

Smaug – The King under the Mountain

Introduction

Smaug is a dragon and the main enemy in J. R. R. Tolkien's 1937 novel called 'The Hobbit'. His lair was full of stolen treasure and jewels. Powerful and fearsome, he invaded a dwarf kingdom to satisfy his greed and thirst for wealth.

When Bilbo Baggins (the hero of the book) first encountered Smaug he heard his snoring - "like the noise of a large pot galloping in the fire, mixed with the rumble of a gigantic tom-cat purring." However, he is most of all struck by the reddish glow and heat that Smaug gave off, both of which travelled up the passage-way, meaning Bilbo could sense the dragon before he actually saw it.

What Did He Look Like?

This is how Tolkien described Smaug in the book:

There he lay, a vast red-golden dragon, fast asleep; thrumming came from his jaws and nostrils, and wisps of smoke, but his fires were low in slumber. Beneath him, under all his limbs and his huge coiled tail, and about him on all sides stretching away across the unseen floors, lay countless piles of precious things, gold wrought and unwrought, gems and jewels, and silver red-stained in the ruddy light. Smaug lay, with wings folded like an immeasurable bat, turned partly on one side, so that the hobbit could see his underparts and his long pale belly crusted with gems and fragments of gold from his long lying on his costly bed.

