*GANDALF AND BILBO*

*Lights up centre stage. Bilbo is sat in front of his round front door. He has several breakfasts lined up in front of him on trays. He is humming happily to himself as he butters some toast.*

*Enter Gandalf Stage Left.*

Gandalf: (*Takes a deep breath and sighs)* Ah, the Shire! How delicious the morning is in this part of the world. The air is **stuffed** with comfort! Nothing exciting has happened here for ages – all green and still --- *(Walks over to Bilbo)* rather like the inside of those eggs you’re eating – don’t you think?

Bilbo: *(Looks up startled)* Oh! I wouldn’t know. I’ve lived here all my life. But you’re a stranger so it must seem different to you. Welcome! Would you like a breakfast or two? I have plenty.

Gandalf: Thank you, I haven’t the time – and I am not a stranger anywhere, unless, of course, I choose to be.

From off stage right a little hobbit runs on and stops dead at the sight of Gandalf. He runs off and returns with two more hobbits who stand and stare.

Bilbo: *(Confused)* Oh yes? Well how do you do sir .. *(Offers his hand).*

Gandalf: *(Ignores the gesture)* Magnificently of course! *(Slowly and deliberately)* But at the moment I am looking for someone to share a great adventure – *Bilbo looks up open-mouthed –* A stupendous adventure that I am arranging – and it’s very difficult to find anyone.

*Hobbits run off Stage R. Slamming sounds are heard off stage.*

Gandalf: What was that?

Bilbo: That was neighbours slamming doors and shutters.

Gandalf: On adventure? Tut tut.

Bilbo: You sir, are in the neighbourhood of Hobbits.

Gandalf: *(Feigning ignorance)* Hobbits? Hobbits? What’s a Hobbit?

Bilbo: We’re just plain folk – we have no use for adventures (*Shudders)*. Nasty, uncomfortable things! Adventures make you late for dinner! Good morning *(Gets back to his breakfast)* we don’t want any adventures here. You might try The Hill over The Water.

Gandalf: You should be ashamed of yourself, Bilbo Baggins!

Bilbo: *(Jumps to his feet)* That’s my name! How did you know?

Gandalf: You know mine, too, although you don’t know that I belong to it. I am Gandalf and Gandalf means me! To think that I should have lived to be Good-Morninged by Belladonna Took’s son – as if I was selling buttons at the door!

Bilbo: Gandalf? Gandalf! Good Gracious! Not the wandering wizard who used to tell such wonderful tales at parties of giants and dragons and goblins…

Gandalf: *(Yawning)* The same, dear boy.

Bilbo: Are you the same Gandalf who led so many of our quiet lads and lasses off on mad adventures? Bless me, life used to be quite inter – I mean, you used to upset things in these parts. I had no idea you were still in business.

Gandalf: Where else should I be? Well for your Grandfather Took’s sake I’ll give you what you asked for.

Bilbo: But I haven’t asked for anything.

Gandalf: Yes you have. I will be so kind as to send you on an adventure, very amusing for me, very good for you – and profitable too – if you live through it.

Bilbo: If I live through it*?* Sorry, no adventures thank you. Good Morning! *(Starts for the door)* I’d invite you in for tea but…

Gandalf: How kind … I accept. You go along and fix the tea. I’ll be along shortly.

# Bilbo goes through the door, shoved by Gandalf. Gandalf puts a huge sign on the

*door reading: BURGLAR WANTS GOOD JOB, PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT AND*

*REASONABLE REWARD.*

Gandalf: *(Looks off SR)* Ah here they come!

**BILBO & GOLLUM**

Darkness

Bilbo: Oooh my head! Where am I? My head. I must have run into a tree. It’s

so dark in here. Anyone here?

Bilbo lights a match and lights come up dimly.

Echo: here.. here.. here..

Bilbo: Who’s that?

Echo: that.. that.. that..

Bilbo: Now I remember. The goblins!

Echo: Oblins, oblins, oblins.

Bilbo: I was on Dori’s back and then he dropped me and then… I wonder

what happened to the dwarves? I hope the goblins didn’t get them. I

must still be in the Goblin’s cave. My sword! (holds it up) It hardly

glows. There must be no goblins near. Ugh! What a nasty smell. If this

place was aired and decorated it could be nice and cozy. Cheer up

Bilbo and figure out how to get out of here. Seems to be a lake over

there – no use in going that way. Ouch! Something hurt my knee. It’s a

ring! (Picks it up) Well finders keepers. I’ll put it in my pocket so I

don’t lose it. (Lights come up slightly) I can see a bit better now.

Lights up on Gollum, sat on the stage on a rubber ring with a small paddle.

Gollum: Gollum! Gollum!

Bilbo: (Whirls around) What’s that?

Gollum: It’s me. Gollum!

Bilbo: Who’s there?

Gollum: Bless us and splash us my preciousss! Here’s something to eat.

Gollum!

Bilbo: (Brandishing his sword) Stay back!

Gollum: What’s he got in his handses eh?

Bilbo: A sword, an Elvish blade. It came out of Gondolin.

Gollum: SSSS what iss he my precious?

Bilbo: I am Mr Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit. I’ve lost the Dwarves and the

Wizard and I don’t know where I am – but then I don’t want to know

where I am. The only thing I want is to get out of here.

Gollum: SSSSSSpose we sits here and chats a bitsy.. my preciousss. A

Baginses! (Rubs his tummy) It likes riddles, p’raps it does does it?

Sssssss.

Bilbo: You mean me?

Gollum: Yesssss

Bilbo: Well I’d love to but I’m kind of expected somewhere else, so if you

could just tell me where the exit is?

Gollum: SSStop. First a riddle yess?

Bilbo: Very well if you insisssst. After you.

Gollum: Sssay.. What has roots nobody sees, Is taller than trees, Up,up it goes

and yet never grows?

Bilbo: Easy! A mountain. Now if you’ll kindly…

Gollum: SSSs so does it guess easy? It must have a competition with us, my

preciousss. If we wins we eats it. If it wins we shows it way out.

Bilbo: (Resigned) Well – all right. Only, how many of them are you? Who’s

this precious you keep talking to?

Gollum: Our precious self! We have to talk to someone doesn’t we? We are

alone here.. forever.

Bilbo: So I see. It’s a dreadful place.

Gollum: We likes it! We feasts on fishes and gobbles goblins. SSs.

Bilbo: Goblins.. Ick.

Gollum: We acquired the taste. Hic! SSsss Your turn Riddle! Riddle!

Bilbo: Just a minute … (Thinking) Ah! Thirty white horses on a red hill, First

they champ, then they stamp, Then they stand still.

Gollum: Easy! Teethes! Teethes! My precious, but we only has six. Now!

Ssssss, Voiceless it cries, Wingless flutters, Toothless bites, Mouthless

mutters.

Bilbo: Half a moment! (Straining) Wind! Wind, of course.

Gollum: (Angry) Rotten lucksses! It’s got to ask us a question, my precious,

yesss, one more, Asks usss.

Bilbo: (frantic) Oh dear! I can’t think. Mmm. (puts hand in pocket) What

have I got in my pocket?

Gollum: Ssss – not fair, my precious, to ask us what it’s got in its nasty little

pocketsess.

Bilbo: Well why not? What have I got in my pocket?

Gollum: Ssssss. It must gives us three guesses, my precious, three.

Bilbo: Very well. Guess away.

Gollum: Handses!

Bilbo: Wrong. Guess again.

Gollum: Sssssss knife!

Bilbo: Wrong! Last guess.

Gollum: (Hissing and spluttering, wriggling and slapping the floor) Sssssssss

Bilbo: Come on I’m waiting. Time’s up.

Gollum: (Shrieking) Strin or nothing!

Bilbo: Both wrong. (Lifts his sword)

Gollum: SSSSSsssss

Bilbo: Well show me the way out. You promised!

Gollum: Did we say so precious? Show the nasty little Baginses the way out.

Cross the Bagins is. But it must wait, must get something first, my

birthday present. Yesss then it won’t sees us and its nasty little sword

will be useless.

Bilbo: You can look for whatever it is later. You never guessed my riddle.

You promised!

Gollum: Lost our present, my precious…. No…. What has it got in its

pocketses? (Advances towards Bilbo)

Bilbo: What have you lost?

Gollum: We guesses, we guesses my precious! He’s got it and the goblinses

will catch it and take precious from it.

Bilbo: I’d better put that ring on or I’ll lose it. (Holds his finger up) This!

Gollum: (Rushing right passed Bilbo) Cursesss, the Baggins is gone – my

precious. It has the ring! The ring of Power! Where’s it gone? Must

have gone to the exit yessss. (Exits)

Bilbo: He ran right past – as if he didn’t see me. The ring! I wonder if it’s

made me invisible? (inspects himself) I can still see me. Did he say the

exit? I’d best follow him.

Exits