

ENRICHMENT GUIDE & SOCIAL STORY

# The Hobbit



 **FIRST  
STAGE**  
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER

PROUD CORNERSTONE MEMBER  
  
UNITED PERFORMING ARTS FUND

# The Hobbit

**GOING TO A SHOW  
AT THE MILWAUKEE  
YOUTH ARTS CENTER**

**SOCIAL STORY**

In partnership with



# I am going to see a First Stage show at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center.



I am going to see the show with

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**Watching a play is like watching TV or a movie,  
except people are on stage in front of us.**



They are called actors. They can see and hear me too.  
I can't turn the channel or turn the volume up and down.

# A play is made up of many interesting things.



Costumes



Scenery



Sound



Lighting

When we drive to the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, we will park in the parking lot or on the street.



We may need to wait in line to scan our tickets.



When we are waiting, I can stay with my family or teacher.

**Once we have our tickets, we will go down the long blue hallway...**



...into a large and colorful commons area.



There are bathrooms in the commons area. If I need to, I can use the bathroom before we go to our seats.

**Someone will show us where to sit.**



The audience area is for all of us.



The stage is for the actors only.

## When I am in the theater waiting for the show to start:

1. I can talk to my family or friends.
2. I can take a short break in the lobby.



# There will be a lot of people in theater and it may get noisy.

If it gets too loud:

1. I can bring headphones if I want.
2. I can put my hands over my ears.
3. I can leave the room and take a short break in the lobby.



I can come back when I am ready.

## During the show:

1. I can watch and listen to the actors quietly.
2. I can applaud if I like something.
3. I can hold things in my hand that make me feel comfortable.



## If I need to talk:

1. I can talk quietly to my family.
2. I can write down what I want to say.
3. I can leave the room.

# After the show there will be a “talkback.”

**The talkback is a chance for me to ask questions.**

1. I will raise my hand to show that I want to ask a question.
2. I will wait for the leader to call on me to ask my question.
3. I don't have to ask a question if I don't want.



**I can ask different kinds of questions:**

1. I can ask questions about the show.
2. I can ask questions about the scenery, costumes, lights, or sound.

**After the show is finished,  
I will leave the theater with my family.**



# The Hobbit

## MEET THE “ADVENTURE” CAST

These are the actors you will see at the  
Sensory Friendly Performance on  
Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 4PM.

# The Hobbit

**THIS IS LEO.**



They play a character named Bilbo. Bilbo is a hobbit who is chosen by Gandalf to join the dwarves on their quest. Bilbo is shy and meek, but discovers their bravery and value along the way. Bilbo finds a ring on the journey that makes them turn invisible when they put it on.

# The Hobbit

## THIS IS SHARON.



They play a character named Gandalf. Gandalf is a powerful wizard who chooses Bilbo to join the dwarves on their quest. They also play Gollum, a demented hobbit who Bilbo steals the Ring of Power from, the Elven Queen, a dwarf and many other creatures in the play.

# The Hobbit

## THIS IS MATT.



They play a character named Thorin. Thorin is the king of the Dwarves. Thorin wants to reclaim the gold and riches that Smaug the Dragon took from his people. Thorin does not believe that Bilbo will be helpful at first, but grows to appreciate them as their journey goes on.

# The Hobbit

## THIS IS ELYSE.



They play a character named the Bard of Lake Town. The Bard fires an arrow that kills Smaug the Dragon. They also play a dwarf and several creatures in the play.

# The Hobbit

## THIS IS JAMEY.



They play a character named Smaug. Smaug is a powerful dragon who lives in The Lonely Mountain and rules over the dwarves' old treasure. Jaime also plays a dwarf and several creatures in the play.

# The Hobbit

## THIS IS NATALIE.



They play a musician who plays several instruments throughout the play. They sit in a chair in the balcony area and use their instruments to play music and sound effects.

# SYNOPSIS

Portions of text that appear in **bold and that are underlined** may be considered loud for some audience members.

Bilbo Baggins sits in their chair and reads from a book, thinking back on a journey they took many years ago. Gandalf the Wizard arrives and asks Bilbo to go on a great adventure. Bilbo is not sure they want to go and doesn't think they are a good choice. The next day a group of dwarves arrive at Bilbo's house – they also do not think Bilbo will be helpful on the journey. They are led by Thorin, king of the dwarves.

While looking at a map of the upcoming path by moonlight, Thorin shares that he and the dwarves are struggling. The dwarves' treasure and wealth was stolen by a cruel and powerful dragon names Smaug. Smaug lives in their former home in The Lonely Mountain, sitting on their treasure and giving none to the dwarves who have no money or power. The group wants to journey to The Lonely Mountain, kill Smaug, and return Thorin to his throne and their money to their people. Gandalf chose Bilbo for his size and intelligence to help sneak into the mountain and scout ahead along the path during the trip. Bilbo will receive 1/14 of the treasure if they are successful.

The next day, Bilbo wakes up late and runs to join the dwarves. On the first night, the group sees something moving in the distance and sends Bilbo to investigate. Bilbo is nervous and discovers a group of trolls ahead. Trying to be helpful and impress the dwarves he tries to steal something from them but has no luck. After Bilbo takes too long to come back, Thorin comes searching for him and ends

up getting captured by the trolls along with the other dwarves. Gandalf saves the group by pretending to be the trolls by copying their voices and causing them to argue with each other- the trolls wait too long to eat the adventurers and are turned to stone by the sun. Thorin is angry with Bilbo and they begin to think bringing Bilbo along was a very bad idea. They discover weapons by the trolls and Bilbos get a dagger to bring along.

**The group discovers a cave which they realize is filled with goblins and a battle begins where the group is separated. Bilbo comes across a gold ring in the cave and meets Gollum, a creature who lives in the cave and is obsessed with the ring. Gollum challenges Bilbo to a game of riddles and loses, but becomes angry when he can't find his ring that Bilbo stole. Bilbo puts it on and discovers that the ring makes the person wearing it turn invisible and escapes the gave by following Gollum towards the exit.**

Still invisible, Bilbo hears the dwarves talking and decide to not go back into the cave to rescue Bilbo. Bilbo appears and is angry with Thorin, but just then **the group is attacked by wolf-like creatures. They battle and Gandalf saves them once again with his eagles who fly from the sky and take the group to safety.** Gandalf decides to leave, saying that this is not her journey and that the group can succeed on their own.

**The group encounters dangerous spiders, where Bilbo once again uses their ring to**

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turn invisible – Bilbo rescues the group. Thorin becomes furious at Bilbo hiding the ring’s power from the others and lashes out in anger. As Bilbo is cast off, the others are captured by the Wood Elves who live near The Lonely Mountain.

The Wood Elves hold the group in jail – claiming that angering Smaug could get themselves and countless others killed and their lands destroyed if the adventurers fail. Bilbo uses the ring to pick the jailer’s pocket and the group escapes the prison by floating a river in apple barrels.

The adventurers struggle to find their way into The Lonely Mountain but eventually figure out the riddle that allows them to see the keyhole. They send Bilbo ahead who reaches the treasure and begins to search for proof he has succeeded. The adventurers begin to search the treasure for the Arkenstone, a special dwarves relic. Bilbo is drawn to the Arkenstone and keeps it for themselves without telling Thorin or the others. **Just then, Smaug becomes furious when they discover the adventures and begins to attack sending the group scattering. Smaug begins to destroy the surrounding villages with their fiery breath. The Bard of Lake Town shoots and kills Smaug with an arrow.**

After Smaug’s death, Thorin has a shift of heart- just like Smaug he decides to keep all of the treasure for only the dwarves even

though Smaug stole from and destroyed the lands of the Elves and the village of Lake Town. The humans and elves are given no choice but to lay siege to the mountain. Thorin says his dwarf army is on the way. Bilbo tries to make peace, and uses the ring to sneak into Lake Town and gives Bard and the Elven Queen the Arkenstone to use to bargain with Thorin. They try, but Thorin sees right through it, and knows that Bilbo set it up. He refuses to bargain, and tells everyone to prepare for a fight. Gandalf returns, and reminds Thorin that he should be a good king like his father was. The dwarf army arrives, and the battle between the dwarves and the elves and humans begins. Before much time passes, goblins and their wolves show up to battle against the dwarves, elves and humans for the treasure in the mountain. This becomes known as the Battle of the Five Armies.

During the battle, Bilbo is knocked out. When he awakes, he finds that Thorin is dying. In the end, Thorin has a change of heart before he passes away: the treasure from the Lonely Mountain is given back to all of its original owners, and Bilbo returns home to the Shire with one chest of silver and one chest of gold where he begins to write down tales of his adventure.

# The Hobbit

## **THIS IS A PLAY WITH MUSIC.**

The actors will be playing instruments throughout the performance.

Most of the actors in this play will each play several different characters. They will use their bodies and voices in different ways and wear different costume pieces to show which role they are playing.

Goodman Mainstage Hall is a “theater in the round” style space.

Actors will be using through several entrances between seating areas in the audience space- sometimes they may have to enter quickly. They may point at or interact with you during the play, but they will not touch you.