

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets Study Guide

**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J. K.
Rowling**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Overview.....	4
About the Author.....	5
Plot Summary.....	7
Chapter 1.....	9
Chapter 2.....	11
Chapter 3.....	13
Chapter 4.....	15
Chapter 5.....	17
Chapter 6.....	19
Chapter 7.....	21
Chapter 8.....	23
Chapter 9.....	25
Chapter 10.....	27
Chapter 11.....	29
Chapter 12.....	31
Chapter 13.....	33
Chapter 14.....	35
Chapter 15.....	37
Chapter 16.....	39
Chapter 17.....	42
Chapter 18.....	45
Characters.....	47
Objects/Places.....	56



Setting..... 61

Social Sensitivity..... 63

Literary Qualities..... 65

Themes..... 67

Themes/Characters..... 69

Style..... 72

Quotes..... 75

Adaptations..... 77

Topics for Discussion..... 79

Ideas for Reports and Papers..... 81

Further Study..... 83

Copyright Information..... 85

Overview

Heroic Harry Potter battles prejudice in the second volume of Rowling's wizard series. Returning to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry after another awful summer with his guardians, the Dursleys, twelve-year-old Harry yearns to play Quidditch, improve his magical skills, and enjoy his friendships. Such normal activities are soon overshadowed by sinister events. Prior to school beginning, a house elf named Dobby warned Harry not to go to Hogwarts and interfered with Harry's plans to do so.

At school, some students are targeted by malicious classmates and persecuted emotionally for not having pure wizard pedigrees. Several of these "mudbloods," as the students with non-wizard ancestors are called, are petrified by the idea of a monster that is rumored to live deep beneath the school in a secret chamber (reminding readers of the chambers Harry entered in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's/Sorcerer's Stone*).

Only the heir of Hogwarts' founder Salazar Slytherin can open the secret chamber to release the malevolent creature held inside.

While trying to solve the mystery, Harry is accused of being the heir because he is a Parseltongue who can communicate with snakes as Slytherin was able to do a thousand years earlier.

Misunderstood and concerned about the well-being of his best friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger in addition to his classmates, including Ron's younger sister Ginny who is held hostage in the chamber, Harry perseveres to save Hogwarts from destruction despite unfair allegations about his motives and character. He confronts his archenemy Lord Voldemort while questioning his own character and ancestry.

Harry's self-confidence and faith in his allies bolster his magical abilities, allowing him to vanquish his foes in the form of the villainous Voldemort and his own confusing insecurities.

About the Author

Born on July 31, 1965, in Gloucestershire, England, Joanne Kathleen Rowling grew up in rural communities in the southwestern part of that country. Her parents, Peter and Anne Rowling, an engineer and laboratory technician respectively, bought books such as *The Wind in the Willows* to read to their two daughters. Rowling's childhood experiences shaped her future literary creations. She explored the English countryside, visiting castles and historical sites which inspired her imagination. Although she disliked science and mathematics courses, Rowling excelled in literature classes. She penned funny, fantastical tales to amuse her sister, Diana, and friends, especially the Potter siblings whose name she later appropriated for her wizardry novels.

As a teenager, Rowling dreamed of becoming a published author whose books were sold in stores. She kept her ambitions a secret, though, because she feared criticism and discouragement from people who might declare that her writing was weak.

Rowling gradually became more self-confident and was named Head Girl during her final year at school. Studying languages at Exeter University in order to be employable as a bilingual secretary, Rowling graduated with a degree in French and Classics. This scholarly knowledge aided her later clever construction of characters in the Harry Potter books. She also earned college credits while serving as an auxiliary teacher in Paris.

Rowling researched human rights issues for Amnesty International, then relocated to Manchester, England, for other office positions. She worked for a company that manufactured surveillance equipment. The self-professed disorganized Rowling loathed her secretarial duties, often writing instead of working. She wrote fiction for adult readers but did not submit it for publication.

She also often visited her ailing mother, who had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis a few years earlier. During one of these train trips, Rowling had an epiphany about an orphaned boy wizard named Harry Potter and began inventing characters and settings. After her mother's death in 1990, Rowling decided to teach English as a second language in Oporto, Portugal.

She outlined seven books to chronicle Harry's adventures at the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft and his battle against evil forces. Each book would feature one year of Harry's schooling as he aged from eleven years old to seventeen.

During the search for his identity as he matured, Harry would avenge his parents' murder, discover his family's heritage, and secure sanctuaries where good wizards and witches could thrive. Rowling's careful planning enabled her to place subtle clues that would later prove crucial to characterization and plot development.

Writing in the mornings and teaching in the afternoon and at night, Rowling met and married journalist Jorge Arantes. Their daughter Jessica was born in August 1993.



Several months later, Rowling divorced Arantes and moved with Jessica to Edinburgh, Scotland, where her sister, Diana, lived. Diana urged Rowling to finish the first Harry Potter novel. The media has emphasized that Rowling was on public assistance during this time, and Rowling clarifies that she was initially unable to find work that paid a sufficient salary for her to afford child care. Later, she began teaching in a local school.

Writing for her own entertainment and sense of accomplishment, Rowling did not intend to write a children's book. Agent Christopher Little recognized Rowling's talent and began submitting the book to publishers. Bloomsbury Press bought Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in 1996. The next year, Scholastic Corporation purchased rights to publish the book in the United States, changing the title's wording to attract American readers. Rowling received a grant from the Scottish Arts Council to complete her second book, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. She sold film and merchandising rights to Warner Brothers.

Rowling has received praise from reviewers and readers, winning numerous awards, including the Smarties Prize for her first three books, and topping the bestseller lists. She was named Author of the Year at the British Book Awards in 2000 and received an honorary doctorate from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Rowling has become a celebrity, appearing as a featured reader at such events as the White House Easter egg roll. The Harry Potter books are a catalyst for a cultural phenomenon. Millions of copies in more than thirty languages have been sold in over one hundred countries. Readers of all ages apprehensively wait for new books then voraciously read them. The dark themes explored in the series have caused some conservative groups to attempt to ban the books from classrooms. Rowling responds to such attacks by stating that she does not believe in witchcraft and thinks children deserve to know the realities of evil.



Plot Summary

Harry Potter returns for his second adventure in *The Chamber of Secrets*, the sequel to *The Philosopher's Stone*. This novel begins at the Dursley's house, on Harry's twelfth birthday. The Dursleys have, as usual, ignored his birthday; they are far more concerned about a business deal that Mr. Dursley is hoping to conclude that night. Feeling sorry for himself, Harry walks in the garden and is startled to see a pair of large yellow eyes watching him. The owner of those eyes turns out to be Dobby, who plays a pivotal role in the novel.

Dobby is a house elf that comes to speak with Harry at the Dursleys' house in order to warn him that his life is in danger and that he must not return to Hogwarts School of Wizardry. When Harry ignores Dobby, the house elf ruins the Dursleys' dinner party in a way that assures that Harry is blamed and locked in his room as punishment. He is rescued by his best friend, Ron Weasley, and spends the rest of the summer holidays at Ron's house.

On the day when all students are due to return to Hogwarts, Dobby tries again to prevent Harry going back to school by sealing the magic platform from which the Hogwarts Express departs. Harry and Ron use the Weasley family's enchanted car to fly back to school, an escapade which gets them into trouble immediately at the start of the school year.

Harry and his friends are now in their second year at Hogwarts and have a new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Gilderoy Lockhart. They initially met Lockhart in Diagon Alley, when they were purchasing their books for the new school year. The famous wizard doesn't impress Harry and Ron, but Hermione is clearly smitten by the handsome wizard and his flamboyant tales of daring adventure.

Harry has to deal with his own unwanted admirers, including Colin Creevey, who is always taking Harry's photograph, and Ginny Weasley, Ron's younger sister.

Strange events begin to take place at Hogwarts, with rumors that a dangerous secret chamber has been opened. Harry hears a strange and disturbing voice in the walls of the school, and soon realizes it is linked to the hidden chamber. Harry soon finds himself in trouble. Mrs. Norris, the caretaker's cat, is petrified, and Harry is the prime suspect. The trouble soon escalates, with pupils being petrified. Harry is believed to be the heir of Slytherin (a powerful wizard who was responsible for the secret chamber), and is suspected of being responsible for the evil occurrences at the school. Harry and his friends believe that Draco Malfoy, a fellow student, is responsible for the attacks. Harry, Ron and Hermione go undercover to find out, but they end up disappointed and no closer to the truth. Harry is freed from suspicion when Hermione is petrified, and the mystery intensifies.

The Dark Arts seem to be winning the battle of good and evil, when Aldus Dumbledore (the beloved Head Master of Hogwarts) is suspended and Hagrid (the friendly giant who



is the groundskeeper at Hogwarts) is exiled to terrible Azkaban Prison. When young Ginny Weasley vanishes under frightening circumstances, it is up to Harry and Ron to solve the puzzle of the Chamber of Secrets. Their quest takes them to the forbidden forest, where they are given advice by Aragog, a huge spider, and nearly lose their lives. They succeed in finding the chamber, accompanied by Professor Lockhart, who tries to betray them but fails, losing his memory in the attempt.

Harry makes the final journey into the chamber alone, to rescue Ginny from the clutches of the evil Lord Voldemort, who is disguised as Tom Riddle, an ex-pupil at Hogwarts. Harry faces the viscious Basilisk and, with the help of Dumbledore's phoenix, defeats both the Basilisk and Voldemort.

The school celebrates the triumph over evil for the second year running, and Dobby is freed for his role in events. Harry returns to the Dursleys' home on Privet Drive, where he will have to spend another lonely summer.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 1 opens with a description of breakfast in the Dursley household. The Dursleys and Harry are seated at the table, and a familiar scene unfolds. Mr. Dursley is becoming more and more angry. He is upset because Harry's owl, Hedwig, woke him up during the night, for the third time that week. Harry defends Hedwig, explaining that she is hooting in the middle of the night because she's bored. This explanation only makes Mr. Dursley angrier, and he threatens to lock the owl in the cupboard under the stairs, where he has locked all of the magical items belonging to Harry. Meanwhile, fat Dudley Dursley is eating as much as he possibly can, because his mother is worried that he won't get fed properly when he goes away to boarding school. He exploits Harry, demanding that he fetch more food. Harry reminds him to say "please," but jokingly stating that "please" is a magic word. The mention of magic makes Mr. Dursley lose his temper completely, since he has banned everything to do with magic in his house.

Today is also a special day for Mr. Dursley, as he is entertaining prospective business associates in the evening in the hope that they will place an order with his business. It is essential that the evening goes well, and Mr. Dursley is on edge because of this. He has drawn up a plan for the evening; everyone has a part to play except for Harry, who is ordered to spend the night in his room, where he is least likely to cause any embarrassment to the Dursleys.

We find out that today is also Harry's twelfth birthday. He has received no cards or presents from the Dursleys; this doesn't surprise him, since they never give him cards or presents. But he also has received no cards from his friends, Ron and Hermione. Harry feels sad and lonely; he has not heard from his friends all summer, and he had at least hoped to hear from them on his birthday. He sits in the garden, longing to return to Hogwarts, where he can be with his friends and practice magic again. Harry sees something in the hedge but doesn't have time to investigate as Dudley comes into the garden and teases him. He knows it's Harry's birthday and makes fun of the fact that he hasn't heard from his friends, implying that Harry has no friends. Harry threatens him with magic and Dudley runs to his mother to tell her. Harry is punished for this, and spends the rest of the day performing household chores for Mrs. Dursley. When he finishes his chores, he is given a pitiful supper, then sent to his room—where he is startled to find someone sitting on his bed.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Chapter 1 establishes the relationship between Harry and his family. There is no love between them, and it is clear that Mr. Dursley feels threatened by Harry and his magical powers. The issue of power is interesting here, as Mr. Dursley is important and powerful in his position as head of the house. Harry is the least important person in the



household, yet is powerful because of his magical abilities. He also has power over Mr. Dursley because Mr. Dursley is frightened by Harry's magic, and this makes him weak. The Dursleys don't understand magic, having no magical abilities themselves, and they symbolize the views of the rest of the Muggle (non-magical) population. Consequently, the opening chapter is charged with tension and suspense because of the initial argument and powerful underlying emotions.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The mysterious character introduced at the end of Chapter 1 is revealed to be a house elf named Dobby. Dobby has come to warn Harry that he is in grave danger and mustn't return to Hogwarts because, if he does, his life will be at risk. Dobby is in awe of the fact that he is in the presence of Harry Potter, and he is touched by Harry's kindness to him. No one has ever been pleasant to Dobby, and he has never been given any benign attention. When Harry treats Dobby with respect, the house elf is overwhelmed with emotion and exclaims that Harry is one of the greatest wizards ever. As a house elf, Dobby has to remain faithful to the family that owns him; in visiting Harry, Dobby is being unfaithful. In response to his disobedience, Dobby inflicts punishment on himself by beating himself on the head. Harry is worried about the noise that Dobby is making, as he doesn't want his uncle to hear them. If Mr. Dursley does, Harry will be in even more trouble. Harry is determined to return to Hogwarts despite Dobby's insistence that Harry's life will be at risk if he does. Dobby becomes more and more agitated when Harry won't listen to him. When he tries to persuade Harry that he has nothing to go back to, at Hogwarts, because his friends don't want to be around him, Dobby unwittingly gives away the fact that he knows that Harry's friends haven't been writing to him. Harry realizes that Dobby has been hiding Ron and Hermione's letters. He challenges Dobby, who gives in and shows Harry the letters he's been hiding. Harry is annoyed and even more determined to return to Hogwarts. Seeing this, Dobby resorts to desperate measures.

To force Harry to change his mind, Dobby runs down stairs and casts a spell on Mrs. Dursley's masterpiece of a pudding, a towering mass of cream and sugary violets. He levitates the pudding and threatens to destroy it unless Harry agrees not to return to Hogwarts. When Harry refuses to give in, the pudding crashes to the floor. Dobby disappears and Harry is blamed for the mess, Mr. Dursley explains to his important guests that Harry has emotional problems. At that point, the appearance of an owl with a letter convinces his guests to leave. Mr. Dursley is furious as his business deal has fallen through, but the owl has provided him with a way to punish Harry.

Mr. Dursley doesn't know that Harry is forbidden to perform magic away from Hogwarts. Up until now Harry, has let the Dursleys believe that he was allowed to do magic at any time. Learning the truth of the matter gives Mr. Dursley the confidence to lock Harry in his room, where his nephew can longer be a nuisance. Harry is given meals three times a day through a cat flap in his door, and he can only look out of the bars on his windows. He falls into an uneasy sleep and dreams that he is in a cage where the Dursleys are laughing at him. When he wakes up, there is someone looking through the bars- his friend Ron.



Chapter 2 Analysis

The theme of power is continued in Chapter 2. When Mr. Dursley realizes that Harry is not allowed to use his magic away from Hogwarts, and is therefore powerless, he uses his power to imprison Harry in his room. The subject of loyalty is also interesting in this chapter. Dobby feels the need to warn Harry that he is in danger, yet in doing so he is being disloyal to his owners; this causes Dobby a lot of distress and makes him punish himself by hitting his head with various implements. The issue troubling Dobby is who should he be loyal to: Harry, whom he knows to be good and opposed to evil, or the family who owns him, who want him to stay at home and not get involved? The fact that Dobby chooses to get involved, despite the risk of getting harmed himself, illustrates the fact that good will triumph over evil, and that choosing to do good is always the right option.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Harry is amazed and delighted to see his friend Ron. What is more surprising is that Ron appears to be floating outside of Harry's upper-floor window. On closer inspection, Harry realizes that Ron is in a magical flying car that is being driven by his twin brothers, Fred and George. They have come to rescue Harry because Ron became worried when he didn't get any replies to the letters he'd sent to Harry. Ron and his brothers use the car to pull the bars off Harry's window. They then use a hairpin to unlock the cupboard under the stairs and retrieve Harry's belongings. They are about to escape through the window, only to realize they have left Hedwig behind. Harry rescues Hedwig, who has awakened Mr. Dursley with her screeching. Mr. Dursley reaches Harry's room to find him escaping, which sends him into a rage, but he is too slow to prevent Harry from climbing out through the window.

Harry and the three Weasley boys fly through the night in the car. Ron explains that they took the car from Mr. Weasley, who works for the Ministry of Magic in the "Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Office." Ron's father doesn't know they have the car, and they will be in trouble if they are caught with it, making it essential that they return home before daybreak. The plan is to return the car, then sneak upstairs to bed. However, they are shocked to find Mrs. Weasley in the garden, and she is furious with them. She tells them off for taking the car and lectures them about all the terrible things that could have happened to them, as well as the risk of costing their father his job if they had been found out. She is not angry with Harry; she's been worried about him and doesn't tell him off. After they've eaten, she sends them outside to "de-gnome," the garden job that involves picking gnomes up, swinging them round and round above the head, then letting go so they fly through the air and can't find their way back.

Mrs. Weasley is also angry with her husband, as it was his car they used to rescue Harry. His job at the ministry gives him access to Muggle artifacts, with which he tinkers, adding magical touches. He is interested to hear that the car flew without any problems, but he has to pretend to be angry with the boys, to placate his wife.

Ron shows Harry the rest of the house and takes him upstairs to his room, which reflects Ron's personality, being untidy and disorganized. Harry is delighted with the Weasleys and their home, as it is so completely different from Privet Drive and the Dursleys' house. He feels more at home here than he ever did at Privet Drive.

Chapter 3 Analysis

In this chapter, Ron proves himself to be a loyal friend to Harry. His concern about his friend leads him to a heroic rescue that endangers him and his brothers and gets them into trouble. None of this is important to Ron; what is important is that Harry is all right.



This demonstrates the true strength of their friendship, and the loyalty they share. The power of magic is also clearly described here, with an enchanted car being used to rescue Harry. An interesting comparison can be made between the way the Weasleys treat Harry as opposed to the treatment he received from the Dursleys. The Weasleys show more concern and love for Harry the first time they meet him than the Dursleys have ever shown him. This chapter shows the Weasleys to be warm and caring people, instead of shallow and cold like the Dursleys.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Harry settles into life with the Weasleys, where he feels completely at home. The Weasley household is completely different from the Dursleys. Whereas the Dursleys are organized, clean and perfectly tidy, the Weasleys live in a state of permanent chaos and disruption. Another difference from Privet Drive is that this is a magical household where mirrors talk and ghouls live in the attic. Harry is made to feel welcome by the Weasleys, with Mr. Weasley asking him lots of questions about living with Muggles.

A letter arrives one day from Hogwarts, informing the Weasleys and Harry about start-of-term arrangements. Also enclosed are the booklists for the forthcoming year, and Harry sees that a wizard named Gilderoy Lockhart has written most of the books on the list. A letter also arrives from Hermione, another close friend of Harry's who has been worried about him. She informs Ron and Harry of when she's going to London to get her books for the new school year, and the Weasleys decide to go then, too. Harry feels slightly uncomfortable for the first time since his arrival, because the Weasleys are a poor family who will have to struggle to buy the things their children need for the school year, especially since their youngest child, Ginny, will be starting at Hogwarts. Harry is embarrassed, since he has a lot of money that was left to him by his parents, something he would rather keep quiet about.

The Weasleys and Harry travel to London via Floo Powder, which is inhaled up the nose, whisking the wizard up into the fireplace of the room they are in and depositing them in a fireplace in the place they want to reach. It's Harry's first time traveling in this manner and, instead of arriving in Diagon Alley, he finds himself in a dusty, unfamiliar shop. He is horrified when his enemy Draco Malfoy enters the shop with his father, Lucius. Lucius Malfoy is worried that some of his possessions will be deemed unsuitable by a new act about to be passed by the Ministry of Magic and is trying to sell them. Draco is sulky, complaining that Harry has a better broom than he does. The Malfoys leave the shop without seeing Harry, and he escapes. Harry finds himself in an unfamiliar alley that seems threatening, devoted as it is to selling things related to the Dark Arts. He is rescued by Hagrid, the giant groundskeeper from Hogwarts, who is there by chance and escorts him to Diagon Alley.

Harry is reunited with the Weasleys, and they meet Hermione's Muggle parents. Ron, Harry, and Hermione leave their parents to do their own shopping, and Mr. Weasley takes Hermione's parents for a drink. As Muggles, they fascinate him. An hour later, they meet up to buy the necessary books. Unfortunately, there is a publicity shot at the shop for Gilderoy Lockhart, who is promoting his books. Lockhart uses Harry and his reputation for free publicity by dragging him into a photo with him, when Harry would rather have avoided the unwanted attention.



The Malfoys are also in the bookshop, and Draco Malfoy teases Harry about his apparent fame. Ginny defends Harry, but Malfoy then teases Ron about his family being poor. Ron defends his family, and Mr. Weasley has to prevent him from attacking Malfoy. The encounter leads to Lucius Malfoy becoming involved, and he makes mean comments about the financial status of the Weasleys. Arthur defends his family and a fight breaks out. The day ends on a sour note, with Mrs. Weasley being furious with her husband for setting a bad example.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Loyalty is explored through many of the characters in this chapter. The Weasleys prove themselves to be loyal and true friends to Harry, looking after him better than his aunt and uncle ever did. Ginny Weasley stands up to Draco Malfoy to defend Harry, despite Draco being older and more powerful. Ron also defends his family and challenges Malfoy. He knows that his family is poorer than Malfoy's but is not prepared to let Malfoy criticize them, his love and loyalty for his family making him protective and defensive where they're concerned. Clearly, loyalty is a trait that runs in the Weasley family, as Mr. Weasley also defends his family when Lucius Malfoy publicly humiliates them. In each instance, the most important factors are being loyal and standing up for what you believe in.

Magic is also explored and categorized. The evidence of Dark Arts in Knockturn Alley introduces the idea of good and evil. The fact that the Malfoys are doing business in Knockturn Alley firmly places them in the evil category. This also distinguishes them from the Weasleys and Harry, whose ideals and values are at odds with the Malfoys,' categorizing them as good.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Chapter 5 brings the long-awaited return to Hogwarts. The morning of the return to school is chaotic and stressful, with all of the Weasleys and Harry rushing to find everything and get packed. Harry wonders how everyone can possibly fit into Mr. Weasley's car, but Mr. Weasley has placed a spell on the car that makes it much bigger on the inside than it appears to be from outside. Finally, everyone is ready and they leave—only to have to return three times for forgotten items. At last, running extremely late and getting more and more agitated, they are on their way.

Their destination is King's Cross Station in London. There is a special platform at King's Cross, known as Platform Nine and Three Quarters, in between Platforms Nine and Ten. This is the Hogwarts Express's point of departure. This platform is unseen to Muggle eyes, and those wanting to find the platform have to run headlong at a spot between Platforms Nine and Ten; it only opens at the last minute before impact, to allow that person onto Platform Nine and Three Quarters. Harry and Ron are the last of their group to run at the magic spot but, instead of passing onto the magic platform, they crash unexpectedly into the wall. They land in a jumbled heap, attracting unwanted attention from nearby Muggles. Worried about how they will return to Hogwarts now that they have missed the train, they decide to use the magic car to fly above the train and follow it back to the school.

The initial excitement of flying in the car soon wears off. The invisibility shield is faulty and keeps revealing the car to the Muggles below. In addition, the temperature is rising, making Harry and Ron increasingly uncomfortable. They manage to follow the train but didn't realize how long the journey would take. By the time Hogwarts comes into view, the car is struggling badly, and eventually crashes onto the grounds. Unfortunately for Harry and Ron, the car comes to a halt in front of the Whomping Willow, a vicious enchanted tree that uses its long, thick branches to attack anyone who comes near it. The Whomping Willow attacks the car, smashing the windscreen. The car ejects Harry and Ron, leaving them to climb the hill to Hogwarts while it drives off into the distance.

Incredibly late, Ron and Harry are worried about getting into trouble, especially for using magic when they're not allowed to. They watch the start-of-term ceremonies through the windows, noticing that Professor Severus Snape is missing and wondering where he is. Unluckily for them, he is standing behind them. They are in deep trouble, and Snape takes great pleasure in telling them this as he escorts them to his office. Fortunately, Professor McGonagall and the headmaster Professor Dumbledore are lenient. Harry and Ron receive a warning and a detention, with their families being informed by letter about their behavior and punishment. They have missed the start-of-term ceremonies but are given food to eat in Snape's office. They return to their common room to be greeted like heroes. This cheers them, despite the punishments, and they go to bed feeling happy and pleased to be safe.



Chapter 5 Analysis

The power of authority is explored in Chapter 5. Severus Snape is powerful in accordance with his status as a professor at Hogwarts; as such, he is able to give orders to Harry and to punish him. It is clear, though, that his power is limited, with Professors McGonagall and Dumbledore overriding his wish for Harry to be expelled. We see that, within the status of Professors, there are different degrees of power, depending on character and rank. Professor Dumbledore is the most powerful professor, as he has the highest status. He also has power through the respect of others for him, something that is not automatically achieved through status but is more dependent on the character of the individual.

Harry and Ron's loyalty to Hogwarts is also apparent. Rather than miss the start of term, they risk getting into trouble, just so they can return to school on time. This shows that their dedication and loyalty to the school is more important to them than their own safety.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Ron and Harry experience the consequences of their behavior. Ron receives a furious howler from his mother, a magical letter that shouts at him in angry tones that everyone in the Great Hall is able to hear. She is outraged with Ron and Harry, and informs them that Mr. Weasley is now in trouble, too, being investigated by the ministry and in danger of losing his job. This sets a sober tone to the first day of school, with both boys feeling bad about the effect their behavior had on the Weasley family.

Gilderoy Lockhart has settled into his role at Hogwarts and is soon telling other people what to do. He tells the Herbology teacher how to repair the Whomping Willow (advice which doesn't impress her, this being her subject, not his). He takes Harry to one side, under the impression that Harry and Ron took the car for publicity, and warns Harry about being greedy for press exposure. Unbeknownst to Harry, his escapade with Ron has made the front page of *The Daily Prophet*. Harry is stunned and dismayed. Contrary to Lockhart's belief, he doesn't want any unnecessary attention and would rather just live his life peacefully. This proves to be difficult for Harry. His reputation precedes him, and a first-year pupil, Colin Creevey, is in awe of Harry. He wants to take Harry's picture to send to his father. Draco Malfoy overhears Colin and exaggerates the situation, to make it seem as if Harry is signing photos of himself to sell. To make the situation even worse, Lockhart is in the vicinity and once again warns Harry of the consequences of fame and fortune, apparently with his best interests at heart.

The first lessons of the year are interesting. In Herbology, they study Mandrakes, magical creatures with healing properties. The Mandrakes' screams are dangerous, requiring the use of earmuffs when handling them. Lockhart takes the second lesson. His reputation has preceded him as a great wizard with lots of famous conquests, all written up in the books set for the pupils' study. Hermione is besotted by his glowing good looks and reputed skills as a wizard; she has drawn love hearts on her timetable when she has classes with him. His lesson, however, is less than impressive. He has brought Cornish Pixies for the class to study. These pixies are small and blue, with very high-pitched voices. They are a bit wild and not appropriate for a second year class to study. The lesson goes disastrously wrong, with the pixies escaping and Lockhart being unable to control them. The pixies cause mayhem and lead Ron to question Lockhart's ability as a teacher and the validity of his conquests.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Professor Lockhart is a major focus in this chapter. He is a wizard of worldwide repute, known for his incredible bravery and prowess. He loves to be the center of attention, setting his classes all his books to read, setting a test about himself and obsessing about press coverage of himself. Earlier in the book, he used Harry to divert attention to



himself in the bookshop by including Harry in the photo shoot. In this chapter, he appears to be warning Harry of the dangers of too much press attention because he is concerned for Harry; in reality, he is worried that Harry will threaten his popularity and receive more attention than he does. His conquests as a wizard are also questioned, as he cannot control simple pixies when he professes to have conquered really dangerous creatures. The issue of vanity is interesting, as Lockhart is incredibly vain yet doesn't seem to live up to his reputation. By contrast, Harry is modest and prefers to go unnoticed, despite having a well-deserved reputation for fighting evil.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Oliver Wood, the Gryffindor Quidditch captain, rudely wakes Harry at the weekend. It is essential to begin training as soon as possible, since Gryffindor lost the Quidditch Cup the previous year, their worst defeat in three centuries. Harry was in hospital at the time, recovering from his encounter with Voldemort. He feels responsible for the defeat and is determined to make up for it, this year. As he makes his way to Quidditch practice, Colin, who worships Harry and wants to know everything about Quidditch and flying a broomstick, pesters him. His camera remains in his hand at all times, with Colin taking photographs of Harry at every possible opportunity.

After a long briefing, the Gryffindor team finally emerges onto the pitch to begin practising, only to find the Slytherin team coming towards them. Oliver is angry, as he has booked the pitch in advance, but the Slytherin captain has obtained special permission from Snape that overrides Oliver's booking. Another blow to the Gryffindor team is that the Slytherin team all have brand new, top of the range Nimbus 2001 broomsticks, purchased by Lucius Malfoy. It is no surprise, therefore, to find that Draco Malfoy is the latest addition to the Slytherin team, as their Seeker.

Malfoy can't resist gloating about the broomsticks and teasing the Gryffindor team, in particular Fred and George, who have very old brooms. Hermione defends her house and their ability, criticising Malfoy for buying his way onto the team. Malfoy attacks her viciously, insulting her with the worst term possible for those born to Muggles: 'Mudblood.' Ron defends her by trying to put a spell on Malfoy, but his broken wand malfunctions, accidentally enchanting Ron, making him belch green slimy slugs.

Ron is taken to Hagrid's house to wait for the spell to wear off. To their surprise, Lockhart is just leaving. Hagrid is pleased to see them and makes them welcome. He is critical of Lockhart and informs the trio that Lockhart only got the job because there was no one else to do it. Hermione defends Lockhart, believing Dumbledore gave him the job because he was the best person to do it.

On their return to school, they meet Professor McGonagall, who informs Ron and Harry that they have to do their detention that night. While Harry is doing his detention with Lockhart, he hears a voice. It is evil and threatening, dripping with venom and ice. Harry is alarmed but Lockhart doesn't hear it. Harry tells Ron about it, later that night; both of them are worried about what it might be.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Abuse of power is a strong theme. Lucius Malfoy uses his wealth and power to influence Snape and the Slytherin team. Draco Malfoy uses his father's power to buy his way onto the Slytherin Quidditch team. Snape abuses his power as a professor and



head of Slytherin to override Oliver Wood's legitimate booking of the Quidditch pitch. The Malfoys, Snape, Lockhart and the Slytherin team are all associated with the dark magic powers, and it seems as if evil is prevailing over good, yet these characters are the least liked and least respected characters in the novel. Characters like Harry, Ron and Hermione, who stand up for their beliefs and values, might not always be successful initially but they are valued and respected for who they are, as Hagrid comparing Harry to Lockhart clearly shows us: "Yer more famous than him without trying." Characters who symbolize good are also fiercely loyal and will do anything to defend their principles and beliefs, seen twice in this chapter through the actions of Ron and Hermione. It is highly doubtful that the characters associated with the dark side would go to the same lengths to defend their beliefs and values.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

The school year is under way, with daily routines established. Winter is approaching and, with it, the onset of colds and flu-like symptoms. Madam Pomfrey is kept busy in the sanatorium, treating people with her Pepperup Potion. The winter weather is no deterrent for Oliver Wood, who is determined to win the Quidditch tournament this year; he keeps the Gryffindor team practising despite the bad weather. Harry encounters Nearly Headless Nick, the Gryffindor ghost, on his way back from a late-night practice. Nick is depressed, as his application to join the Headless Hunt has been turned down. He warns Harry not to linger in the corridor as Filch, the caretaker, is in a bad mood and would be even angrier to see the mess created by Harry's muddy footsteps. His warning is too late as Filch appears and marches Harry to his office to be punished.

While in Filch's office, Harry and Filch hear a loud thud from above. Filch blames the school Poltergeist and sets out to catch him. Harry notices an interesting package addressed to Filch and opens it, in his absence. The material enclosed is a "Kwikspell course," which intrigues Harry, making him wonder if Filch is actually a proper wizard. Filch returns before Harry can read any more, and he doesn't have time to return the package to its original position; it's obvious that he has looked at it. Filch is embarrassed but Harry denies reading it. Filch lets him go with no further action, claiming to be more concerned with the actions of Peeves the Poltergeist.

On his return to the dormitory, Harry bumps into Nick again. Nick persuaded Peeves to distract Filch, and Harry is grateful for his actions. In return, he promises to attend Sir Nick's five-hundredth deathday party, to persuade the headless ghosts of Sir Nick's ferocity.

Sir Nick's party is a very gloomy affair. Harry doesn't want to go but Hermione reminds him of his promise. The dungeon is filled with hundreds of ghosts, and it's freezing cold, with no food or heating. Harry keeps his promise and tells the headless ghost who rejected Nick how ferocious he is.

They leave shortly afterwards, and this is when Harry again hears the voice he first heard in Lockhart's office. The voice seems to be coming from the walls and is as evil as before. Harry is alarmed and makes Ron and Hermione come with him as he follows the voice. Only Harry can hear the voice, and he races ahead, worried about the implications of the voice. The voice finally becomes fainter but what they find horrifies them: a message written in foot-high letters: "The Chamber of Secrets has been opened. Enemies of the heir beware." Underneath this is the body of Filch's cat, Mrs. Norris, suspended by her tail, her body rigid. Harry and his friends don't have time to leave the scene and are discovered there as pupils exit the Great Hall. Draco Malfoy seems unusually animated by the scene, and repeats the warning.



Chapter 8 Analysis

The main plot begins to be revealed in this chapter. The evil voice that Harry heard earlier in the novel is heard again. This time, the voice is stronger, more determined, and just as evil. Only Harry can hear the voice, but Hermione and Ron follow him in pursuit of the voice, their faith and loyalty to Harry unquestioned. Harry's magical power here is obvious, as he is able to hear a voice that his friends can't. The events at the end of the chapter hint at what may happen in the rest of the novel. As readers, we want to know more about the Chamber of Secrets mentioned in the warning. We also want to know more about the warning itself and its implications. As such, the warning at the end of this chapter is a clever plot technique used by Rowling to hook her readers and entice them to keep reading.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Filch arrives at the scene and in his distressed state instantly accuses Harry of the crime. He is about to attack Harry to avenge Mrs. Norris' apparent murder when Dumbledore arrives, accompanied by Professors Snape, McGonagall and Lockhart. They calm the situation, taking the three students and Filch to Lockhart's office. Upon closer inspection, it is discovered that Mrs. Norris isn't dead but petrified, something that can be reversed with a magic potion.

Attention is turned to Harry, and his involvement is questioned. Snape questions Harry, Ron and Hermione first, wanting to know why they were absent from the Halloween feast in the Great Hall. Thankfully, their whereabouts can be proved, with hundreds of ghosts at Nick's party able to support the fact that they were in the dungeon and not at the scene of the crime. Unfortunately, they are unable to explain why they didn't return to the celebration after the ghosts' party. Snape finds this unusual and queries the fact that they must be hungry, since food at ghosts' parties is inedible. They deny this and claim to be tired, going to bed being their excuse for being near the scene of the crime and not the celebrations. Ron's stomach betrays them by rumbling loudly, and Snape is satisfied that he has trapped them. Snape is certain that the trio is lying and suggests that they be punished until they are prepared to tell the truth. His suggested punishment is to ban Harry from Quidditch; which McGonagall sees as unnecessary, with the punishment not fitting the incident. Dumbledore exempts them further by stating that the spell enchanting Mrs. Norris couldn't be achieved by a student of their age, and the trio are free to go.

The incident has unsettled Hogwarts, with the students being able to talk about little else. Rumors are prevalent, especially those about the Chamber of Secrets. One of the founders of the school was alleged to have hidden a Chamber of Secrets that only his direct heir would be able to open. The chamber has direct links with dark magic and is also threatening to those without pure wizard blood. Several searches have been carried out for the chamber, throughout the centuries, but it has never been discovered, leading many to believe that it doesn't exist. But this doesn't prevent rumors from spreading, with some saying that Harry is the heir of Slytherin, something he is extremely uncomfortable with, as the Sorting Hat initially placed him in Slytherin, then changed it to Gryffindor upon Harry's silent request.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione decide to find out more about the incident and the Chamber of Secrets. They visit Moaning Myrtle, a Hogwarts ghost, to find out whether she saw anything, since the incident occurred outside the toilets she haunts. She is uncooperative and sulky, disappearing into the u-bend of a toilet and refusing to come out. Hermione researches the situation thoroughly and devises a plan that will transform them into members of the Slytherin house so they can question Draco Malfoy, who they believe may be the heir to Slytherin, his family being evil enough for it to be possible.



Chapter 9 Analysis

Dark magic is a main point for discussion in this chapter. The incident with Mrs. Norris being so powerful and obviously evil poses the question of who could be responsible. Argus Filch instantly accusing Harry demonstrates the animosity he feels toward him and also reveals how powerful he assumes Harry to be. Filch feels threatened by Harry; having no magical power of his own, and this explains his treatment of Harry.

The Chamber of Secrets is symbolic of dark magic and evil. Rumors surrounding the chamber link it to Salazar Slytherin, whose views about non-pureblood wizards, and his house reputation for turning out wizards associated with the dark arts, enhance the evil symbolism of the Chamber of Secrets.

Power and its use are also examined. It is clear that Harry is powerful, but what troubles him is the source of this power. He is concerned by the possibility that its roots may be in the dark side, and he desperately hopes that this is not the case. An example of the sly side of the Slytherin house is apparent in Snape's chosen punishment for Harry, which is unjust and malevolent, designed merely to hurt Harry. McGonagall, who is representative of Gryffindor house and therefore truth, justice and good magic, thwarts his plans.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Harry, Ron and Hermione begin their quest to locate the Chamber of Secrets. They trick Lockhart into signing a permission slip to sign a spell book, "Moste Potente Potions," out of the restricted area of the library and continue their research in the toilets haunted by Moaning Myrtle, which they reason is the least likely place to be discovered. The potion they need to make to be transformed into someone else contains a lot of ingredients that are difficult to obtain and prepare, including something from the body of the person they want to be transformed into. Ron isn't keen on ingesting anything that has been taken from the body of Crabbe or Goyle, Draco Malfoy's oafish henchmen, but Hermione persuades him that it's worthwhile. Harry and Ron both have reservations about the many school rules they will be breaking, including breaking into Snape's storage cupboard, but Hermione is adamant that the cause is worthwhile and convinces them to do it.

The Quidditch match between Gryffindor and Slytherin is the main focus of the chapter. Gryffindor is determined to beat Slytherin, despite the Slytherin team's superior brooms. The match doesn't go well, as one of the Bludgers appears to be enchanted. It attacks Harry whenever possible, despite Fred and George's best efforts to beat it back. The Gryffindor team raises their concerns during half time, with many of the team wanting an investigation into the rogue bludger. This would mean that the game is forfeited with Slytherin winning, something no one wants to have happen. Harry reassures the team that he can handle the bludger, and the game recommences. Despite his best efforts, Harry cannot avoid the bludger as it follows him constantly. As Harry twists to avoid the bludger, he sees the golden snitch. Watching it, he remains still for slightly too long, and the bludger finally smashes into him and breaks his arm. Harry hangs onto his broom and aims for the snitch, despite the bludger renewing its attack on him. He grabs the snitch, then crashes to the ground.

Harry passes out. When he comes to, he sees Lockhart enjoying being the center of attention as he prepares a spell to repair Harry's broken bones. Harry begs him not to, saying that he would rather go to the hospital wing, but Lockhart continues, succeeding in removing the bones in Harry's arm rather than repairing them.

Harry is taken to the hospital wing for Madam Pomfrey to heal his arm. He wakes up during the night to find Dobby sitting on his bed. Dobby is upset as he thinks Hogwarts isn't safe for Harry. Soon, Harry learns that Dobby was responsible for the railway platform not allowing Harry and Ron to pass, and for the enchanted bludger. Dobby wants Harry to go home, where it is safe. Because Harry won't listen to him, Dobby is trying everything he can think of to make Harry get sent home. Harry also finds out from Dobby that the Chamber of Secrets is open. He is intrigued and wants to know more but Dobby is horrified that he has let so much information slip. Harry wants Dobby to tell



him more, but the house elf disappears, having heard footsteps coming towards the hospital wing.

The footsteps belong to Dumbledore and McGonagall, who are carrying Colin Creevey's petrified body. Madam Pomfrey is summoned to look at the boy. By listening to their conversation, Harry learns that the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open again, proving its existence.

Chapter 10 Analysis

The dedication and loyalty of Harry, Ron and Hermione to each other and to what they believe in is clear. Hermione is prepared to break school rules, something she would never normally do, in the pursuit of the greater good of truth and justice. Ron is willing to support his friends and break the rules despite his obvious terror in doing so, as he is worried about what might happen to Hermione. (Being Muggle-born, she is in danger if they don't act.) Harry puts his team and house before his own personal safety, and succeeds in winning the Quidditch match for his house despite a severely broken arm. Dobby also demonstrates extreme bravery and loyalty, placing Harry's needs before his own safety.

There is a strong sense of dark magic rising, with the enchanted bludger attacking Harry and another victim being petrified. The confirmation that the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open signifies the active presence of evil. The symbolism of the Chamber of Secrets being open and its effect on Dumbledore, who symbolizes all that is good, creates a tense atmosphere in which good is threatened by evil, and suspense is achieved by the reader not knowing if good will triumph over evil on this occasion.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Harry is released from hospital and is disappointed to find that Ron and Hermione aren't there to meet him. He finds them in Moaning Myrtle's toilet, where they are busy preparing the Polyjuice potion. They feel they have no time to waste, after yesterday's performance at the Quidditch match. Firm in the belief that Draco Malfoy is the heir of Slytherin, they are determined to find out the truth. Harry tells them what he has learned in hospital overnight. All three students are worried, a worry that is shared by the rest of the students as news of Colin Creevey spreads and pupils buy charms and talismans to protect themselves.

The final ingredients for the Polyjuice potion are gathered during one of Snape's classes. Harry creates a diversion by throwing a firework into Goyle's potion. While Snape is sorting out the resulting chaos, Hermione steals the necessary ingredients from his storage cupboard. Snape suspects Harry of causing the chaos but is unable to prove it. Instead, he seeks his revenge when a new dueling club set up by Lockhart.

Lockhart has started the club so that pupils can learn to defend themselves. Snape accompanies him to the first session and promptly wins a demonstration duel against Lockhart. Embarrassed, Lockhart moves on to pairing the students so they can practice dueling. This is where Snape achieves his revenge, by pairing Harry with Draco. Harry has only the benefit of Lockhart's tutoring, which is of no use, whereas Draco has the full benefit of Snape's support. The duel takes a turn for the worse with a large black serpent shooting out of Malfoy's wand. The serpent threatens another pupil, Justin Finch-Fletchley, who is powerless to stop the serpent. Lockhart is unable to control the situation and Snape savors the moment before making an effort to help. In the meantime, Harry advances towards the snake and tells it to leave Justin alone. The snake complies. Harry receives an unexpected reaction from his fellow pupils, who are stony faced and fearful of him.

Ron and Hermione make Harry leave the hall so that they can explain the problem. Harry has spoken to the serpent in Parselmouth, a language particular to snakes that only very few wizards are able to speak. Those wizards who can speak Parselmouth are associated with Slytherin and the Dark Arts, Salazar Slytherin being the most famous for this ability. Harry is shocked, since he is unaware that he spoke a different language. He now worries about the consequences of this unexpected ability.

Rumours spread quickly that Harry is the heir to Slytherin, fuelled by his problematic relationship with Filch and his loathing of the Dursleys. Others explain Colin Creevey's petrification as a response to him constantly annoying Harry, and Justin is thought to be included on Harry's hit list as he is Muggle born. (The students mistakenly think that Harry was urging the snake to attack Justin, since they could not understand Harry's words.) Unfortunately for Harry, he discovers the petrified bodies of Justin and Nearly



Headless Nick in a school corridor, and this convinces many that Harry is indeed the heir. The situation is getting out of hand, even beyond McGonagall's powers, and she takes Harry to Dumbledore in order to find a solution.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Evil seems to be winning the battle over good in this chapter. Lockhart, who symbolizes the fight against the Dark Arts (being the Defense against the Dark Arts Professor), is beaten by Snape in a duel witnessed by many of the pupils. The fact that Dumbledore had problems finding a Defense against the Dark Arts Professor suggests that this skill is becoming rare, making it difficult to find anyone to effectively combat the Dark Arts. The fact that Lockhart is ineffectual is symbolic of the fact that the fight against the dark arts is also becoming ineffectual. Malfoy beats Harry in a duel, with the benefit of Snape's support. The evil presence within Hogwarts has also become stronger, claiming another two victims without anyone knowing how to prevent it. Harry is suspected of being Slytherin's heir, with only his closest and truest friends remaining loyal to him. At this point in the novel, evil seems to be triumphing over good.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

McGonagall leaves Harry in Dumbledore's office to wait for the Headmaster. He is intrigued by Dumbledore's office, which is the most interesting office he has been in. Harry notices the Sorting Hat and is tempted to try it on again, to see if the hat has changed its mind about its original choice of Slytherin house for Harry. Harry is dismayed to find that the hat is still of the same opinion, "you would have done well in Slytherin," p155. Harry is dismayed and refuses to listen; instead, his attention turns to a rather ill-looking bird. Harry is alarmed to see the bird's feathers falling out; he is in enough trouble without the bird's fate being blamed on him as well. Harry's worst fears are realized when the bird bursts into flames and disappears. Thankfully, when Dumbledore arrives, he is neither angry nor surprised. His pet bird is a phoenix, a bird with magical, healing properties, renowned for rising from the ashes.

Hagrid bursts into the office before Dumbledore can begin to question Harry. Hagrid defends Harry and is determined to testify to his innocence. Dumbledore manages to calm Hagrid and convince him that he, too, believes that Harry is innocent. What Dumbledore is keen to know is whether there is anything else, which Harry can tell him about the recent events. Harry recalls Ron's caution that hearing voices is never a good sign, and doesn't tell Dumbledore about the voice that he has been hearing in the walls.

Hysteria reaches a peak in the school but is thankfully halted by the Christmas Holidays. Most pupils go home, relieved to be away from the danger. Some pupils remain at school for Christmas; among them are Harry, Hermione, and the Weasleys along with Draco, Crabbe and Goyle. Christmas is an ideal time to try out the Polyjuice Potion, and Hermione adds the final touches to the mixture. After the spectacular Christmas feast, Hermione puts her plan into action.

Harry and Ron capture Crabbe and Goyle by leaving chocolate cakes laced with sleeping potion where Crabbe and Goyle are bound to find and eat them. True to form, they eat the cake and are instantly sent to sleep. Harry and Ron drag them into a nearby cupboard, where they remove some hairs from their heads, necessary to make the potion work, and their shoes to wear while they're in their roles as Crabbe and Goyle.

The potion is completed in Moaning Myrtle's toilets and the trio drink the mixture. Harry and Ron are instantly transformed into Crabbe and Goyle but Hermione refuses to come out of her cubicle, making the boys go ahead without her. They bump into Draco in the corridor who has been looking for Crabbe and Goyle. He takes them to the Slytherin common room and shows them an article sent to him by his father. The Ministry, as a result of the bewitched car, has fined Ron's father. Draco's father has called for Mr. Weasley's resignation. Draco gloats about the fine and the fact that his family has Dark Arts materials hidden in their house that went undiscovered in a recent



raid. Ron and Harry have to pretend to sympathise with Draco and laugh at his jokes, but underneath they are seething. Their theory about Draco being the heir proves to be unfounded, as he tells them he doesn't know who it is, although he wished he did. A valuable piece of information gained from their transformation is that, the last time the chamber was opened, a non-pureblood wizard was killed, something that makes Ron and Harry worry about Hermione's safety and Draco's wish for her to be harmed.

Eventually the potion begins to wear off. Harry and Ron manage to escape before their true identities are revealed, returning to the toilets to find that Hermione's transformation has gone drastically wrong. Instead of becoming Millicent Bulstrode, she is half cat. The potion isn't wearing off and she has to be taken to the hospital wing.

Chapter 12 Analysis

The dark side is becoming undeniably stronger. Hermione's spell goes horribly wrong for the first time ever. Lucius Malfoy escapes unscathed from a ministry inspection, yet Mr. Weasley is fined. The more powerful magic is definitely dark magic at this point in the novel. Good characters with great power like Dumbledore and McGonagall seem unable to solve the puzzle, and the implications of the chamber being opened become direr. The strength of the good side at this point lies in their faith and determination to succeed despite the odds. Harry, Ron and Hermione risk their own safety again in the name of good. Hagrid is loyal to Harry completely and is prepared to go before the Ministry of Magic to swear to Harry's innocence. Dumbledore is convinced that Harry is innocent but is unable to solve the problem, with only his faith to guide him. The faith of the good characters is being tested. If their faith is strong enough, they will succeed. If they start to doubt or question their belief, then it□and they□become weak and vulnerable.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

The discovery a diary leads to new information and clues about the Chamber of Secrets. Ron and Harry find the diary in Moaning Myrtle's toilets when they are returning from visiting Hermione in the hospital wing. The corridor is flooded, so the boys go into the toilets to investigate. Myrtle informs them that someone threw a book at her and it is this book that's blocking the toilet, causing the flooding. The boys retrieve the book and find it is a diary. Disappointingly, it is blank; the only information in the diary is the name of its owner, T. M. Riddle. This name seems vaguely familiar to Harry but he is unable to explain why. Hermione tries to uncover the diary's secrets with various spells when she is released from the hospital, but she, too, is unable to unlock its secrets. Harry and Hermione are convinced that it is linked to the Chamber of Secrets, dating back fifty years to the time the chamber was originally opened. Ron is less optimistic and cannot see any connection between the diary and the chamber. Despite its apparent lack of value, Harry keeps it with him.

As time passes, the effects of the attacks begin to wear off, with the school returning to normal. Lockhart decides to lift spirits by introducing special activities for Valentine's Day: he suggests consulting Snape for a love potion or Professor Flitwick for an entrancing charm. He has also invited a host of dwarfs into school to dress up as cupids and deliver Valentine's messages. His ideas aren't popular with other staff or with Harry, who is embarrassed to be pursued by a dwarf determined to deliver a musical message to Harry. When there is a scuffle as the dwarf forces Harry to listen to his message, Harry's bag is ripped and his belongings are scattered in the corridor, breaking a bottle of ink and bringing the diary to Draco's attention. Draco teases Harry about the diary, believing it to be Harry's, and threatens to read it aloud. Harry is furious and casts a spell on Malfoy that returns the diary to him. He is surprised to notice that the ink has not stained the diary as it has his other books.

Later that night, Harry investigates the diary further. To his amazement, the diary isn't affected by spilling ink on it, merely soaking up the liquid. He writes in the diary as an experiment and is surprised when the diary writes back. Harry and Hermione's theory about the diary was correct: it is linked to the Chamber of Secrets. Tom Riddle used the diary to record the events surrounding the chamber, fifty years ago. Through the diary, Riddle shows Harry what happened. He learns that the true events were covered up and Riddle was made to keep quiet about what happened. Harry is lead to believe that a young Hagrid opened the chamber and was responsible for the ensuing events, which involved a creature in a box, similar to a large, hairy spider with lots of legs and pincers. The young Hagrid denies that his pet; the creature, had anything to do with the attacks but isn't believed by Riddle. Harry is shocked that it was Hagrid, and tells Ron about his discovery.



Chapter 13 Analysis

The character of Tom Riddle is introduced with interesting consequences. Harry is familiar with the name Tom Riddle but can't work out the connection. Clear comparisons can be drawn between Tom and Harry: they are both orphans, both raised in the Muggle world and both are involved with the Chamber of Secrets. Harry finding Tom's diary also links the two characters. The finding of the diary by Harry can be viewed in different ways: is it fate or pure coincidence that Harry finds the diary? Or is it something more direct than this? The diary might have been planted with the intention of Harry discovering it, in order to solve the puzzle about the Chamber of Secrets. Hagrid is blamed in this chapter for the events of fifty years ago, calling into question Harry's faith. Whether he believes the views of a character he has only met through the pages of an enchanted diary or whether he believes in his friend is a true test of Harry's faith and loyalty.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Harry, Ron and Hermione discuss the possibility that Hagrid is responsible for the recent events related to the Chamber of Secrets. They know that he is fond of dangerous animals, often keeping them as pets, but they also know that Hagrid would never intentionally hurt anyone. They decide not to question him, as nothing untoward has happened at the school for some time.

The students are occupied with school issues such as choosing their subjects to study for next year. Hermione signs up for every possible subject but Harry and Ron are less certain of what they want to do and sign up for the same subjects so they can help each other when they get stuck. Harry is also busy practicing for the next Quidditch match; this takes up most of his time. He is horrified one night when he returns from practice to find that someone has ransacked his dormitory, damaged his possessions, and thrown his belongings everywhere. He also discovers that the diary is missing and feels sick to think that it must have been a fellow Gryffindor pupil who has done this, as no one else knows the password. As Hermione, Ron, and Harry discuss the implications of the break-in at the dinner table, Hermione has a flash of inspiration and rushes off to the library to research her idea.

Harry and Ron collect Harry's broom and make their way to the Quidditch match, Harry is worried as he hears the evil voice again but his mind is focused on the forthcoming Quidditch match. The match is just beginning when, to everyone's surprise, Professor McGonagall arrives with a loud hailer and cancels the match. She has some upsetting news for Harry and Ron: Hermione is the latest victim to be attacked, along with a Ravenclaw prefect. All extra-curricular activities are cancelled and a curfew is introduced. Students are instructed to remain in the common rooms after six at night, and no pupil is allowed in the corridors alone. An escort is required at all times.

Harry and Ron decide it's time to visit Hagrid and leave the school at night, under the safety of Harry's invisibility cloak. They reach Hagrid's cabin to find him visibly upset by the recent events. They are unable to question Hagrid as Dumbledore arrives, accompanied by Cornelius Fudge, The Minister of Magic. Cornelius feels it is his duty to remove Hagrid from the school. The school governors have contacted the ministry and the ministry has to be seen to act. With Hagrid's past involvement with the chamber, he is an obvious suspect. Dumbledore is unhappy with the decision and defends Hagrid, telling Cornelius that he supports Hagrid completely. Unfortunately, Dumbledore's support isn't enough, as Lucius Malfoy arrives with a demand for Dumbledore to step down as head teacher. It has been signed by all the governors and is a result of their lack of faith in Dumbledore's ability to stop the attacks. Hagrid is furious and accuses Malfoy of blackmailing the other governors but this doesn't make any difference. Dumbledore accepts the demand and looks towards the corner where Harry and Ron are hiding. Harry is convinced Dumbledore knows they are there as he looks directly at



Harry and gives him a subtle message. Hagrid also gives the boys a clue about how to solve the problems by following the spiders, and reminds them to look after Fang, Hagrid's dog. Ron and Harry are left alone in the cabin, shocked at the turn in events and worried about the implications of Dumbledore being made to step down.

Chapter 14 Analysis

The power of the good magicians appears to be failing, as faith is lost in their ability to succeed, with faith being placed in the dark side instead. Ron and Harry are forced to question Hagrid because of the attack on Hermione. Hagrid is made a scapegoat and removed by the ministry, the members of which have been forced into action by the school governors, all the work of the dark side. The school governors have been blackmailed by Lucius, who symbolizes dark powers, dark powers that lead to the triumph of Malfoy over Dumbledore, with Dumbledore being forced to step down. Dumbledore is symbolic of the power of good. Without him at the school, there is not much hope left. Harry has to trust in his faith, and trust that Dumbledore will find a way to help him. If Harry loses faith, then the dark side will have won.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

In the absence of Dumbledore, fear spreads quickly through the school. The students are subdued and stay up late at night, discussing events and worrying about the future. Ernie realizes that it can't be Harry, since he would never harm Hermione, and apologizes to him. Someone not affected by recent events is Draco Malfoy, who seems to thrive on the fact that his father forced Dumbledore to resign. He is happy that Dumbledore has gone and suggests to Snape that he become head teacher. His attitude leads some to wonder if he is the heir of Slytherin and responsible for the attacks, as no one from Slytherin has been harmed. Ernie asks Harry if he believes Draco is the culprit, but Harry knows he isn't.

Ron and Harry are puzzled by Dumbledore's words to them and are unable to act on them but are able to follow Hagrid's advice about following the spiders. During a Herbology class, they notice a trail of spiders heading towards the forbidden forest. Harry and Ron decide to investigate it, that night, using the invisibility cloak to protect them. The sight of the empty seat usually occupied by Hermione strengthens their resolve.

Harry and Ron escape from the castle at night without being detected by sentries or teachers. They make their way to Hagrid's cabin, where they leave the cloak; the forest being too dark for them to be detected, and they will be taking Fang with them, as protection. They follow the trail of spiders towards the forbidden forest. The night becomes darker as they get nearer to the forest, so Harry charms his wand to light up and show them the way.

As they enter the forest, they can hear strange noises, scaring them and Fang. At one point, Fang howls with fear. They stop as they hear something large advancing towards them, terrified that it is going to attack them. They are relieved to see that it is the Mr. Weasley's car, which has remained in the forest since their flight to school, earlier in the year. When they stop to examine the car, they are surrounded by huge spiders that seize them, taking them to the spiders' leader, Aragog.

Aragog isn't pleased to see them, having being awakened. He instructs their captors to kill them. Harry prevents this by informing Aragog that Hagrid sent them, something that makes Aragog pause and listen. Aragog informs them that he used to be a pet of Hagrid's. When the chamber was first opened, he was believed to be the monster in the chamber that killed the girl. Hagrid was expelled as a result, but protected and saved Aragog, taking him to the forbidden forest. Aragog also tells them that the creature in the castle is one that the spiders are terrified of; a creature that is evil beyond belief, one whose name cannot be uttered. Aragog tires and Harry tells him that they will leave. Aragog, however, has other plans and again tells the spiders to kill them. Harry reaches for his wand but knows it's useless, as there are too many spiders. Thankfully, at the



last minute, Mr. Weasley's car comes to the rescue, taking them to the edge of the forest and safety.

Ron and Harry return to the castle, thankful to be alive but perplexed by Hagrid's message. Ron is unable to see the value in the spider's words and goes to sleep, but Harry remains awake, pondering over the spider's information. He suddenly realizes that the girl who was murdered the last time the chamber was opened was Moaning Myrtle; he wakes Ron to tell him the news, renewing their hope of solving the riddle.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Harry and Ron symbolize the struggle of good against evil. They remain true to their faith even when the dark side seeming to be more powerful. Their loyalty to their friends encourages them to continue fighting. Ron's bravery is demonstrated when he follows a trail of spiders into the forbidden forest; he is terrified of spiders but prepared to overcome this to save his friends. Even when the situation becomes virtually impossible, Harry and Ron don't give up.

As readers, we identify with the good characters, even though at this point they are losing. The characters associated with the dark side, like Draco Malfoy, are portrayed as smug and unbearable. Even though they are the more powerful force, they are the least trustworthy and likeable. In this case, we support the losers, wanting them to succeed at all costs.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

This chapter opens with good and bad news for the students at Hogwarts. The bad news is that they have exams in a week's time, something that no one is prepared for because their attention has been focused on the attacks. McGonagall is determined that school life continue as normal, in line with Dumbledore's wishes and is adamant that the exams will take place. The good news is that the mandrakes are nearly mature. When they are mature, they can be used to heal the people who are petrified. The hope is then that they will be able to reveal who attacked them, and it can all be sorted out. Harry and Ron are pleased by the news but Ginny doesn't seem to share their pleasure at the good news and seems troubled. She is just about to tell Harry and Ron what's on her mind when Percy interrupts them. Ginny runs away but Percy explains it as something she knows about him that she was going to tell Harry and Ron. They aren't as sure about this but have to take Percy's word for it.

Although Harry and Ron no longer have to visit Myrtle, they decide that if an opportunity arises to talk to her before Hermione wakes up that they will take it. The opportunity does arise, as a result of Lockhart cutting corners and not escorting pupils to lessons. He believes that the culprit has been caught and sees no reason for the extra security measures. Harry and Ron make their way to Myrtle's toilet, only to be found by McGonagall, who questions their presence in the corridor. Harry quickly thinks of an excuse, explaining that they are going to visit Hermione, as they haven't seen her in some time. McGonagall is surprisingly moved by this explanation and gives them permission to visit Hermione.

Madam Pomfrey is not pleased with Ron and Harry visiting Hermione, only letting them in because they have McGonagall's permission. At first, their visit appears to be a waste of time, as Hermione is still totally petrified and unaware of their presence. But Harry notices a slip of paper in Hermione's hand. Ron blocks Harry from Madam Pomfrey's view, and he succeeds in releasing the paper from Hermione's hand. To their delight, it contains information about the creature carrying out the attacks, and from this they are able to work out what has been happening, and where the Chamber of Secrets is located.

Hermione's paper contains information about a creature called a basilisk. The basilisk is known as the King of Serpents, a huge creature that lives for hundreds of years, capable of killing humans merely by looking at them. Spiders are terrified of it but the cry of a rooster is fatal to it. They work out that none of its victims so far have looked it directly in the eye; which is why they are only petrified and still alive. On the paper, Hermione has scribbled "pipes," Harry realizes the basilisk is moving around the school through the plumbing. He can hear its voice, since he speaks Parseltongue, and he also realizes that the entrance to the chamber is in the toilets haunted by Myrtle. They decide to tell McGonagall, and go to the staff room in order to find her.



Their plans are interrupted by McGonagall's voice ringing through the corridors, instructing all pupils to return to their dormitories and all staff to the staff room immediately. Realizing there has been another attack Harry and Ron hide in the staff room in order to find out more. They learn that there has been an attack on Ron's sister, Ginny; worse, her body has been taken to the chamber. This is the most serious incident so far, and McGonagall decides to close the school the next day, sending all the pupils home until the school is safe again. Lockhart is assigned the task of finding the chamber and killing the monster, having boasted that he should have been allowed to do this from the start and that he could have solved the problem much sooner if he had been allowed to do so from the start. Lockhart doesn't seem as keen to find the monster now, and is unusually quiet.

Harry and Ron know that they have to act and act quickly. They decide to help Lockhart, and go to his office in the middle of the night. They find Lockhart packing to leave, and their worst suspicions are confirmed. Lockhart is a sham. He hadn't done any of the brave things in his books, merely stolen other wizards' stories, placing a memory charm on them and passing their brave deeds off as his own. Lockhart has no intention of finding the monster and is running away. He prepares to place a memory charm on the boys but Harry is too quick for him, whisking his wand out of his hand with an "expelliarmus" charm. Powerless to refuse, Lockhart agrees to help them find the Chamber of Secrets.

Harry and Ron's theory about the Chamber of Secrets is correct. Moaning Myrtle informs them that she was killed in the toilets while she was crying about being bullied. She heard the door open and someone speak in an unusual language. The last thing she remembers is looking into a large pair of yellow eyes; then she died. She points to where she saw the eyes. Harry and Ron notice a serpent symbol on one of the taps and realize this must be the entrance to the Chamber of Secrets. Harry attempts to speak Parseltongue to open the chamber. His first try is unsuccessful but his second attempt emerges as a hiss that makes the sink move to reveal the entrance to the chamber.

The thought that Ginny may be alive motivates them. They make Lockhart approach the entrance first, then follow him into the pipes that lead to the chamber. They find themselves in a dark, slimy underground tunnel littered with skulls, their vision severely limited. They make slow progress in the tunnel and have to stop completely when they find a gigantic, green snake skin blocking the tunnel. Lockhart sees this as an opportunity to escape, tackling Ron and stealing his wand. His plan is to return to the school with a piece of skin, claiming to be the victor, with sad news of Ron and Harry's death. He prepares to perform a memory charm on them but Ron's wand backfires charming Lockhart instead. The force of the spell has caused the tunnel to cave in, separating Harry from Ron. Ron encourages Harry to go on without him. Ron will try to clear the corridor and join him. Harry continues alone. When he reaches a wall with a door in it, he tells it to open, dreading what he might find.



Chapter 16 Analysis

The tension carefully crafted by Rowling in the novel reaches a peak in this chapter. The characters work out clues as to the nature of the beast, and shock is felt at the enormity of the task ahead. It seems at this point that good will surely fail. McGonagall finally gives in and decided to send the pupils home. Hope rests with Lockhart, who has been bragging about his abilities. Rowling's use of a third-person narrator means that we know more than the characters. As a result of this, we know that Lockhart is incapable of saving the school, and this adds to the suspense.

Ron and Harry's faith remains intact, reassuring us as readers that the dark powers haven't won yet, and preparing us for an inevitable battle. Harry and Ron's loyalty is proven through their bravery in entering the tunnel leading to the Chamber of Secrets.

Through comparing Lockhart and Harry, it is clear that actions speak louder than words, and it's not what you say that matters, it's what you actually do. Lockhart has persuaded other characters of his fantastic bravery and unbelievable powers, yet when tested he is revealed to be a coward with little faith. Harry has said little about his faith or his power, yet he is clearly the more powerful and brave wizard. This also demonstrates that appearances can be deceptive and that it is important to trust your instincts, as Harry and Ron have done throughout the novel.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Harry finds himself in an eerie, dark chamber. Many stone pillars with carved serpents entwined around them support the shadowy ceiling. Harry progresses slowly into the depths of the chamber to look for Ginny. He finds her, lying face down at the foot of a large statue, and is horrified to find she isn't moving, her face deathly pale, and her breathing barely noticeable. To his surprise, Tom Riddle is also in the chamber. He appeals to Tom for help, informing him about the Basilisk and the need to leave the chamber quickly. But Tom is in no hurry to leave, and Harry realizes that there is something strange about him.

Tom was a pupil at Hogwarts over fifty years ago, but he looks no older than sixteen, and an unusual light surrounds him. He looks at Harry in a peculiar way, holding Harry's wand and then pocketing it. He tells Harry that Ginny had the diary before Harry did. She used the diary to pour all her hopes and fears into. Tom existed in the diary as a memory preserved in time, until someone found the diary and wrote in it. The more Ginny wrote in the diary, the more powerful Tom became, until it was Tom controlling both the diary and Ginny. Tom was able to kill the school roosters and carry out the attacks using the power he had through Ginny, without Ginny being aware of her actions. Eventually, Ginny linked the attacks to the lapses in her memory and began to distrust the diary. She got rid of the diary in Myrtle's toilet and that is when Harry found the diary.

Riddle explains to Harry that Harry is the person he wanted to meet the most. He recounts the way in which he set Hagrid up when the chamber was originally opened, and believes he convinced Harry that it was Hagrid, too. Harry contradicts him by telling him that Hagrid is his friend, whom he had never doubted. Tom continues to explain that he is curious to know all about Harry, especially how he defeated Voldemort. Harry doesn't see the relevance of this and tells Tom to mind his own business.

This is when Tom reveals his true identity as Lord Voldemort, evil dark lord and heir to Slytherin. He describes how he rejected his past part-Muggle self, transformed himself into Voldemort and, in his opinion, became the greatest sorcerer in the world. Harry retaliates, saying that Dumbledore is the greatest. Their argument is interrupted by an eerie music, and the source of the music turns out to be Dumbledore's phoenix, Fawkes. Fawkes deposits a package at Harry's feet, a package which proves to contain the school Sorting Hat. Riddle laughs at the hat, a gift he sees as useless. He asks Harry to tell him how he conquered Voldemort, and Harry realizes that the longer his explanation takes, the longer Harry has to live.

Harry has to think quickly, as he knows Voldemort is becoming more powerful. Harry describes how his mother died to save his life, and how it was the power of good that saved him, something that Voldemort would never be able to understand, being so foul



and evil. Voldemort is relieved it isn't Harry's power that saved him. The similarities between them—both have one Muggle parent, both were brought up as orphans, and they are the only two Parselmouths to come to Hogwarts since Slytherin—are nothing more powerful than coincidences, as Harry's mother giving her life for Harry is merely a lucky charm, in Voldemort's opinion.

Voldemort challenges Harry to fight. Preparing to kill Harry, he calls forth the evil Basilisk. Not knowing what to do, Harry runs blindly from the Basilisk, desperate not to look into his evil eyes. He can hear the heavy body reach the ground and advance towards him; he is convinced that he is going to be killed, but then hears another sound. He risks opening his eyes to find out what is happening, and he sees Fawkes blinding the Basilisk by pecking its eyes out. Voldemort is furious and urges the Basilisk to kill Harry. Desperate, Harry places the Sorting Hat on his head and pleads silently for help. A sword appears in the hat. Harry removes the sword in time to see the open mouth of the Basilisk coming towards him. He rams the sword into the Basilisk's open mouth, killing it by driving his sword through the roof of its mouth. Unfortunately, one of the Basilisk's fangs is embedded in Harry's arm, and the poison begins to kill him.

Harry can hear Voldemort's voice gloating about Harry's death, but he's amazed to find that he is no longer dying. Fawkes has healed his wound with its tears, bringing Harry back to life. Voldemort prepares for his final attack but Harry knows instinctively what to do: piercing the diary with the Basilisk fang, he poisons Voldemort, once again defeating him. As Voldemort dies, Ginny returns to life. She and Harry escape from the chamber, traveling back through the tunnel to find that Ron had managed to clear a gap for them to climb through. Their dilemma concerning how to escape the tunnel is solved by Fawkes, who magically flies the three pupils and Lockhart; who is still enchanted by the memory charm, to safety.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Chapter 17 is essential in the study of the battle of good and evil. Minor clashes in the rest of the novel have been preparing us for this chapter. Up until this point, the dark side has been triumphant, with the power of good becoming less and less. The final battle between Voldemort and Harry proves that good will triumph over evil every time. Harry symbolizes all that is good, as opposed to Voldemort who symbolizes all that is evil, Harry's victory, although in doubt at times, was inevitable.

Voldemort is similar to other characters in the way that his pride leads him to believe he is the best without his action supporting it. Lockhart, who believes he is the best Defense Against the Dark Arts wizard, is revealed as a fake, and Voldemort, who believes he is the greatest sorcerer, is defeated by Harry.

Harry's belief in his faith and belief in the power of good leads to his success. His faith in Dumbledore never leaves him, allowing Dumbledore to help him. If Harry had stopped believing, his victory would not have been possible. Like his mother, Harry is prepared to die for what he believes in, making him powerful and courageous.

Fawkes and the Basilisk, although not human, can also be seen as symbolic in the fight between good and evil. Fawkes, although physically smaller and weaker than the Basilisk, defeats it by pecking out its eyes, demonstrating that good will triumph against evil even when that evil seems to be much larger and more powerful.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Fawkes takes them to McGonagall's office. They are prepared for the worst but are warmly welcomed, especially by Mr. and Mrs. Weasley, who had been worried about Ginny. Harry is pleased to find Dumbledore in the office and proceeds to tell everyone how they worked out what was in the Chamber, how they found it and what happened while they were in it. Ginny is worried that she will be expelled; Dumbledore prevents this by asking how Voldemort enchanted Ginny, so Harry explains the role of the diary.

Ginny is sent to the hospital wing to recover, while Dumbledore questions Harry and Ron further. He reminds them about his warning earlier in the year about breaking school rules and being expelled, but he is prepared to forget about it in this case. Instead, he rewards them with two hundred house points each. Dumbledore also wants to know why Lockhart is unusually quiet, so they tell him about Lockhart's actions in the chamber with Ron's wand backfiring on him. Dumbledore asks Ron to take Lockhart to the hospital wing, as he wishes to speak to Harry alone.

Dumbledore praises Harry for his bravery and loyalty, informing Harry that Fawkes would only come to the assistance of someone showing true loyalty to Dumbledore. Harry is moved by Dumbledore's words but worried by Voldemort's comparison of Harry and Voldemort. He seeks reassurance from Dumbledore that he isn't like Voldemort. Dumbledore informs him that when Voldemort attacked Harry the first time, he left some of his power in Harry. Harry is distressed that this means he is like Voldemort and should be in Slytherin, but Dumbledore reassures him that only a true Gryffindor could have used the sword, as it originally belonged to Godric Gryffindor the founder of Gryffindor house. He tells Harry that it's what we do as people that makes us who we are, more than what we are capable of doing.

Harry is just about to leave the office when Lucius Malfoy bursts in; he is furious that Dumbledore is back at the school and demands to know why. Dumbledore informs him that all the other governors requested it and in turn had informed him of Malfoy's threats to them. Dumbledore tells Malfoy that the culprit, Lord Voldemort had been found and dealt with, but implies that he had help in his quest. At this point, Dobby is frantically signaling behind Malfoy's back, and Harry realizes that Mr. Malfoy is responsible for planting the book on Ginny the day they were buying their schoolbooks. Harry accuses him. He denies it, but no one believes his denial and Dumbledore warns him to be careful in future not to give away any more of Voldemort's possessions, as Dumbledore will ensure that they will be traced straight back to him.

Harry devises a plan to release Dobby, and follows Malfoy under the pretence of giving back the diary. Malfoy hands Dobby the sock that the diary was wrapped in and Dobby is free to go! Harry is grateful to Dobby for helping him. In return for setting him free, Dobby vows to remain loyal to Harry, protecting him when Malfoy tries to attack him.



Life at school returns to normal with a feast to celebrate Voldemort's defeat. The festivities continue late into the night, with everyone happy except Draco Malfoy, who is subdued. The rest of term passes quickly and Gryffindor win the school cup again. The pupils are soon returning home for the holidays via the Hogwarts Express.

Chapter 18 Analysis

The final chapter is a triumph of good over evil. Those who have acted in a corrupt, evil fashion are punished for their actions, like Lucius Malfoy, who is sacked from his position of authority as school governor and warned to behave in the future. Characters who are brave and loyal but have been mistreated are rewarded; Dobby is set free from the evil Malfoy and Hagrid is released from Azkaban.

Harry is commended for his faith and loyalty to the school and to Dumbledore. Although inwardly worried that he may really be a Slytherin, he rarely shows this, desperately not wanting it to be true. His internal struggle about his true magical orientation is resolved by Dumbledore, who assures him that through not wanting to be evil and always remaining loyal to the good forces of magic, Harry is truly a Gryffindor and a good wizard.



Characters

Harry Potter

Harry is the main character and hero in the novel. He is an orphan. His parents were killed when Harry was only a baby while they were trying to save him from the evil Voldemort. Some of Voldemort's magical powers transferred to Harry when Voldemort was killed, leaving a lightning-shaped scar on Harry's forehead. He lives with the Dursleys during the school holidays. They are related to him through his mother's side of the family but don't treat Harry as family. He is blamed for everything that goes wrong in the house and treated as an inferior. Harry is happiest at Hogwarts, where he can practice magic and be with his friends.

Harry's magical power is renowned after he defeats Voldemort for a second time in his first year at Hogwarts. Harry has concerns about his powers, and fears that he may have been influenced by the dark side. He questions the Sorting Hat about his rightful place in the schoolhouses, but the Hat is still adamant that Harry would do well in Slytherin, the house associated with the dark side. His fears are increased when he learns that he speaks a different language, known as Parseltongue, when he speaks to snakes. Harry didn't realize that this was a very rare ability and is worried to find that it is connected to the dark side, with the only other pupil who has been able to speak Parseltongue being Voldemort, the evil heir to Slytherin. He is assured by Dumbledore that his fears are unfounded. Dumbledore tells Harry that it's his actions that reveal his true personality, nothing else, and as Harry defeats Voldemort again, this time using Godric Gryffindor's sword, it is obvious to Harry that he is not a dark wizard. Harry is a loyal friend and, despite his magical talent, is a modest character. This makes him easy to like and identify with.

Ron Weasley

Ron is Harry's best friend. His red hair easily identifies him; a characteristic he shares with the rest of his large family. Ron has five older brothers and a younger sister. Money is a problem for the family, as Mr. Weasley's wages don't go very far with so many children to look after. As a result of this, Ron wears his brothers' hand-me-down clothes and often has second-hand school books and equipment; something that Draco Malfoy often teases him about.

Ron is fiercely proud of his family and defends them when Draco teases him. His loyalty is a strong characteristic and is seen repeatedly throughout the novel. He rescues Harry at the start of the novel, after Mr. Dursley has locked him in his upper-story room. He takes him home for the rest of the holidays and, despite having no money, the Weasleys look after Harry, too. Ron's loyalty can also be seen when he agrees to help Harry solve the mystery of the Chamber of Secrets. He is brave as he faces his fears to help his



friends; a good example of this is when he faces the giant spiders in the forbidden forest; since spiders are one of Ron's greatest fears.

Hermione Granger

Hermione is the other character closest to Harry and Ron. She is the brightest student in her year and one of the most intelligent students to have attended Hogwarts. She constantly has her nose in a book and, when faced with a problem, goes to the library to find the solution. In *The Chamber of Secrets*, Hermione researches a transforming potion that allows them to investigate Draco Malfoy. Unfortunately, a cat hair is mixed up in the potion, causing Hermione's transformation to go wrong. She is a victim of the Basilisk, being petrified while trying to solve the problem, leaving Ron and Harry to solve the problem without her.

She is Muggle born to human parents with no magical powers. Draco torments her because she is not pure blooded and frequently insults her. Ron and Harry are defensive of Hermione, not that she needs it, being a very independent character capable of standing up for herself. United the three friends present a powerful front that Draco's comments aren't able to destroy.

Albus Dumbledore

Dumbledore is the headmaster at Hogwarts. "Albus Dumbledore is the greatest Headmaster Hogwarts has ever had." He is a great and powerful wizard who doesn't abuse his power. Dumbledore is symbolic of the power of good magic and when he is made to step down, it seems as if the dark side is winning. However, his return to power shows that the power of good is stronger than that of evil.

Voldemort/Tom Marvolo Riddle

Lord Voldemort is the evil dark lord of magic whose name must not be mentioned because he is so dangerous. Voldemort reappears in the Chamber of Secrets as an ex-pupil of Hogwarts, Tom Riddle. Tom Riddle used to be Head Boy at Hogwarts and was given an award for bravery when the chamber was last opened. He was part Muggle with a human father and a witch for a mother. He was orphaned as a child and grew up amongst Muggles. He became evil when he left Hogwarts and transformed himself into Lord Voldemort, a terrifying and intimidating wizard. Voldemort preserves Tom Riddle in an enchanted diary that is found by Ron and Harry in Moaning Myrtle's toilets. In this diary, he describes how he caught the person who opened the chamber last time, and tries to convince Harry that Hagrid is responsible for the recent attacks. He also enchants Ginny with the diary, using her as a vehicle for his evil attacks. Harry, at the end of the novel, discovers Voldemort's disguise, and his true identity as heir of Slytherin is revealed. Voldemort attempts to kill Harry but is unsuccessful, with good once again succeeding over evil.



Rubeus Hagrid

Employed as the Gamekeeper at Hogwarts. Hagrid is half giant and one of Harry's best friends. We first meet Hagrid in Chapter 4 when he finds Harry, who is lost, and shows him the way to Diagon Alley. Later in the novel, we are lead to believe that Hagrid was responsible for opening the Chamber of Secrets the first time, for which he was expelled from Hogwarts. He is suspected of opening the Chamber again and is sent to Azkaban by the governors of the school.

Professor Severus Snape

Teaches potions at Hogwarts and is Harry's least favorite teacher. In charge of the Slytherin house. He dislikes Harry as much as Harry dislikes him. He constantly seeks ways to punish Harry but hasn't succeeded in getting Harry expelled despite his best efforts.

Dobby

A house elf that helps Harry. He has large ears, bulbous eyes and a long thin nose. He speaks in a high-pitched voice and wears cast-off clothing. He works in the Malfoy household and can only be released by being given a piece of clothing. We first encounter Dobby in Chapter 2 when he visits Harry to warn him that his life is in danger. Dobby reappears on several occasions in the novel, as he attempts to save Harry's life. Through Dobby, we learn that Lucius Malfoy is responsible for helping Voldemort return to Hogwarts. Dobby is freed at the end of the novel when Harry tricks Lucius into giving Dobby a sock. For this, Dobby will be eternally grateful to Harry.

Ginny Weasley

Ron's younger sister. New to Hogwarts, in her first year. She is infatuated with Harry. Ginny keeps all her secrets in a little black diary that, unbeknownst to her, belongs to Voldemort. The evil diary enchants her, and her involvement with Voldemort nearly leads to her death.

Gilderoy Lockhart

Defense Against The Dark Arts teacher at Hogwarts. Famous for his daring achievements against the Dark Arts, he is keen for publicity at every opportunity, posing for photo shoots and telling everyone how great he thinks he is. His bluff is called when he is needed to solve the riddle of the Chamber of Secrets as he prepares to run away. In the end, he is defeated by one of his own memory charms.



Professor Minerva McGonagall

Female professor responsible for the Gryffindor house and teacher of transfiguration. She leads the school in Dumbledore's absence, trying to retain a sense of normality.

Draco Malfoy

A pupil at Hogwarts in the Slytherin house. Harry's enemy. Through his underhanded ways, he becomes a Seeker for the Slytherin team. Draco is Professor Snape's favorite pupil, and Snape is as nice to him as he is nasty to Harry. Draco takes every opportunity to be horrible to Harry and tease him. He is proud of his father being evil, and boasts about secret Dark Arts objects hidden in his home. Little does he know that Harry and Ron hear this when they are disguised as Crabbe and Goyle, saving the information for use at a later date.

Mr. Vernon Dursley

Harry Potter's uncle. Vernon is a large, overweight man with a moustache. He doesn't like Harry and is wary of his magical skills. He treats Harry extremely badly in comparison to his son Dudley, on whom he dotes.

Mrs. Petunia Dursley

Harry Potter's Aunt. Petunia is the sister of Harry's dead mother. Petunia and Vernon Dursley are raising Harry, as there are no other known relations. A thin woman who constantly worries about what people think, she is terrified of Harry's magical powers getting out of control.

Dudley Dursley

Harry's cousin. Although Harry and Dudley are cousins, they are completely opposite in character and physique. Dursley is blond and extremely plump; he is spoiled by his parents and always gets his own way. He is sly and sneaky, often telling tales on Harry and running to his parents when he feels threatened by Harry.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason

Business associates of Mr. Dursley.



Fred and George Weasley

Ron's brothers, older than him and twins, they share the same red hair as Ron and have an appetite for mischief and adventure.

Percy Weasley

Ron's brother and a prefect at Hogwarts.

Mr. Arthur Weasley

Ron's father, who works at the Ministry of Magic in the "Misuse of Muggle Artifacts" office.

Mrs. Molly Weasley

Ron's mother, a small, plump woman who, despite her size, keeps her large family under control.

Bill and Charlie Weasley

Ron's oldest brothers, who have left Hogwarts. Charlie studies dragons and Bill works for Gringotts Bank.

Lucius Malfoy

A powerful wizard who used to support Voldemort, he now works for the Ministry of Magic and is father to Draco. He looks down on Mr. Weasley because the Weasleys aren't rich like he is. He tries his best throughout the novel to defeat Dumbledore, helping Voldemort to access the school.

Cornelius Fudge

The Minister of Magic.

Godric Gryffindor, Helga Hufflepuff, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Salazar Slytherin

Co-founders of Hogwarts.



Professor Sprout

Professor of Herbology at Hogwarts.

Professor Dippet

Head teacher when Tom Riddle was a pupil at Hogwarts.

Mr. Filch

Caretaker at Hogwarts.

Madame Pomfrey

Matron in school sanatorium.

Madam Hooch

Quidditch teacher.

Professor Flitwick

Teacher at Hogwarts.

Neville Longbottom

Pupil in Harry's year and house.

Ernie Macmillan

Pupil in Hufflepuff who suspected Harry of being the heir of Slytherin.

Colin Creevey

Pupil at Hogwarts in Gryffindor. A big fan of Harry's, he follows him everywhere, taking photographs until he is the second victim to be petrified.



Justin Finch-Fletchley

Muggle-born pupil in Hufflepuff. Harry saves Justin from being attacked by a snake. Third victim to be petrified.

Oliver Wood

Captain of the Gryffindor Quidditch team.

Marcus Flint

Captain of the Slytherin Quidditch team.

Millicent Bulstrode

Slytherin pupil who was Hermione's dueling partner and whom Hermione tried to transform herself into.

Lee Jordan

Friend of the Weasley twins.

Crabbe and Goyle

Friends of Draco. Harry and Ron transform into these characters when they go undercover to see if Draco is the heir to Slytherin.

Muggles

People with no magical blood in their veins.

Mudblood

An insulting term to someone who is Muggle-born.

Squib

A person born into a wizard family with no magic powers.



Parselmouth

A person who can talk to snakes.

Nearly Headless Nick

Ghost that haunts Gryffindor tower. Fourth victim to be petrified by the Basilisk.

Peeves

School poltergeist.

Moaning Myrtle

Ghost that haunts the girls' toilets in Hogwarts. Original victim of the Basilisk.

The Fat Lady

Animated portrait that controls entrance to the Gryffindor common room

Aragog

Huge spider that lives in the forbidden forest. Believed to have been the original monster in the Chamber of Secrets and the reason why Hagrid was expelled from Hogwarts when the chamber was opened initially.

The Basilisk

Giant serpent responsible for the attacks. Those who look into its eyes are killed instantly.

Hedwig

Harry's pet owl.

Scabbers

Ron's pet rat.



Errol

Owl belonging to the Weasley family.

Fang

Hagrid's dog.

Mrs. Norris

Mr. Filch's cat. First of the Basilisk's victims.

Fawkes

Dumbledore's pet bird, a magical phoenix with healing powers. Fawkes rescues Harry in the Chamber of Secret by bringing him the magical Sorting Hat, pecking the Basilisk's eyes out and healing Harry's wound with its tears.

Fluffy

Dog with three heads that used to belong to Hagrid



Objects/Places

Ravenclaw

School house at Hogwarts

Hufflepuff

School house at Hogwarts

The forbidden forest

Forest that surrounds and protects Hogwarts

The Chamber of Secrets

Underground cavern hidden beneath Hogwarts

The cupboard under the stairs

A cupboard located in the Dursleys' house, under the stairs. This used to be Harry's bedroom and is now used by Mr. Dursley to hide all of Harry's magical possessions.

The Ministry of Magic

Ministry that controls all rules and regulations related to magic.

Ottery St Catch Pole

Village where Ron's family live

The Burrow

Family home of the Weasleys.

Diagon Alley

Street in London that is not visible to Muggles. Shops in this street sell magical items to wizards and witches.



Knockturn Alley

Street near Diagon Alley.

The Leaky Cauldron

An inn popular among wizards and witches in Diagon Alley.

Flourish and Botts

Bookshop in Diagon Alley.

Azkaban

Prison for wizards.

The Great Hall

Majestic hall in Hogwarts where the sorting takes place each year. It has a fantastic ceiling that mirrors the sky. It is not only used for celebrations and grand occasions; the pupils use this room daily at meal times.

The Whomping Willow

A large willow tree at Hogwarts whose dangerous branches wave wildly and trap careless people.

Platform Nine and Three Quarters

Platform at King's Cross Station, London. Located between Platform Nine and Ten, unseen to the Muggle eye, this is the platform that the Hogwarts Express leaves from to take pupils back to Hogwarts.

Hogwarts Express

Train that takes pupils to Hogwarts.

The flying car

Used by Ron and the twins in Chapter 2 to rescue Harry.



O.W.L.s

Acronym for exams taken by wizards. "Ordinary Wizard Levels."

Gringotts Bank

The wizards' bank.

Galleons, Sickles and Knuts

Denominations of Wizard money.

The Daily Prophet

Wizard newspaper.

Quidditch

A popular game at Hogwarts, played on broomsticks; there are two teams of seven players, with four balls and six goal posts.

Nimbus 2000

Harry's previously top-of-the-range broomstick.

Nimbus 2001

New range of broomstick. Lucius Malfoy buys every member of the Slytherin Quidditch team one, in return for them accepting his son Draco on the team.

Floo powder

Powder used to transport wizards from place to place via fireplaces.

The Sorting Hat

Magical hat placed on the head of new pupils at Hogwarts. Used at the start of each year in the Sorting Ceremony, this hat determines which schoolhouse a pupil will be placed in.

Howler

A letter that shouts and screams. Usually sent to express displeasure with the recipient.



Mandrakes

Plants with magical properties, grown for their healing properties and studied in Herbology.

Cornish Pixies

Blue pixies studied in Defense Against The Dark Arts.

The Golden Snitch

A ball that flies at alarming speeds and is hard to catch. It is the role of the Seeker to catch the snitch. The game of Quidditch is won instantly if either Seeker catches the Snitch; Harry is the Seeker for Gryffindor.

Quaffle and Bludgers

Balls used in the game of Quidditch.

Pepperup Potion

Potion used by Madam Pomfrey.

Polyjuice Potion

Potion that transforms the person who drinks it into someone else.

Moste Potente Potions

Magical book.

Skele-Grow

Potion used to grow bones.

Bicorn Horn & Boomslang Skin

Rare objects used in the Polyjuice Potion.



Magic Diary

Found in Moaning Myrtle's toilets. Holds secrets and records about the last time the chamber was opened.

Invisibility Cloak

Magic cloak belonging to Harry. The cloak used to belong to his father, and whoever wears the cloak is invisible.

Godric Gryffindor's Sword

Sword used by Harry to defeat the Basilisk.



Setting

Most of the action in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* occurs at Hogwarts during the years 1992 and 1993. The realism of the non-magical Muggle world, particularly the Dursleys' home, dramatically contrasts with the fantastical possibilities presented at Hogwarts where the medieval castle's structure is constantly changing to accommodate its inhabitants. While the stone walls symbolize strength, the castle's inner mazes and secret passages hint at complexities that are often hidden to casual observers. People and places are either mortal or magical, with both spheres intersecting along significant peripheral junctures such as King's Cross station and the Leaky Cauldron. Rowling's imaginary settings, whether boring Muggle houses or intriguing magical realms, are vividly depicted, making Harry Potter's environment seem plausible to readers. Rowling intersperses real geographical places with make-believe sites to increase the believability of her fantasy world.

Harry's movement between Muggle and magical settings signals the beginning and conclusion of his annual adventures. Harry loathes the Dursleys' Privet Drive house in the fictional town of Little Whinging which is located in the factual English county of Surrey. Harry's Muggle home is like a prison; the windows in his room are barred.

Ironically, despite Harry's derision for his repulsive, parsimonious guardians, he is safer at their house than he is at Hogwarts, which serves a dual role as sanctuary and battlezone. Both settings test Harry's integrity and maturity. The Dursleys' home is an incubator, where his magic is dormant during his childhood. Hogwarts stimulates Harry's supernatural powers to emerge.

Harry attends Hogwarts in northern Scotland from September to June, enjoying the school's abundances and creativity as compared to the limitations and dreariness of his unimaginative Muggle home. His personality metamorphoses when he moves between the two settings, gradually gaining self-confidence at Hogwarts. The barren Dursley home stifles Harry, while Hogwarts gives birth to his potential and invigorates him. The Chamber of Secrets is the most significant setting within Hogwarts.

It is similar to an Egyptian tomb with snakewrapped stone pillars and a giant statue of a wizard. Like a womb, it nourishes the fledgling Harry and protects and strengthens him as he expands emotionally and spiritually to become autonomous. The chamber is also like a dangerous cave or mine that smothers or collapses anyone inside it. The dungeon where Nearly Headless Nick's Deathday Party is held foreshadows Harry's later descent into a metaphorical Hades.

Harry and Hogwarts symbiotically preserve each other from destruction and nurture each other to grow. Surrounded by the Forbidden Forest, home to centaurs and unicorns, Hogwarts sits on a cliff above a large lake that rests above the subterranean chamber, insulating it from external interference. Lacking technology, Hogwarts is self-sufficient, isolating itself like an island which can only be reached by the Hogwarts Express and magic.



The Gryffindor and Slytherin common rooms are pivotal to plot development and symbolize the characteristics of each house.

The noble Gryffindors live in a tower, while the vile Slytherins live in a dungeon much like the classroom of their faculty sponsor, the bitter potions master Severus Snape.

Harry shares his dormitory with four boys; he considers the turret room his home and resolves some of the puzzles that confound him, such as deciphering Tom Riddle's diary, in that sheltered space. House membership represents characters' traits and motives, initiating conflicts that propel plots forward.

The Quidditch field is a sanctioned site for the resolution of many disagreements.

The Great Hall serves as a place where students gather to replenish their energy with food and entertainment as well as engage in combative taunts and duels. This is where Harry learns that he can talk to snakes. The ceiling mirrors the sky and it often reflects the moods of the students.

Corridors serve as passages not only to classrooms but also as transitions in story lines. The girls' bathroom, home to Moaning Myrtle, is the portal to the Chamber; its moistness suggests Harry's vigor to pursue the basilisk.

Other significant settings include Knockturn Alley where Harry overhears the Malfoys discussing racist ideology. Harry's accidental arrival in the alley suggests his own potential for evil. The Weasley house offers Harry a temporary refuge from his guardians, and he delights in "degnoming" the garden and discovering how a magical family lives. The Dursleys' orderly house represents those characters' focus on accruing wealth, and the Weasleys' ramshackle home symbolizes their commitment to family. The flying car is personified, using its lights and exhaust pipes to express its anger at the boys whom it has both rescued and abandoned.



Social Sensitivity

Although not blatantly didactic, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets delivers several moral messages to readers. Resisting racism is the most crucial social issue discussed in the book. Harry refuses to discriminate against other students because of factors, such as lineage, that they cannot control. Instead of encouraging inequality, Harry promotes cooperation through teamwork. He avoids controversial causes endorsed by dubious classmates and does not succumb to peer pressure. Rowling incorporates several moral themes in her novel, and she wants to show how character and integrity influences an individual's decision-making processes, noting that most people are innately good unless they have suffered extreme emotional or physical abuse. She stresses that her novels reveal the consequences of evil and how innocent people are often victimized unfairly.

Harry has the courage to give voice to his concerns and distinguish right from wrong.

He is a role model for his fictional cohorts as well as his readers and establishes acceptable standards for behavior. Keenly aware of what is fair and just, he is accountable for his actions, justifying when breaking rules is permissible for the greater good.

Harry tries to work within established guidelines without harming the Hogwarts community. He opposes favoritism among professors and students, disliking cliques that are a part of most school environments. The hierarchy of wizard castes at Hogwarts repulses Harry, whose mother was a Muggle.

He resents classmates who passively permit such ostracism to continue. Interestingly, no professors are targeted as outcasts.

Harry's compassion for individuals' differences and his sense of social responsibility might make readers aware of any harmful prejudices they have or encounter and strengthen them to voice their concerns.

Harry displays socially acceptable behaviors such as respecting his elders and strives to maintain the honor of Hogwarts through his actions, refusing to cheat on class assignments or sports despite academic pressures and provocations. A diligent, self-disciplined worker, Harry is committed to earning grades and achieving goals rather than being granted privileges that might weaken his character like the spoiled Draco Malfoy. He worries about the well-being of other wizards and witches as well as animals, and places their needs over individual desires and ambitions, altruistically sharing his food and belongings and freeing Dobby from his servitude to the Malfoys. Harry values knowledge as being more powerful than the illusions of magic.

Admitting that he is imperfect, he urges his classmates to become better people and is loyal to his friends even when they disagree with him. Harry bravely pursues his course of action despite ridicule, risks of losing possessions, or encountering hazards.



Unfortunately, Rowling sometimes casts characters, albeit the more loathsome ones, with stereotypical descriptions. Harry's offensive male relatives are heavy-set to indicate their stupidity and laziness. The buffoonish classmate, Neville Longbottom, is also described as plump which his surname seems to suggest. Sexism and racism often are intertwined, and, while Rowling does not endorse discrimination, subtle sexism occurs when Hermione becomes is transformed into a cat after creating the Polyjuice Potion. Also, Ginny is depicted as a stereotypical helpless, foolish, confused female who is rescued by a male.

Risk-taking by male characters is rewarded, while that undertaken by females is punished.



Literary Qualities

Rowling's intricate writing style incorporates a variety of techniques which add texture and layers to her characters and settings. By using symbolism, motifs, and puns, Rowling combines humor and the macabre to create storytelling that fulfills readers' desire for adventure and intrigue.

She allegorically comments on modern society while alluding to universal concerns such as social acceptance. The Harry Potter saga is told by an omniscient narrator, in the form of an oral, tragic-comic ode to a hero. And although the stories are based on legends, mythology, and fairy tales, the heroes and villains have characteristics that cross cultures and time periods.

Rowling invented jargon unique to the Harry Potter novels such as "Quidditch" and bureaucratic names which blend the fantastical with the mundane, aiding readers' acceptance. Although the wizard realm is exclusive to those with magical talents, Rowling's literary style, using figurative words and descriptive passages which personifies objects and humanize characters, invites readers to become part of Harry's world. Her most effective stylistic device is names. Rowling realizes the power of names and chooses designations that hint of the personalities and traits of the characters.

For example, Tom Marvolo Riddle's name represents Lord Voldemort rearranged, and Draco refers to the Latin word for serpent.

Names are sometimes alliterative and often rhythmic, enhancing the literary tone, particularly when read aloud.

In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry undergoes the traditional quest cycle, beginning action in the normal Muggle setting before relocating to the fantastical arena of Hogwarts where he undergoes an apprenticeship and resolves a conflict with his archenemy Voldemort in the underground chamber. Rowling skillfully creates suspense through plot pacing, which results in Harry being in jeopardy for almost unbearable lengths or time. Cliffhangers close each chapter, heightening the reader's emotional involvement with the characters.

The illusions cause readers to feel as if they have magically entered the story. Like Hogwarts' twisted subterranean tunnels, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets presents predicaments and enigmatic clues to confuse readers such as Arthur Weasley and Lucius Malfoy fighting at Flourish and Blotts and Ginny forgetting to pack her diary. Rowling builds tension that intensifies to the climax by fully developing confrontations such as Harry and Riddle repeating their statements. The multiple story lines, such as Ginny's bizarre behavior and stolen diary, are resolved by the conclusion which shows how everything was significant to the main plot.

Rowling's fluid prose enables readers to read the novel quickly then return to find the hidden clues which foreshadowed the solution. By intersecting horror with humor, she



establishes an unsettled tone which causes readers to distrust their perception of events. Several stylistic devices intensify the reading experience. Rowling casts her main characters as outsiders, reinforcing the themes of acceptance and discrimination. Harry is branded by a scar that shows his differences from the other wizards. He often seems lonely and confined by his uniqueness. Characters are limited by their self- and peer-assigned definitions and discover inner strengths to achieve individually and benefit the community. Memory symbolizes the truth. Voices, especially dialects, create authentic dialogue to enhance omniscient narrative. Speaking and listening also reinforce the racism theme when Draco ignores those he thinks are his inferiors and Harry speaks and understands Parseltongue to open the secret chamber.

Rowling's literary motifs of magic and secrecy dominate *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Illusions and deceptions reveal which wizards are gifted, like Dumbledore, which ones are inept, such as Lockhart, and which ones are malicious, like Voldemort. Temperature indicates good (warmth) and evil (cold). The term "Mudblood" suggests that those students are muddied or dirty and thus undesirables.

Rowling poetically names spells to specify their purpose such as "Expelliarmus" meaning to disarm an opponent. The literary use of duality reveals that people and actions often are more complex than first appearances imply and that good and evil are closely related such as the Mandrakes having deadly shrieks but being the main ingredient of the petrification antidote. Magic exposes braggarts like Lockhart as cowards. Invisibility conceals evil such as the blank diary pages but also suggests how good characters are metaphorically overlooked.

Significant literary motifs include family, blood, adolescence, gender, colors, metals, numbers, time, size, movement, moonlight, plants, food, music, animals, and precious stones. Fairy tale elements, religious imagery, and historical allusions contribute to the story's cautionary nature. Mythologist Joseph Campbell might describe the secret chamber as a netherworld where supernatural guides like Fawkes would assist heroes like Harry. Psychological analyses might interpret Harry's adventures as Freudian suggestions about sexuality and repressed desires or Jungian imagery of the stairways, tunnels, and tomb-like chamber representing Harry's fears and introverted personality. The Chamber of Secrets might reflect the individual's internal agony and conflict within their psyche. These diverse literary motifs reinforce the idea that imagination is the primary source of magic.



Themes

Loyalty

Loyalty is a theme central to the novel and the main characters. Those characters that are loyal and faithful are the strongest characters. Harry remains loyal to his friends and to the power of good magic, even when it seems as if this is the wrong thing to do. Tom Riddle tries to influence Harry and convince him of Hagrid's guilty part in opening the Chamber of Secrets but Harry remains loyal to Hagrid. Harry's loyalty to Dumbledore also helps him to defeat Voldemort. Fawkes, Dumbledore's magical phoenix, comes to help Harry when he most needs it, and this is a direct result of Harry's loyalty to Dumbledore. Harry's loyalty towards his friends is also what motivates him to enter the Chamber of Secrets, to defeat the Basilisk, and to save his friends.

Loyalty can also be seen in the dark characters, giving them strength in their beliefs and the motivation to succeed. Lucius Malfoy remains loyal to Voldemort and Slytherin despite risking punishment. His faith in his beliefs nearly leads to the successful defeat of Dumbledore and, despite being beaten this time, there can be no doubt in the mind of the reader that Malfoy will try again.

Dobby is another character whose loyalty is exemplary. He remains loyal to his beliefs and his faith in Harry, as he knows that this is the right thing to do. He betrays his master and the dark side at great risk to his own personal safety because he knows that what they represent is evil. Dobby's reward is his freedom, proving that to be loyal is always the best choice.

Power

The role of power and the misuse of power is an important topic. Lots of characters are powerful for different reasons but what is interesting is how they use their power. The characters who abuse or misuse their power are often linked to the dark side and are therefore ultimately unsuccessful. The characters that use their power for good and don't abuse it are often the successful and more popular characters.

Examples of characters who misuse their power are Lucius Malfoy and Severus Snape. Snape tries to use his power as a teacher at Hogwarts to expel Harry, attempts that are unsuccessful when contradicted by Professor McGonagall and Dumbledore, who don't take advantage of their power and treat everyone fairly. Lucius Malfoy abuses his power by blackmailing the other governors into making Dumbledore step down as head teacher. His sneaky and underhand ways are revealed at the end of the novel, and Dumbledore is reinstated.

Characters who place too much faith in their own power and are vain or conceited are also revealed to be weak, like Lockhart, who is always boasting about his powers as a great wizard yet, when put to the test, fails miserably. On the other hand, characters



who are modest about their powers and abilities are often the most powerful. Harry is never heard bragging about the fact that he has defeated Voldemort twice. Instead, Harry shies from publicity and prefers to keep quiet about his achievements, yet he is incredibly powerful and defeats Voldemort for a third time. Power is achieved through actions and belief in self, not through corrupting or manipulating others.



Themes/Characters

Heritage, love, loyalty, and betrayal are the dominant themes in this novel. Harry focuses on avenging his parents' murders and learning more about his family's magical past. Rowling's fully developed characters participate in events and react to conflicts and danger to develop the novel's plot. Recurring characters from the first Harry Potter book consistently aid or hinder him. These archetypal characters represent extremes of good and evil. The battle between those two forces is the basic theme of the Harry Potter saga. Some characters seem stereotypical and derivative but their predictability aids readers in understanding their purpose. Many characters are polar opposites, such as Harry and Tom Riddle, yet they paradoxically share some traits and, like the settings, experience opposing characteristics within themselves, presenting an amalgam of good and bad.

Harry realizes that Riddle is actually Voldemort when he confronts him in the Chamber of Secrets. During their conversation, Harry becomes aware that he and Riddle share similar biographical details, such as being orphans, despite their obvious disparity and hatred for each other.

Harry is oblivious to his magical abilities prior to being invited to attend Hogwarts.

In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry has a deeper appreciation of his heritage and is more self-confident. Both he and Voldemort are cognizant of their half-blood genetic background. Harry virtuously chooses to befriend people based on their personality, while Voldemort sinisterly elects to discriminate against anyone whom he feels threatened by, especially Harry, whom he tried to murder with his martyred parents James and Lily Potter. Harry's parents are also significant characters in the books because of how they motivate their son to pursue justice, fulfill his destiny, and redeem his legacy.

When the chamber monster is released and petrifies students, Harry vows to find Slytherin's heir who is blamed for opening the Chamber of Secrets. Despite false accusations that he is Slytherin's heir, primarily because of his ability to communicate in Parseltongue and proximity to petrification sites soon after incidents occurred, Harry is determined to locate the true culprit. Distractions such as homework and Quidditch matches delay Harry's progress. In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, an enchanted Bludger knocks Harry off his broom and breaks his right arm. The ineffective Lockhart casts a spell which inadvertently causes Harry's arm bones to vanish, causing him to become temporarily powerless. The school nurse, Madam Pomfrey, regrows Harry's bones, symbolizing the strengthening of his character. Sacrifice and human fragility are frequent themes in the Harry Potter saga.

Harry develops relationships with his closest friends, Ron and Hermione (whom he is especially protective of because of her Muggle parentage), and adults who serve as mentors such as the wise headmaster Albus Dumbledore, good-natured Rubeus Hagrid, strict teacher Minerva McGonagall, and affectionate Arthur and Molly Weasley.



Their involvement with Harry, however, has repercussions such as Dumbledore's suspension and Hagrid's imprisonment.

Several characters have prominent roles in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. A thousand years ago, Hogwarts founder, Salazar Slytherin, built the secret chamber beneath the school after a disagreement with other school founders about admitting Muggle-born students. He planned for his heir to release the basilisk to slay future students that might be inferior and threatening to his ideas. Gilderoy Lockhart, the narcissistic Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, boastfully claims to be able to subdue evil creatures and craves publicity. He resents Harry's fame and is passive-aggressive in his efforts to wound Harry's ego.

Lockhart's name suggests that he is like a gilded locket, something that is attractive to gaze at but shallow. When he has the opportunity to become a true hero, Lockhart tries to injure Harry and Ron and loses his mind. Twins Fred and George Weasley help Harry escape from his room at the Dursleys' house by driving the flying car and repulsing Vernon Dursley's attempts to control Harry. This action mimics their position as Beaters on the Gryffindor Quidditch team.

Herbology Professor Sprout prepares the antidote to revive petrified students, and the ghostly Mr. Binns, who teaches the history of magic, provides clues about the chamber's history. Ginny Weasley has a crush on Harry and is easily manipulated, resulting in Voldemort invading Hogwarts and holding her hostage in the Chamber of Secrets. Hermione Granger is especially insecure after threatening messages warn that Muggle-born students will be exterminated. Her erratic behavior reinforces stereotypical images of females being moody and unreliable, yet she assertively procures ingredients to brew the Polyjuice Potion and figures out that the chamber's monster is a basilisk. Draco Malfoy, who promotes genocide at Hogwarts, seems draconian but is fooled to reveal his insecurities when Harry and Ron transform into his sidekicks, Goyle and Crabbe, in an attempt to learn who Slytherin's heir is. Harry encounters Draco's father Lucius Malfoy (an ally of Voldemort) whose name suggests an allegiance with Lucifer and who is extremely elitist and pretentious. When the Dursleys' business associates, the rigid Masons visit (foreshadowing later petrification in the novel), Harry is banished to his room, but Dobby causes Harry to be falsely accused of using magic off campus, alerting the Dursleys to this prohibition and intensifying their abuse of Harry.

By time-traveling through the enchanted diary, Harry learns why Hagrid was expelled from Hogwarts and encounters the behemoth spider Aragog, whom Hagrid saved from certain slaughter. Hagrid's love for creatures does not extend to Mrs. Norris, or squib (a non-magical wizard) caretaker Argus Filch's spying cat—who is the basilisk's first victim. The basilisk is an ancient serpent representing mythological beasts whose stare was deadly, signifying the blindness of racism (some modern lizards are also known as basilisks). Most animals are helpful. Dumbledore's pet phoenix Fawkes (suggesting Guy Fawkes and the historic British gunpowder plot) saves Harry in the Chamber of Secrets and represents the cycle of rebirth at Hogwarts as new students matriculate. Ghosts, including Nearly Headless Nick and Moaning Myrtle, propel the plot forward by

providing characters crucial information and reinforcing themes of exclusion and tolerance.



Style

Point of View

Rowling narrates "The Chamber of Secrets" through a third-person omniscient narrator. This means that we as readers often know more than the characters, and this creates suspense as we wait to see when the characters will discover what we already know. A good example of this is the character of Gilderoy Lockhart. Lockhart brags to the other characters throughout the novel that he is the best wizard at defeating the Dark Arts—something we know as readers to be untrue. He is finally put to the test when told to find the chamber and solve the problem of the attacks. We know he is incapable of doing this and are kept in suspense to find out how he escapes from the situation.

Although the narrative style is third person, we often identify with Harry and see the story through his eyes. We clearly identify with Harry when he has doubts about his true place in Gryffindor, and the animosity of other characters towards Harry when they believe he is the heir of Slytherin can also be keenly felt. Our perceptions of characters are influenced by Harry's attitude towards them; therefore, we admire Dumbledore and feel closer to Ron and Hermione than we do to Draco Malfoy, Snape or even Filch the caretaker, characters who clearly don't like Harry for their own personal reasons. Rowling's own viewpoint on different topics can also be discerned through the characters of Harry and Hermione. Harry's feelings towards his parents mirror Rowling's own in losing her mother to MS at an early age. Hermione is similar to Rowling in personality, and Rowling herself admits to identifying most with Hermione, so through Hermione we have an insight to the personality and character of JK Rowling.

Setting

The main setting of "The Chamber of Secrets" is the fictional location of Hogwarts. Hogwarts is a magical castle where wizards go to study for their OWL and NEWT exams. Although fictional, the education system at Hogwarts is very similar to the modern UK education system. Pupils attend Hogwarts for five years, and then sit standard for OWL exams; they then remain at school for a further two years to complete their higher NEWT exams.

Hogwarts and the world of magic exist in a parallel universe with that of the normal Muggle world. The setting for the Muggle world in "The Chamber of Secrets," is England. The station that the Hogwarts Express leaves from is King's Cross, a famous London train station. The streets where the friends buy their school equipment are also in London, Harry having traveled by underground to get his school things in the previous year. The Dursley's house and lifestyle is also typical of an English middle-class suburb.

Although the plot for the novel is a timeless theme of the battle of good and evil, the setting is clearly modern. Clues such as the modern transport system (the train to



Hogwarts, the flying car) and the use of modern technology (Colin Creevey's camera) set the novel firmly in modern times in the twentieth and twenty-first century.

Language and Meaning

The language used by Rowling is powerful and evocative for many reasons. Written in modern English in a fictional style to entertain readers, Rowling cleverly uses language to grab attention and paint clear pictures of events for her readers. Her writing style is highly descriptive and figurative. Her descriptions make use of a whole spectrum of techniques, from simple use of adverbs and adjectives to more complicated descriptions involving metaphors and similes. Rowling's figurative language allows us to understand exactly what the characters are experiencing. For her example, her powerful use of simile when describing the Basilisk attacking Fawkes on page 235 is extremely effective and vivid.

Another clever technique used by Rowling is her use of puns. Rowling uses pun for comic effect. Her words can be read on different levels. Whereas, a younger reader may not appreciate her subtle use of puns, an older reader is able to enjoy the humorous effect of her clever use of language. Good examples are the names of the streets where Harry and his friends go to shop. "Knock Turn Alley," is a street with a dark or evil reputation and when read phonetically is "nocturnally," with clear links to the night and dark doings. Another example is "Diagon Alley," which phonetically is "diagonally;" supposedly, this is the direction you travel when using Floo powder! Once these puns are noticed and appreciated by the reader, it is easy to spot more. An excellent example is "Voldemort," which when broken down into three different words, "vol-de-mort," can be translated from French to mean "full of death," These subtle uses of pun add a depth to the novel that make it popular with people of all ages.

Rowling also uses imaginary words and unusual words to create a unique effect. Some words she makes up herself, like "Muggle" and "Quidditch." Other words are taken from very old English, such as "Dumbledore," which is an old English word for "bumblebee," and "Hedwig," which is the name of a saint. Rowling's creative use of language makes her novels absorbing, with the reader transported to another world, a world where anything can and does happen, keeping the reader entertained and engrossed in the imaginative plots.

Structure

The Chamber of Secrets has a linear structure, with a clear beginning, middle, and end. The beginning of the novel reminds readers of previous events in the prequel novel, *The Philosopher's Stone*, and sets the scene for the action in *The Chamber of Secrets*. The beginning of the novel creates an exciting atmosphere where tension and suspense keep the reader on edge. Harry is imprisoned by the Dursleys, then rescued by Ron; the platform won't open to let them catch the train to Hogwarts so Ron and Harry fly to

Hogwarts in an enchanted car. The pace from the very beginning is fast, and the reader is hooked.

The middle of the novel is where the plot complications develop. The battle of good against evil is the main focus, with the good side struggling to succeed from the outset. Events escalate, with the good side suffering. The main tension lies in whether the good will succeed and rid the school of the evil Basilisk.

The ending of the novel is tense, centered on the battle between good and evil. Harry faces the evil Voldemort once more, and the reader is uncertain whether Harry will win. The ending is traditionally happy, with the good side defeating the evil side and celebrating the success.

The structure for "The Chamber of Secrets" is that of a modern fairy story. There is a hero, Harry; a villain, Voldemort; an impossible quest, defeating the Basilisk; a victim to be rescued, Ginny; and magical weapons used by the hero to help him succeed, Godric Gryffindor's sword, the Sorting Hat and Fawkes the phoenix. As in most fairy stories, we know that good will triumph over evil. The enjoyment lies in the impossible challenges faced by the hero and discovering how they are overcome.



Quotes

"Offend Dobby!" choked the elf. "Dobby has never been asked to sit down by a wizard - like an equal," Chapter 2, pg. 16

"Celebrity is as celebrity does," "fame's a fickle friend," Chapter 7, pg. 92

"Hearing voices no one else can hear isn't a good sign, even in the wizarding world."

Chapter 9, pg. 110

"Hogwarts was founded over a thousand years ago- the precise date is uncertain-by the four greatest wizards of the age□ Godric Gryffindor, Helga Hufflepuff, Rowena Ravenclaw and Salazar Slytherin." Chapter 9, pg. 114

"Slytherin, according to the legend, sealed the Chamber of Secrets so that none would be able to open it until his own true heir arrived at the school. The heir alone would be able to unseal the Chamber of Secrets, unleash the horror within and use it to purge the school of all who were unworthy to study magic." Chapter 9, pg. 114

"Hermione was pointing at the topmost pane, where around twenty spiders were scuttling, apparently fighting to get through a small crack in the glass. A long, silvery thread was dangling like a rope, as though they had all climbed it in their hurry to get outside," Chapter 9, pg. 117

"It'll be down to you, Harry, to show them that a Seeker has to have something more than a rich father." Chapter 10, pg. 126

"Harry Potter risks his own life for his friends!" Chapter 10, pg. 134

"I'll swear it in front o' the Ministry o' Magic if I have to□" Chapter 12, pg. 156

"I will only truly have left this school when none here are loyal to me. You will also find that help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it." Chapter 14, pg. 195

"Ron read the message, swallowed hard and looked sideways at the empty seat usually filled by Hermione. The sight seemed to stiffen his resolve," Chapter 15, pg. 200

"Spiders the size of carthorses, eight-eyed, eight-legged, black, hairy, gigantic."

Chapter 15, pg. 204

"The thing that lives in the castle," said Aragog, "is an ancient creature we spiders fear above all others." Chapter 15, pg. 206

"The adventure ends here, boys!" he said. "I shall take a bit of this skin back to the school, tell them I was too late to save the girl, and that you two tragically lost your



minds at the sight of her mangled body. Say goodbye to your memories!" Chapter 16, pg. 224

"Open up," he said. Except the words weren't what he heard; a strange hissing had escaped him, and at once the tap glowed with a brilliant white light and began to spin. Next second, the sink began to move. The sink, in fact, sank, right out of sight, leaving a large pipe exposed, a pipe wide enough for a man to slide into." Chapter 16, pg. 222

"Harry, shaking from head to foot, walked inside." Chapter 16, pg. 224

"The enormous serpent, bright, poisonous green, thick as an oak trunk," Chapter 17, pg. 235

"Now, Harry I'm going to teach you a little lesson. Let's match the powers of Lord Voldemort, Heir of Salazar Slytherin, against famous Harry Potter, and the best weapons Dumbledore can give him." Chapter 17, pg. 233

"You must have shown me real loyalty down in the Chamber. Nothing but that could have called Fawkes to you." Chapter 18, pg. 244

"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." Chapter 18, pg. 245

Adaptations

The sequel to Harry Potter and the Philosopher's/Sorcerer's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets has been released in audio adaptations: the British version is read by Stephen Fry, and the American recording is told by Jim Dale. A movie based on the first Harry Potter book will be released in November 2001. Many Harry Potter resources recommend books by Roald Dahl, Philip Pullman, L. Frank Baum, C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien, but many books with similar themes, characters, and plots as the Harry Potter novels are often overlooked.

These books include Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) in which the protagonist, like Harry in the Chamber, must figure out how to escape from a cave where he is trapped.

Racism is a recurring theme in Carolyn Meyer's books, including *White Lilacs* (1993), in which an early twentieth-century AfricanAmerican neighborhood is forced to relocate. That story's sequel, *Jubilee Journey* (1997), examines how biracial characters confront discrimination and develop identities much like the "mudbloods."

Drummers of Jericho (1995) depicts how a Jewish character is ostracized for refusing to form a cross and play hymns with the marching band. *Mary, Bloody Mary* (1999) explores attitudes toward illegitimacy and witchcraft as experienced by the aristocratic historical figures Mary Tudor and Anne Boleyn which result in those characters' banishment to servile roles much like Hagrid is expelled from Hogwarts.

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) is a classic novel about children confronting racism. Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976) is one of several books in which discrimination in school and society is the prevailing theme. Discovery of prejudices in others and self is the theme of Vicki Winslow, *Follow the Leader* (1997). In *Maizon at Blue Hill* (1992), Jacqueline Woodson examines racism encountered by a gifted African-American student at a boarding school and within her home community where she is accused of elitism and called an "oreo" somewhat like the derisive term "mudblood." Caroline B. Cooney's *Burning Up* (1999) reveals neighbors' racial biases, and *Autumn Street* by Lois Lowry (1980) shows how children can ignore racial differences and how words can be used to stereotype and reduce the stature of others.

The remote Melungeon community in Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's *Sang Spell* (1998) is reminiscent of the technology-free, confined space of Hogwarts. The landscape changes much like the castle's staircases and walls move. The mixed heritage of the settlers remind readers of the "mudbloods." The main character in *The Secret of Gumbo Grove* (1987) by Eleanora E. Tate solves a generations-old mystery in the local cemetery much like Harry figures out what the Chamber of Secrets contains. Jay Bennett's *Skinhead* (1991) explores the violent culture of teenaged white supremacists. The protagonist is a privileged boy who befriends a girl with a strange scar.



Nonfiction works which illuminate Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets include Susan Campbell Bartoletti's *Growing Up in Coal Country* (1996), a history of mining—including in underground tunnels—written for children, and Michael J. Neufield's scholarly tome, *The Rocket and the Reich: Peenemunde and the Coming of the Ballistic Missile Era* (1994), which analyzes how imprisoned Jewish laborers worked in underground cave-like German V-2 factories during World War II, hinting of some of the World War II motifs in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Although criticized for stereotyping the Deep South, Paul Hemphill's *The Ballad of Little River: A Tale of Race and Restless Youth in the Rural South* (2000) is a case study addressing why white teenagers burned a black Alabama church and examining the dynamics of racial violence. Representatives of the Southern Poverty Law Center which sponsors the Teaching Tolerance program, Morris Dees and James Corcoran documented the development of violent, paranoid hate groups in *Gathering Storm: America's Militia Threat* (1996).



Topics for Discussion

In what ways does evil triumph over good in the novel?

What role do animals play in the novel? How important are they?

Discuss the role of the Sorting Hat- how important is a sense of identity to Harry?

Loyalty is a key attribute of many characters. Who is the most loyal character and why?

Which character is the most evil and why?

Discuss the topic of power. Which characters are powerful and how do they demonstrate their power?

How does Rowling's use of descriptive language contribute to the overall effectiveness of the novel? Explain and give examples.

In what ways is "The Chamber of Secrets" a modern fairy story? Discuss with examples.

To what extent is it inevitable that good will triumph over evil? Discuss.

1. Should Harry have used his friends' magic to escape from his room in Dursleys' house? Did he have any alternatives?

2. Why do some wizards consider themselves superior to Muggle-born students? In what ways could their elitism and snobbery initiate conflict at Hogwarts and within the larger magical community?

3. Why are people racist? Are only evil characters in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets bigoted?

4. Explain how the terms "mudblood" and "squid" reveal characters' prejudices and why each victim is petrified.

What symbolic horrors does the Chamber of Secrets represent?

5. Discuss how Rowling uses caricatures, such as depicting unpleasant people like Dudley as grossly overweight, and how this might influence characters' and readers' prejudices regarding obese people. How could Rowling have achieved successful characterization without describing these people's physiques?

6. Is Harry's voice ever suppressed and by whom? Discuss how library restrictions and rules affected Harry, Ron, and Hermione in their attempt to solve the mystery. How does Harry learn about expected behavior and attitudes to express at Hogwarts and what does such expectations suggest about what people must do to be accepted in most



societies? What are the penalties for not conforming? Discuss how individual differences strengthen group identity and efforts. Why is it ironic that this book about discrimination has been targeted for censorship?

7. Explain how Harry is an amalgam of Muggle and wizard traits. In what ways do he and Tom Riddle seem similar? How do they contrast? Which of Harry's characteristics make him a sympathetic protagonist and which traits are unappealing? What traits dominate his personality and which ones are repressed? Should he change any of his behaviors?

8. Discuss how the Dursleys lied about Harry's heritage and how this deception influenced his magical powers and quest to avenge his parents' murders. As Harry discovers his ancestry, does he act elitist or snobbish or does he purposefully try to be humble?

9. Examine the roles of supernatural creatures in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets such as the Basilisk, Dobby, and slugs. How do these characters advance the plot? What do they symbolize? Do they share characteristics and motivations or do they serve an unique purpose in the novel?

10. Explain how Professor Lockhart's ego and narcissism causes him to claim credit for other wizard's acts of sacrifice and courage and why his actions are unethical. Should his victims receive some form of compensation, and, if so, what?



Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. Research the history of racism, comparing the sociological, cultural, and economic impact of prejudice at different points in history. Outline groups who have been targeted for racism and comment about how they were persecuted and what happened to their oppressors.

2. Write a report about the eugenics movement which sanctioned the reproduction only of wealthy, educated people with distinguished ancestors and the sterilization of impoverished people, often representing ethnic minorities or individuals of mixed-heritage. Could Slytherin, the Malfoys, and other elite wizards and witches be considered eugenicists?

3. Explain the scientific principles that cause petrification of organic materials and list the objects that are usually petrified. Locate geographical sites where petrified items can be located. Would it be possible for a human to be petrified and survive? Discuss what petrification symbolizes in science and literature.

4. Research the human discovery and exploration of caves and subterranean spaces, describing how caves have been used for such purposes as shelters in war and to hide smuggled goods. Locate the site of several caves on a world map and write a report about a major cave system such as the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky.

5. Locate information about a hate crime that occurred recently and compare that incident with an historic act of racial violence, such as a nineteenth-century lynching. Why was the victim selected? Who were the perpetrators and did they represent an organized group or did they act individually? Why were they prejudiced? Were they punished?

How did the community react?

6. Write a paper about a group segregated because of their ethnic heritage such as how Japanese-Americans were placed in internment camps during World War II and how Japanese-American soldiers fought courageously but were denied deserved Medals of Honor until the year 2000.

7. Discuss how affirmative action paradoxically helps and hinders minorities seeking employment opportunities and admission to schools. How does reverse discrimination affect the community? Comment on how racism affects politics.

8. Research the history of a specific extremist separatist movement such as the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nation, neoNazi skinheads, or militias. Compare that group's beliefs and organization with those of a group, such as the B'Nai B'Rith Anti-Defamation League, which counters racial violence. How does each group convey a message of righteousness and validity?



9. Write a paper about how rhetoric and propaganda influence public opinion.

Discuss how movies such as D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" (1915) reinforce racists' justifications to achieve a purely white culture. How can misinformation cause paranoia and belief in conspiracies?

10. List stereotypes of ethnic groups such as Native Americans. Note how each group's ethnic identity was preserved or destroyed through interaction and acculturation with other groups. Do members of the ethnic groups feel as if they belong to the larger group? Comment how genocide and segregation, such as the Holocaust and apartheid, affected group identity and how targeted minorities resisted such as protesting racist laws during the American Civil Rights Movement.



Further Study

Estes, Sally. Review of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Booklist (May 15, 1999).

Declares that "Harry Potter's exploits during his second year at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry completely live up to the bewitching measure of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, a Booklist Editors' Choice, 1998." Emphasizes that "The mystery, zany humor, sense of a traditional British school,...

student rivalry, and eccentric faculty, all surrounded by the magical foundation so necessary in good fantasy, are as expertly crafted here as in the first book" and predicts that fans will not be disappointed."

Hainer, Cathy. "Second Time's Still a Charm for Spellbinding Saga." USA Today (May 27, 1999): 1-D. Review of Rowling's second book which states, "Those needing a hit of magic, morality and mystical worlds can do no better than opening Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Jerome, Helen M. "Welcome Back Potter."

Book: The Magazine for Reading Life (May/ June 2000): 40-45. A feature article which chronicles Rowling's rise to fame, including a time line of significant events in her life and discussing experiences which influenced her literary creation of the Harry Potter novels.

Jones, J. Sydney. "Rowling, J(oanne) K."

Something about the Author, Detroit, MI: Gale, 2000, Volume 109, p. 199. Biographical sketch of Rowling with a list of resources.

Lipson, Eden Ross. "Books' Quirky Hero and Fantasy Wins Young Minds." New York Times (July 12, 1999): E-1. Explores why the second Harry Potter book is internationally popular and compares reading habits of boys and girls.

Parravano, Martha V. "Review of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Horn Book Magazine 75 (July/August 1999): 472-473. Does not wholly endorse the novel although Parravano says "The atmosphere Rowling creates is unique; the story whizzes along; Harry is an unassuming and completely sympathetic hero." Criticizes the text for being a bit formulaic.

Rogers, Susan L. Review of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. School Library Journal, July 1, 1999. States "Fans of the phenomenally popular Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Scholastic, 1998) won't be disappointed when they rejoin Harry." Praises Rowling's writing because "The novel is marked throughout by the same sly and



sophisticated humor found in the first book, along with inventive, new, matter-of-fact uses of magic that will once again have readers longing to emulate Harry and his wizard friends."

Schafer, Elizabeth D. *Beacham's Source Books for Exploring Young Adult Fiction: Harry Potter*. Osprey, FL: Beacham Publishing, 2000. A comprehensive, interdisciplinary analysis of the Harry Potter books which elaborates about literary components of the series. Provides citations for diverse resources, including reviews and web sites, about Rowling and the Harry Potter series. Updates and additional information are posted at: <http://www.beachampublishing.com/>.



Copyright Information

Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction

Editor

Kirk H. Beetz, Ph.D.

Cover Design

Amanda Mott

Cover Art is "Pierrot," 1947, by William Baziotès Oil on Canvas, 42 1/8 x 36 Donated by the Alisa Mellon Bruce Fund, ©, 1996 Reproduced with Permission from the Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction

Includes bibliographical references and index

Summary: A multi-volume compilation of analytical essays on and study activities for the works of authors of popular fiction. Includes biography data, publishing history, and resources for the author of each analyzed work.

ISBN 0-933833-41-5 (Volumes 1-3, Biography Series)

ISBN 0-933833-42-3 (Volumes 1-8, Analyses Series)

ISBN 0-933833-38-5 (Entire set, 11 volumes)

1. Popular literature—Bio-bibliography. 2. Fiction—19th century—Bio-bibliography. 3. Fiction—20th century—Bio-bibliography. I. Beetz, Kirk H., 1952-

Z6514.P7B43 1996[PN56.P55]809.3—dc20 96-20771 CIP

Copyright ©, 1996, by Walton Beacham. All rights to this book are reserved. No part of this work may be used or reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or in any information or storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owner, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, write the publisher, Beacham Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 830, Osprey, FL 34229-0830

Printed in the United States of America First Printing, November 1996