thorin wears a sky blue hood with a long silver tassel. In addition, he wears his grandfather's key, that he received from Gandalf, on a golden chain which he wears around his neck at all times: "It was Thorin, but you could only have told it by his golden chain, and by the colour of his now dirty and tattered sky-blue hood with its tarnished silver tassel" (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 178). Thorin's appearance shows that he was once wealthy but fell onto hard times. Despite the now different times he still holds on to that time of wealth. Thorin is also described as having a long beard (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 48). However, Tolkien did not describe Thorin's appearance as much as a dwarf as a fairy-tale character (Rateliff, ch. I(b).iii).

From Tolkien's description of Thorin's appearance above, it can be seen that he is different from the other dwarves. In fact, Tolkien only describes them as wearing colorful hoods and having beards. For example, one of the dwarves named Balin, is described by Tolkien as being very old with a white beard and a red hood (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 9).

Thorin becomes an exiled king after Smaug has destroyed Erebor and the loss of his father, Thráin II, in Dol Guldur (Foster 380 & 382). Thorin is best known as Thorin Oakenshield; the epithet 'Oakenshield' he receives during the Battle of Azanulbizar, when his shield is broken, but he finds a thick branch of an oak tree that he then uses throughout the rest of the battle as a shield and a club (Foster 380; Tolkien, *LOTR* 1410).

In the film *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (here after referred to as *The Hobbit: AUJ*), Jackson makes Thorin Oakenshield's appearance (Richard Armitage) come very close to Thorin's description by Tolkien (Fisher 5), including Thorin's oak shield, which he carries in his left arm when he fights against Azog during the battle of Azanulbizar. He also uses an oak shield, this time covering his arm in the log, after the company finally escapes the Goblin's cave; only to face a battle with Azog and his group of Wargs.

3.2 Dwarves

Thorin Oakenshield's race is called dwarves which is one of the known races in Tolkien's Middle-Earth. During their earlier appearance, dwarves in Tolkien's tales "had always been portrayed as an evil people: allies of goblins, mercenaries of Morgoth, pillagers of one of the

great elven kingdoms” (Rateliff, ch. I(c).i). However, dwarves according to Tolkien in *The Hobbit* “are not heroes, but calculating folk with a great idea of the value of money; some are tricky and treacherous and pretty bad lots; some are not, but are decent enough people like Thorin and Company” (196). Bilbo has been doing a good job as a burglar and he helps the dwarves more than they originally expect of him. Therefore, they are more than happy to give the hobbit his share of the treasure just as Thorin promised.

There is evidence that suggests dwarves have the ability to use some magic (Rateliff, ch. I(b).iii). They cannot use magic as a weapon to fight against enemies but for example, when the dwarves find the treasure in the Trolls’ hoard they bury it in a secret place and put a spell over the treasure several times (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 41).

Although dwarves in Tolkien’s tales including *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* (from here on referred to as *LOTR*), and *The Silmarillion* are not an evil race, they have according to Foster, “a tendency towards wrath, possessiveness, and gold-lust” (100). The reader can see these flaws in the dwarves clearly from examples in *The Hobbit*. In the chapter, “Not at Home”, when the dwarves and Bilbo find out that Smaug is not at home and has left his treasure hoard unguarded. Upon seeing the treasure the dwarves become enamored with it but after a long while of examining and cherishing their treasure, the hobbit has to remind them that they are still in danger on the dragon’s hoard, without knowing that Smaug is dead or alive (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 218-220).

In *The Silmarillion*, Aulë the creator of the Dwarves makes them in his own image which gave them their widely known attributes; such as stubbornness, gold-lust, endurance and physical strength (Tolkien, *The Silmarillion*, 39). Some of the dwarves’ traits however, can become a burden. Thorin suffers more from these flaws than the other dwarves in *The Hobbit*. His gold-lust and stubbornness take over his rationale which costs him greatly in the end.

Dwarves are sometimes rude and unfriendly and yet they can have strong bonds with other races. For example, in *The Hobbit*, Thorin and the Company often doubted Bilbo’s abilities and his chances of surviving a dangerous quest. Later on, however, they learn that their previous assumptions, about him being weak and lazy, were wrong and they begin to respect him. Therefore, throughout the story, they develop a great relationship with Bilbo Baggins. Even though Thorin has an unfriendly character but before he dies he manages to let go of the anger and make peace with the hobbit. Not only do the dwarves in *The Hobbit* create

great friendships with other races but also in *LOTR*. The main dwarf character in *LOTR*, Gimli, becomes good friends with the Sindarin Elf Legolas until the end of their lives (Foster 231; Tolkien, *LOTR* 1419)

3.3 Leadership

Thorin Oakenshield is the leader of the Company of Dwarves. He leads twelve dwarves, Bilbo and Gandalf the grey to reclaim his home back from the evil dragon named Smaug in a quest that is known as the Quest of Erebor. As mentioned in chapter 3.1, Thorin is known as the exiled King of Durin's Folk. Therefore the reader assumes that he has the qualities and makings of a leader. However in *The Hobbit*, Thorin is soon seen as an incompetent leader of the Company as seen in chapter two, "Roast Mutton", when all the dwarves get captured by the trolls. Thorin attempts to save his friends but he gets captured as well. The person who comes to save them is Gandalf (Tolkien 38-40). Another example of Thorin's lack of leadership is when all the dwarves and the hobbit get carried off by the goblins down into their mountain. Gandalf once again comes to their rescue. While they are still in the goblin cave Gandalf has to order Thorin to draw his sword as he stands dumbfound in the face of danger (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 63). This demonstrates that when under pressure, Thorin is more of a foot soldier than a general, needing orders rather than giving them.

The people of Lake-town do not believe in Thorin's ability to slay the dragon. After all, he did not strike them as a king or a warrior (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 186). On the off chance that he might succeed, the Lake folk decide to help him so that the town might prosper again (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 182). Even when they see a light coming from the Mountain, some people remain doubtful: "Perhaps the King under the Mountain is forging gold,'... 'Which king?' said another with a grim voice. 'As like as not it is the marauding fire of the Dragon, the only king under the Mountain we have ever known'" (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 225).

Tolkien's *Unfinished Tales* touches on The Quest of Erebor among other things. The quest takes place before the events in *The Hobbit* and shows that Gandalf wanted Thorin and Company to take Bilbo with them: "If this hobbit goes with you, you will succeed. If not, you will fail. A foresight is on me, and I am warning you" (420). However, Thorin does not quite believe in Gandalf's foresight. The wizard insists that Bilbo is important for this quest. He also warns Thorin to "Curb your pride and your greed or you will fall at the end of whatever path you take, though your hands be full of gold" (420-421). After still more persuasion, Thorin agrees to take the hobbit with the Company. When Thorin and his dwarves meet Bilbo

for the first time, they wonder if he will be of any help on their mission; Thorin believes that Bilbo is “soft as the mud of his Shire, and silly” (420).

Despite the dwarfs’ reservations about Bilbo, he proves to be both brave and resourceful. Due to the lack of leadership on Thorin’s part, Bilbo becomes the dominant character. This appears more often as the story progresses when the hobbit gets used to the idea of being a burglar. He saves Thorin and Company from the giant spiders in Mirkwood, as well as helping them escape from the Wood-elves after being imprisoned by them (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 143-179). Another example of Bilbo’s leadership is when the dragon realizes that someone is in his cave and stealing treasure from him; he gets very angry and flies out of the Mountain in search of the thief. The Company takes refuge where they can to avoid the seeking eyes of Smaug. They would all have died if Bilbo had not been present at that time (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 200).

Thorin has the title of a leader and he is the rightful king of Erebor but he does not possess the qualities of leadership. Bilbo Baggins, however, a hobbit who loves the comforts of his life and despises adventure, demonstrates his resourcefulness throughout the story and gains respect from the wizard and the dwarves. He makes fast decisions under pressure and is very patient with the dwarves in trying times; transforming from a lazy hobbit into a respected leader. Therefore, Thorin and Company often rely on the hobbit to be in charge of the big decisions such as after Bilbo saves the dwarves’ lives from the spiders:

Where were they, and where was their path, and where was there any food, and what were they going to do next? These questions they asked over and over again, and it was from little Bilbo that they seemed to expect to get the answers. From which you can see that they had changed their opinion of Mr. Baggins. (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 152)

In *The Hobbit* films, Thorin Oakenshield (played by Richard Armitage) is portrayed as a great warrior and has more leadership qualities than his counterpart in the novel. During the first film, he and his Company fights the trolls with teamwork (Jackson, *The Hobbit: AUJ*). However, in the novel, chapter two: “Roast Mutton”, the dwarves are not the efficient team (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 32-38) they are portrayed to be in the film and neither is Thorin as much of a hero in the novel. Another example of how Thorin’s leadership is greater in the film than in the novel is when Gandalf, Bilbo, and the dwarves get out of the Goblins cave; they confront a group of Wargs and Orcs including Azog the defiler, who was believed to have died at the hands of Thorin in the battle of Azanulbizar. With the anger of the loss of his

grandfather at Azog's hands, Thorin decides to fight him (Jackson, *The Hobbit: AUJ*). However, in the novel, Thorin is not the dominant character of the story. In fact he does not give any command or try to find a way to escape when the group of Wargs comes. It is Gandalf who hurts the Wargs and makes a commotion, capturing the Eagle's attention which then leads to their rescue (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 92-104).

In the Quest of Erebor, Gandalf explains to Thorin, before the quest begins, that everything must be planned beforehand and Bilbo cannot be allowed room for second thoughts (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 433). Despite this, in *The Hobbit* novel, it seems that Thorin has not planned anything. The Company arrives at the Lonely Mountain only with Gandalf's warning to take Bilbo with them or else they will not succeed in taking back the Mountain. After finding the secret entrance into Erebor, Bilbo goes inside and upon finding the treasure, as a burglar, he decides to steal a cup from the hoard to bring back as proof for the dwarves that the treasure can be approached without being incinerated. They are overjoyed to see the old treasure, until they hear the dragon waking up. They all blame the poor hobbit and say that he has angered the dragon (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 195-202). Bilbo angrily says "What else do you suppose a burglar is to do?...I was not engaged to kill dragons, that is warrior's work, but to steal treasure." (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 202). He has made his point and the dwarves apologize to him. After that Thorin asks the hobbit, who now seems to be the leader of the group, politely what they should do next and Bilbo tries his best to come up with a solution (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 202-203). In contrast, in *The Hobbit* films, Thorin arrives at the Mountain with no actual plan, except for sending the burglar in there to find the Arkenstone so that he can use it to convince the dwarven armies to help kill the dragon (Jackson).

3.4 Dragon-sickness

According to Fisher, dragons are famous for their love of gold. So famous, in fact, that if anyone is known to have a great affection for it, it is said that they have 'dragon-sickness' (41) as seen in *The Hobbit*, the previous Master of Lake-town died miserably after succumbing to dragon-sickness which led him to starvation (Tolkien 276). In *The Hobbit: AUJ* film, Thorin's grandfather, Thrór, also falls to the dragon-sickness. After gathering great amounts of treasure, "Thrór's love of gold had grown too fierce. A sickness had begun to grow within him; it was a sickness of the mind. And where sickness thrives, bad things will follow" (Jackson). Thráin, son of Thrór, is also destined to be taken by the dragon-sickness,

although, it was not by gold but one of the dwarven rings of power (Tolkien, *LOTR* 1414). The vast amounts of treasure attracts the attention of the most evil dragon of the North, Smaug, who comes and eventually takes over the Mountain, but only after killing many of the inhabitants and driving the survivors away (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 23-24). After Thráin is captured and his ring taken; he is thrown into a dungeon in Dol Guldur never to be heard from again and believed dead (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 415); it then falls to Thorin to take revenge on the dragon (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 419). Moreover, after Smaug dies, Thorin does not want to share the treasure with anyone except his kin and Bilbo. He has had the treasure on his mind since he was a young man (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 424). Seeing it pushes his mind over the edge and the dragon-sickness takes hold of him. Thus, when he enters the dragon's lair he is surrounded by the treasure which he has obsessed about for so long and becomes greedy and corrupted (Jackson, *The Hobbit: TDoS & BoFA*). According to Fisher, Thorin's destiny is "to succumb to dragon-sickness. It is in his blood, his inescapable heritage" (42). The dragon-sickness falls on him just like his father and grandfather.

In the film, Thorin's obsession of gold is very strong when compared to the novel. After Smaug has awoken, shaking the Mountain as he gets up, Bilbo runs out to warn the dwarves that they should escape from the dragon. However, the first thing Thorin asks about upon seeing Bilbo is if he has found the Arkenstone rather than asking if he is injured (Jackson, *The Hobbit: TDoS*). Another scene where Thorin's obsession is shown is when he sees Bilbo in a corner, looking at something that he assumes is the Arkenstone. Bilbo, however, lives up to his reputation as a burglar as he quickly switches the stone for an acorn out of his pocket, telling Thorin the story of how he came by it and how he will use it to remember his adventure with the Company. This leads Thorin to believe Bilbo is innocent but instead he suspects one of his dwarven friends has the stone (Jackson, *The Hobbit: BoFA*)

3.5 Ambition

Thorin's ambitions are to defeat the dragon, take back Erebor, and retrieve the Arkenstone. His ambition of finding the Arkenstone, however, turns into an obsession. According to Thorin, the Arkenstone "was like a globe with a thousand facets; it shone like silver in the firelight, like water in the sun, like snow under the stars, like rain upon the Moon!" (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 212). After Thorin discovers that Smaug is not at home (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 214-224), the obsession with finding the Arkenstone sinks in completely and all other plans, including defeating the dragon, fades away from his mind. His obsession with possessing the

Arkenstone goes so far that when he discovers Bilbo had the Arkenstone, but gave it away to the Elvenking and his allies, he almost throws him over the wall. (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 212 & 251-252).

As mentioned earlier, Thorin Oakenshield has had the treasure on his mind for a long time and he seeks revenge on the dragon (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 424). According to Gandalf, in *Unfinished Tales*, “Thorin was all for plans of battle and war, as if he were really King Thorin the Second, and I could see no hope in that” (Tolkien 417). However, Thorin’s ambition to take back Erebor grew stronger and Gandalf worried about Smaug’s potential threat if used by Sauron. Therefore, Gandalf decides to help Thorin in the hopes that the dragon will be defeated.

3.6 Greed

As is commonly known, the dwarven race is very fond of treasure and they are easily influenced by the dragon-sickness (Fisher 42) which can turn them to corruption and greed. Tolkien’s dwarves are not only easily possessed by the dragon-sickness but their connections with treasure are instinctive as seen in *The Hobbit*, the end of chapter two, “Roast Mutton”. After Thorin’s Company finds the treasures in the troll hoard, the dwarves take it out and bury it in a secret place (Tolkien 41).

After Thrór, Thorin’s grandfather, dies, his son Thráin inherits the burden of reclaiming Erebor and taking revenge on Smaug; upon his disappearance the duty falls to Thorin (Tolkien, *LOTR* 1408). Thorin’s greed begins to show after he gets into the dungeon of the dragon; he murmurs to himself about the Arkenstone and does not talk to anyone about it (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 212). He tries to search for the Arkenstone, the gem that he has desired for so long but luck is not on his side. Bilbo manages to find it before Thorin does and the hobbit burglar thinks of taking it as his fourteenth share of the treasure. He decides however that it is not worth keeping if the price of it is to sacrifice his friendship with the Company (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 216-217, 219 & 248). Not only did Thrór, Thráin, and Thorin become greedy after getting the dragon-sickness but the Master of Lake-town as well, as is described in chapter 3.4, the Elvenking or even gentle souls like Bard the dragon slayer and Bilbo (Fisher 41). However, this chapter will only be analysing Thorin’s greed.

In the *Unfinished Tales* novel, before the Quest of Erebor begins, Gandalf has a conversation with Thorin close to the village of Bree (Tolkien 416-417). By reading their

conversation, the reader understands Thorin's situation and Gandalf's willingness to help him but under the condition, as described earlier, to take Bilbo with him and his Company as their burglar. During the conversation, Gandalf explains to Thorin that Sauron's power is too great and that everyone will be better off if Smaug were destroyed before Sauron can use him in the war. Gandalf thinks to himself that he does not want to help Thorin because he is rude to the wizard and too haughty to take Bilbo with him. That is the attitude that Gandalf hates about Thorin. He thinks that Thorin is too stubborn and refers to him as a "stiff neck" (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 433). In the same way, Bombur, one of the dwarves in the Company, thinks that Thorin is "a dwarf with a stiff neck" (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 245) when Thorin will not give up on finding the Arkenstone. Because of Thorin's greed and stubbornness, war will erupt if the elves and men do not stop asking for a share of the treasure (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 244-245).

After Smaug's death, Thorin and Company assumes that the treasure officially belongs to them and Thorin's greed becomes stronger (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 236). Since the old age, Carc the raven had been aligned with the dwarves and served them mostly as a messenger but now that he had long since passed away his son Roäc, now an old bird, returns to the mountain and tells Thorin and Company that the dragon is dead (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 235-236). The raven also tells him that the Wood-elves are coming to take back the treasure they claim is theirs and they come ready for war. The Lake-town people are coming with them as well but only because Smaug had burned their homes and killed many of their people; they come to ask Thorin for some share of the treasure so they can rebuild the town. The raven warns Thorin to not trust the Master of Lake-town but the dragon-slayer, Bard. Thorin appreciates what Roäc tells him but he angrily declares that he will not share any gold even in the event that it would lead to war with men and elves. Although the raven wishes for peace between the dwarves, elves and men he has no words against Thorin. Before Roäc flies away, Thorin asks him to send a message to his kin, especially Dain, Thorin's cousin in the Iron Hills to help him and his Company defend the treasure (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 236-237). While Thorin is waiting for his kin to come and join him in defending the treasure, he orders the Company to go defend the Mountain. Bilbo however, feels as if he is on the wrong side. He thought that his adventure was finally over after the death of the dragon. He would rather give most of his share away if it meant there would be peace. However, Thorin's greed has blinded him and he has no fear for the coming war (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 237-238).

In the films, Thorin's greed does not show until the second and third films. Similarly to the novel, in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* film, Thorin's lust for gold increases upon entering the dragon's lair (Jackson). In *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*, Thorin's greed is very evident. The friendship between Thorin and Bilbo is then completely destroyed when he finds out that the hobbit is the thief who stole the Arkenstone from him and that he gave Thorin's precious gem to the elves and men so that they can use it to claim their treasure and avoid war (Jackson).

Thorin does not realize that greed has taken him until the battle of the five armies. While Dain and his army are outside fighting, Thorin's Company waits for their king to command them to join the battle; inside Erebor's hall, Thorin sits on the throne with a golden crown on his head. One of the dwarves named Dwalin comes inside the hall feeling disappointed of what his king has evidently become. He and the other dwarves of Thorin's Company want to join the battle with their kin but Thorin suggests that the treasure needs to be protected from the enemy. Furthermore, he suggests they move the treasure further underground to a safer place. After Dwalin left, Thorin hallucinates and hears the voices of many people that have warned him about his greed in the past and he even sees the dragon. At that point, he manages to regain his sanity and lead his Company into the battle raging outside his walls (Jackson, *The Hobbit trilogy*).

There are many people that think Thorin's greed makes him walk the wrong path. However, there are also many people that have warned him and tried to help him go in the right direction. This can be illustrated in chapter 3.3, the story before the Quest of Erebor begins; Gandalf warns Thorin to curb his pride and his greed or he will fall at the end even though he has all the treasure he ever wanted (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 420-421). In *The Hobbit* novel, Roac, Bilbo, Gandalf, and some of the young dwarves in Thorin's Company do not agree with Thorin's plan where he sacrifices his and others lives to protect the treasure (Tolkien 236-237, 239, 240, 244, & 251). Even though, Roac does not think that Thorin should start a war with men and elves; he does not want to suggest his counsel further because he is afraid that he will anger Thorin (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 236-237 & 244). Finally the elves and men come to investigate the Mountain to see if the dwarves and the hobbit are dead or alive. At Erebor, they see Thorin announcing himself as the King under the Mountain. Thorin also asks who they are and what they want but they say nothing and later on they go back to their camp. In the camp, the elves play sweet music by elven-harps. Thorin and Company hear the music echo from afar which makes some of the young dwarves wish that everything

goes well and that there will be no need of war. They would like to have a friendship with the elves and men but Thorin scowls at them (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 239). Later the dwarves start to sing to lift their spirit. While they are singing in joy about the winning of their treasure and the returning of the King under the Mountain, Bilbo's spirit goes down. He feels the song sounds "too much warlike" (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 240). Gandalf is one of the earlier characters that noticed Thorin's greed. The wizard had warned Thorin in the past but he feels like the exile-king is incapable of changing because of his stubbornness. Nothing will change unless, according to Gandalf, Thorin bends his stiff neck (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 433). Therefore, when the wizard arrives at Erebor, he prefers to join with the elves and men than being with Thorin and Company (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 251).

In *The Hobbit* films it is shown clearly that Thorin's Company does not like Thorin's action but after all, he is their king and they respect him for who he is. Balin, who was a follower of Thorin's father (Foster 30) always feared that one day Thorin would fall to the dragon-sickness just like his grandfather. Bilbo asked Balin if the Arkenstone would make Thorin feel better but Balin disagrees. He believes that the stone will make Thorin worse and he would rather have the Arkenstone lost forever (Jackson, *The Hobbit: BoFA*).

Chapter 4: Comparisons between Thorin and other Tolkien's Characters

4.1 Thorin and Smaug

According to Tolkien, Smaug is “a vast red-golden dragon” (*The Hobbit* 198). Smaug shows how magnificent he is by describing his appearance to Bilbo as “My armour is like tenfold shields, my teeth are swords, my claws spears, the shock of my tail a thunderbolt, my wings a hurricane, and my breath death!” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 207).

The main theme of Thorin's character is greed as well as many other characters from *The Hobbit* and *LOTR*. Smaug is no exception. He is a powerful dragon with a twisted mind and unimaginable strength (*The Hobbit* 23). Moreover, when Bilbo investigates inside the Mountain for the first time, he sees the dragon sleeping on the treasure. Before Bilbo flees to tell the dwarves about the dragon, the narrator describes Smaug's greediness being so great that even asleep he has dreams of plunder and mayhem (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 198-199).

Even though dragons may not have any use of gold or jewelry the greed is in their nature, similar to the dwarves. As mentioned in chapter 3.6, they are fond of treasure and they easily get possessed by their own sickness called the ‘dragon-sickness’ (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 199; Fisher 41). As seen in Smaug; he gets furious when Bilbo steals only a cup that once belonged to the dwarves. He destroys parts of the Mountain in the hopes of killing Bilbo and the dwarves. Moreover, he destroys Lake-town and kills many of their people to make sure that no one will ever dare to come to the Mountain and steal a single piece of his treasure (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 198-213 & 225-233). He is not only greedy with a cruel heart but he is also smart and cunning. Smaug tries to trick Bilbo's mind into thinking that he has to risk his life as a burglar down to the dragon's lair and does not expect that the dwarves will give him his fair share. That makes Bilbo wish that he never heard Smaug's poisonous words. It makes him doubt his friends even after the long and dangerous journey they have been through together (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 206 & 211).

Both Thorin and Smaug have a great affection for gold and jewelry. Smaug loves gold more than anything. According to Fisher, some people think that dragons, including Smaug, “love gold even more than they love [their young and] their own lives” (29) and for this reason, dragons usually do not stay together. During the time Smaug is in the mountain, he lies on the heap of gold and jewelry and stays on guard for any thieves that might come inside the Mountain (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 23; Fisher 29). Thorin likewise has a great affection for

gold. However unlike Smaug, he can make beautiful things from the materials that he finds. Dwarves excel in crafting and smelting; in fact, during Thorin and Company's exile some of them worked as blacksmiths, coalminers or makers of beautiful craft (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 24). The dwarves are good in crafting because their creator teaches them to "love first the things made by their own hands ... They will delve in the earth, and the things that grow and live upon the earth they will not heed. Many a tree shall feel the bite of their iron without pity" (Tolkien, *The Silmarillion* 39).

4.2 Thorin and the Elvenking

The Elvenking in *The Hobbit* is not described in detail nor does it say much of who he is; the reader only knows that he is the king of the Wood-elves. Wood-elves have good manners, even to their enemies. The only creatures that they will kill with no mercy are the giant spiders described in the story when Thorin and Company go to Erebor by use of Mirkwood's path (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 156). In *Unfinished Tales*, the reader learns that the Elvenking is a Sindarin elf known as Thranduil, king of the Silvan Elves in northern Mirkwood (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 606) and he has a son named Legolas. His son is one of the members of the Fellowship of the Ring (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 581 & 606).

After Thorin and Company escape from their imprisonment in the Wood-elves kingdom in Mirkwood, the Elvenking scorns Thorin and his Company, including Bilbo, saying that they are weak and will not be able to kill a great dragon like Smaug. He thinks that he is a wise elf and wiser than anyone else including the Lake-town people (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 184). The Elvenking is therefore similar to Thorin; the dwarven king is contemptuous of Bilbo, saying that he is weak like the mud of the Shire (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 420). Thorin also judges Bilbo before he sees what the hobbit can do which later in the story proves him wrong.

According to Tolkien, elves including the Wood-Elvenking are "Good People" (*The Hobbit* 154). Thranduil has only one weakness which is an avaricious heart for treasure. Although, his dungeon is full of treasure, his ambition makes him desire to own more of it (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 155). Similarly, Thorin is a 'Good Person' and as mentioned in chapter 3.2, dwarves do not belong to the dark side of the world like goblins and orcs. However, similar to Thranduil, Thorin's weaknesses (e.g greed and ambition) lead to his fall in the end. While the Elvenking remains in Middle-Earth until the Fourth Age, the time after the defeat of Sauron (Foster 150-151 & 382), he does not succumb to the Dragon sickness for he has a

kind heart. He abolishes the plan to go to the Mountain to capture the treasure. Instead he helps the Lake-town folk after Smaug ruins their town. He gives them food and orders his elves to help them build shelters (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 232-233). In contrast, Thorin refuses to give the Lake-town people their share of the treasure but tells them he will pay them back for what they have provided him and his Company with (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 242). Thus, Thorin is ready to protect his inherited treasure to his death. Roäc, the raven is concerned that the winter and snow will soon arrive and Thorin and Company will not be able to find food without the help of elves and men (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 241-244). In addition, the raven says “The treasure is likely to be [Thorin’s] death” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 244) even though the dragon is no longer alive.

In *The Hobbit* films, there are conflicts between the Wood-elves and the dwarves of Erebor. After the dwarves lose their home and treasure to Smaug, Thranduil and his elves come near by the Mountain, looking down upon the dwarves. Thorin asks Thranduil for help but he and his elves leave the dwarves of Erebor wandering and seeking new lands without any aid from Thranduil (Jackson, *The Hobbit: AUJ*). The Elvenking refuses to help Thorin and his kin for two reasons which appear in the second and third films. The first reason; Thranduil claims that Thorin’s grandfather, Thrór, stole “the finest raw gold, silver and some superb jewels” (Fisher 44) called ‘the White Gems of Lasgalen’. He had asked Thrór to design a beautiful necklace for his wife from it; the Elvenking however, never received the necklace nor did he get the gems back (Fisher 44; Jackson, *The Hobbit: TDoS*). The second reason the Elvenking gives for not lending aid to Thorin’s people is that he has fought the dragons of the north, long before Smaug came to Erebor and while he is speaking closer to Thorin, Thranduil’s true face appears. Half his face is a burned scar, terrible to behold; proof that he fought the dragons and therefore knows how evil and powerful dragons can be (Jackson, *The Hobbit: TDoS*). In conclusion, Thranduil in the films is rather arrogant and heartless while in the novel he is a fair and rational person as is seen when he lends aid to the Lake folk despite his weakness (greed).

4.3 Thorin and Bard

Bard is described in *The Hobbit* as the strongest man in Lake-town and after the death of Smaug, he is known as ‘the dragon-slayer’ (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 227 & 242). In addition, he is “a descendant of Girion of Dale” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 228; Foster 34). Many years after

Smaug has destroyed his old towns including the old town of Dale and Lake-town, Bard rebuilds Dale and becomes king (Tolkien, *LOTR*, 1430).

When Smaug comes to destroy Lake-town, Bard believes that Thorin and Company have been killed by the wicked dragon. After Bard slays the dragon, he believes that the treasure in the Mountain is left unguarded and at that moment he feels eager to get the gold (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 231). Unlike Thorin, Bard wants the gold to rebuild the destroyed town; just like Roäc described him, Bard is the heir of Girion and a true man of Dale (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 236). After he gets his share of the treasure from Dain, he sends a great amount of the treasure to the Master of Lake-town and he also gives parts of his treasure to his followers and his friends (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 265). Thorin however, wants the Arkenstone for himself so he can restore the Durin throne. He declares to his Company that if anyone finds the stone and keeps it for themselves; he “will be avenged” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 244). However, because of his greed, the dwarven king does not get the stone until he passes away where Bard lays it down on Thorin’s chest (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 265).

4.4 Thorin and The Master of Lake-town

Tolkien does not give any details about The Master of Lake-town except that he is accounted as the oldest and wisest member of the town (*The Hobbit* 230). Despite being the leader of the town, he is greedy and cowardly. Moreover, he also has lack of leadership skills similar to Thorin. The Master hurries away from the town in the hopes of escaping the disaster that is made by Smaug; he leaves the town as the people are running around in confusion (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 227) instead of evacuating his people.

Thorin and the Master of Lake-town are very much alike. They are dishonest and avarice which leads to both of their falls in the end. The Master of Lake-town gives Thorin and Company a warm welcome but behind their back, he only hopes that the Lake-town’s river will be full of gold and that he will become very wealthy. He is more than happy when Thorin and Company leave Lake-town. He thinks that they are expensive to keep (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 183-185). On the other hand, Thorin is dishonest to the Lake-town people. He promises them that after the treasure is won, they will also get a share of it. However, he twists his words after the treasure becomes his to make sure they cannot claim it (Jackson, *The Hobbit: TDOS & BoFA*; Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 241-243).

4.5 Thorin and Bilbo

According to Tolkien, The hobbits are “a little people ... [have] little or no magic about them” (*The Hobbit* 4). They do not need to wear shoes because their feet are tough and strong but light in steps. The fact that they do not grow very high and their steps are light means they can disappear quietly and their smell is unknown to the Dragon. These are the reasons that Gandalf chooses the hobbit named Bilbo Baggins to be the burglar (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 4; Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 430-433). In fact, Bilbo is “a very well-to-do [and respectable] hobbit” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 3) because he never goes on any adventures. Although after he comes back home from the Quest of Erebor, his reputation among the hobbit people is not as good as before, he does not get offended. Gandalf says to him that he is not the hobbit he once was. He has gained more courage and respect from his companions such as the dwarves, elves, Lake folk, and the wizard himself.

In the chapter “Riddles in the Dark”, after Bilbo finds Gollum’s ring in the Goblin’s cave by accident, the hobbit decides to keep it for himself (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 65-84). The ring’s dark power does not appear in the novel save for its ability to make Bilbo invisible. As described in chapter 3.3, throughout the story, Bilbo’s courage increases dramatically. Part of his courage comes from the knowledge of the ring’s ability. The hobbit is not born a warrior but with the help of the ring’s power he certainly becomes more confident as a burglar and becomes the heroic leader of the group.

The Quest of Erebor shows clearly that Thorin and Company do not trust Gandalf’s choice of burglar for their quest. Thorin especially is always distrustful; he is very skeptical of taking Bilbo with him on the dangerous quest. If Gandalf did not insist that Thorin believe in his foresight (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 420), the dwarven king would probably never have gone to the Shire to meet his burglar. In *The Hobbit: AUJ* film, Thorin is often scornful of Bilbo which makes the hobbit believe that he is incapable of helping Thorin and Company; he even begins to think that he is only bringing them trouble. Thorin’s contempt makes Bilbo’s spirit and courage go down and almost drives him into going back to his comfortable hobbit home, back in the Shire. However, selfishness is not in the hobbit’s nature. He understands how he feels about home and he will not give up on the quest until Thorin and Company get their home back (Jackson):

Look, I know you doubt me, I know you always have. And you’re right, I often think of Bag End. I miss my books and my arm chair and my garden. See, that’s where I belong.

That's home and that's why I came back, cause you don't have one, a home. It was taken from you. But I will help you take it back if I can. (Jackson, *The Hobbit: AUJ*)

After Bilbo's impressive speech, the dwarves go silent as they think of what he says. In fact, their new view of Bilbo proves that they were wrong about him and the hobbit is not as weak and soft as they had previously assumed (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 420).

When comparing Bilbo and Thorin's character, we can see they are opposites. After Thorin asks Bilbo to join his quest, Bilbo thinks that going on an adventure is absurd, although, later he signs the burglar contract. However, after he leaves the Shire, the narrator describes him as a weak character as his first mission (sneaking into the Trolls' camp) fails. Throughout the story, Bilbo who never left his home without a pocket-handkerchief (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 29), gains more courage and grows as a hero and a leader (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 27 & 29) while Thorin's character remains rather consistent. Thorin's leadership is not clearly shown in *The Hobbit* story. During the whole story, Thorin depends on Bilbo's decision after he knows that his burglar can become invisible because of the ring's power (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 152). As they come upon the mountain he sends his burglar into the dragon's hoard without any actual plan. Bilbo has to make his own decisions so the dwarves can achieve their goal and at the same time survive the dangerous situation.

Although, Bilbo and Thorin are quite the opposite of each other as mentioned above there is one thing that they have in common in *The Hobbit* story – greed. Even a peaceful hobbit like Bilbo becomes greedy once he finds the Arkenstone, “the great jewel of the Lonely Mountain” (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 542). He closes his eyes and puts it in his pocket instead of giving it to Thorin (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 217). However, the hobbit race has long lived a quiet and peaceful lifestyle which has made most of them a reasonable and fair people as can be seen in Bilbo. He may have caught a little of the dragon-sickness the first moment he touched the Arkenstone but despite that, he quickly gathers himself thinking that he would rather have peace between ‘Good People’ (dwarves, elves and men) than war.

4.6 Thorin and Boromir

Boromir's appearance is described by Tolkien as “his garments were rich, and his cloak was lined with fur...He had a collar of silver in which a single white stone was set; his locks were shorn about his shoulders. On a baldric he wore a great horn tipped with silver” (*LOTR* 312). His appearance is described in a similar way to Thorin which shows that Boromir is not an

ordinary man. In fact, he is one of two sons of Denethor II, the last ruling steward of Gondor (Tolkien, *The Lord of the Ring* 1360). If Boromir had not died in battle with orcs, he would be the next in line of Ruling Steward after his father (Tolkien, *LOTR* 538-539; Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 547). Even though Boromir is not born to be a king like Thorin, he has the title of future Steward which would make him a chief counsellor to the King of Gondor.

Thorin and Boromir's character are similar in many ways. They both start out as reliable characters and yet they are also a little too eager to get what they want, which makes their companions wary of them. In the films, their need to get a powerful item is created originally with the idea of helping others. Thorin wants the Arkenstone to help him unite the dwarven people (Jackson, *The Hobbit: AUJ*) and Boromir wants the Ring to help fight Sauron and defend the people of Middle Earth (Jackson, *LOTR: The Fellowship of the Ring; Tolkien, LOTR* 518-519).

They are both characters who are influenced by a dark power that eventually leads to their deaths, and yet are freed of the corruption just before they die. Thorin accepts that he was wrong in choosing the Arkenstone over friendship and he and Bilbo have both forgiven each other before the dwarven king says farewell (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 262-263). In *LOTR*, Aragorn finds Boromir with several fatal wounds from fighting orcs. He accepts that he tried to take the ring from Frodo and that he deserves the death that is coming to claim him. He then says farewell to Aragorn (Tolkien, *LOTR* 538-539). Both Thorin and Boromir die in the arms of a friend to whom they admit the wrong/s that they did.

4.7 Thorin and Aragorn

In the novel, Aragorn's first appears as he meets Frodo and other hobbits in Bree. Aragorn is known there as Strider, one of the rangers and described as wearing leather boots and a dark green cloak; his clothes are worn from long travels (Tolkien, *LOTR* 204). However, in Rivendell Aragorn is called Dúnadan. The Dúnadan in the Elvish language means "man of the West, Númenórean" (Tolkien, *LOTR* 303). Elrond introduces Aragorn to Boromir at Rivendell as "he is Aragorn son of Arathorn...descended through many fathers from Isildur Elendil's son of Minas Ithil [and Aragorn] is the Chief of the Dúnedain" (Tolkien, *The Lord of the Ring* 321). This shows that Aragorn is the rightful heir to the throne of Gondor just like Thorin is the rightful heir to the throne of Erebor. They are both kings in exile. Aragorn however seems to have a stronger resolve than Thorin as he is not corrupted by the ring as his

forefather was (Tolkien, *LOTR* 316-319) while Thorin is corrupted by the Arkenstone just as his grandfather was.

Time and time again, Thorin announces himself as the King under the Mountain. For example, when he proudly introduces himself to Lake folk and the Master as “Thorin son of Thrain son of Thrór King under the Mountain!” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 181). He takes pride in the fact that he is a king with an inherited treasure, lying under the Mountain. His lust for the Arkenstone blinds and in the end he cannot enjoy any of the treasures that he has won from the dragon. In contrast, Aragorn is the heir of Isildur and the future king of Gondor but he is uneager to show his true identity and does not brag about it. He introduces himself as Strider at the Bree village but in Rivendell, he is known as Dúnadan, and in Gondor, people know Aragorn as Thorongil or many other names that he uses to disguise his identity as the rightful king (Tolkien, *LOTR* 1382 & 1431; Foster 16-17). He announces himself proudly as Strider as seen in chapter ten, “Strider” in *LOTR*. Aragorn, as Strider, makes a deal with Frodo and his friends with the only condition that they let him come along on their journey. (Tolkien 213).

Thorin and Aragorn have few things in common. While Aragorn is logical and tries to use reason when convincing others as when he tried to convince Frodo and his friends that he is trustworthy as Strider and that he can protect them (Tolkien, *LOTR* 213-217), Thorin is angry most of the time. His friends follow him more because of who he is rather than the integrity of his plans.

Aragorn is very reliable compared to Thorin when it comes to dangerous situations. Aragorn can quickly give commands that suits each member of his party and thus makes a great leader (Tolkien, *LOTR* 266) while Thorin sometimes freezes up in the face of danger and is more than ones willing to sacrifice a member of his party if it brings him closer to his own goals.

Chapter 5: The Death of Thorin

In the novel, Thorin fell after the Battle of Five Armies where the victory goes to dwarves, men, and elves (Tolkien 263). Thorin manages to make peace and remain friends with Bilbo before he says farewell to the hobbit and Middle-Earth:

“Farewell, good thief,” he said. “I go now to the halls of waiting to sit beside my fathers, until the world is renewed. Since I leave now all gold and silver, and go where it is of little worth, I wish to part in friendship from you, and I would take back my words and deeds at the Gate... There is more in you of good than you know, child of the kindly West. Some courage and some wisdom, blended in measure. If more of us value food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world. But sad or merry, I must leave it now. Farewell!” (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 262-263)

Thorin realizes that the world would be a better place if people valued food and the joy of cheer and song more than the wealth of gold similar to the hobbits’ simple way of lives. Similar to Thorin, Boromir has not noticed that he has fallen under the ring’s power since he saw the ring for the first time. Thus, he tried to steal the ring from Frodo. In his last moments before he passes away, he is free from the rings influence and says: “I am sorry. I have paid... Farewell, Aragorn! Go to Minas Tirith and save my people! I have failed” (Tolkien, *LOTR* 538). Then, Aragorn says farewell to Boromir “You have conquered. Few have gained such a victory. Be at peace! Minas Tirith shall not fall!” (Tolkien, *LOTR* 538). Even though Thorin and Boromir had passed away, the conflict in Middle-Earth still continued.

After Thorin passes away his cousin, Dain, is next in line of Durin’s king (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 265). According to Gandalf, Dain is “a worthy successor” (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 421). After the victory, Dain divides the treasure and gives handsomely to the allies. The dwarves are at peace with the Lake folk and the Wood-elves and finally, the Arkenstone is laid to rest with Thorin, under the Mountain (Tolkien, *The Hobbit* 264-267).

Many years after the Quest of Erebor, Gandalf gets a chance to have a conversation with Bilbo’s cousin named Frodo (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 421; Foster 152). The wizard feels sorry that Thorin died before he could enjoy his throne and treasure. He thinks that Thorin’s pride and greed took over him in spite of his warning. However, Frodo thinks that there was a likely chance that Thorin would have received the fatal injury during the battle even if he had not fallen into greed and corruption. Gandalf agrees and says “[Thorin] was a

great Dwarf of a great House. Whatever his faults; and though he fell at the end of the journey, it was largely due to him that the Kingdom under the Mountain was restored, as I desired” (Tolkien, *Unfinished Tales* 421).

Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* is not for entertainment only but also to teach children and readers of all ages about ethics and morals. From Thorin’s death, the reader learns to value other things (e.g. friendship, foods, and joy) than wealth. The world we live in is full of greed and selfishness and focused on making us believe that the more wealth we have, the happier we are. However, Thorin illustrates that to be greedy and only think about one’s own plans, even though they claim to do good for others, will not bring you what you desire most.

Chapter 6: Conclusion

Thorin Oakenshield is hardly a heroic character. In the novel, Thorin is doubtful, stubborn, and over-ambitious. He is also far from being a leader of the Company. Bilbo develops from being calm and content to the heroic character he is at the end of the story. Thorin and his Company rely on the hobbit's skills and decisions to rescue them time and time again. Furthermore, Thorin is predisposed to become greedy as the dwarves have "a tendency towards wrath, possessiveness, and gold-lust" (Foster 100) which is also known as 'dragon-sickness'. When Thorin is compared to other characters from *The Hobbit* and *LOTR*, we learn that the dwarven king is not the only character that falls onto the dark path. There are several examples as can be seen in chapter 4, such as Bilbo. He wishes to keep the Arkenstone for himself but then realizes that he would rather have peace and friendship than the heart of the mountain. Finally, Thorin manages to make peace and finds the right path before he parts with Middle-Earth and even though he is far from being a hero, he did come far through a hard life and it is unfair to say that he deserves to die.

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