In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, nor yet a dry, bare sand hole: it was a hobbit hole, and that means comfort.

1

This hobbit's hole was on The Hill, as all the people for many miles around called it, and his name was Baggins.

People considered the Bagginses very respectable, not only because most of them were rich, but also because they never had any adventures or did anything unexpected.

This is a story of how a Baggins had an adventure, and found himself doing and saying things altogether unexpected.

2

What is a hobbit?

I suppose hobbits need some description nowadays, since they have become rare and shy of the Big People, as they call us.

They are a little people, smaller than dwarves. They are inclined to be fat in the stomach; they dress in bright colors and wear no shoes, because their feet grow natural leathery soles and thick, warm brown hair.

3

The mother of this particular hobbit — of Bilbo Baggins, that is — was the famous Belladonna Took! Once in a while members of the Took-clan would go and have adventures. They discreetly disappeared, and the family hushed it up; the Tooks were not as respectable as the Bagginses.

4

It is probable that Bilbo, Belladonna's only son, although he looked and behaved like his father, got something a bit queer in his make-up from the Took side, something that only waited for a chance to come out.

Oh.

READING COMPREHENSION

TASK 1. Which part of the text is about …?

The Hobbit's physical appearance : part ☐

The Hobbit's adventurous spirit : part ☐

The Hobbit's identity and life : part ☐

The Hobbit's family : part ☐

TASK 2. Find in the extract the synonyms to the following words:

Unpleasant : ☐ *at present :* ☐

surprising : ☐ *luminous :* ☐

conceal (v) : ☐ *act (v) :* ☐

strange : ☐ *appear (v) :* ☐

TASK 3. Decide if the sentences are true or false. If the sentence is false, correct it.

1. The Hobbit had a very unpleasant and dirty hole. ☐ True ☐ False

2. Bilbo Baggins was a very poor and unhappy hobbit. ☐ True ☐ False

3. The Bagginses had lived in the village for a very long time. ☐ True ☐ False

4. Their neighbours respected and liked them. ☐ True ☐ False

5. The Bagginses were fond of adventures and took part in any of them. ☐ True ☐ False

Task 4. Answer the questions.

1. What is the hobbit's complete name (first name and surname)?

2. What kind of hobbit was Bilbo Baggins?

3. What can you say about the family of Bagginses?

4. Did the hobbits like adventures?

Task 5. Pick out all the words related to their physical appearance and describe the hobbit. (look at the picture too)