

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban Study Guide

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J. K. Rowling

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Overview

The third novel of Rowling's wizard saga revolves around themes of betrayal and forgiveness. Harry Potter realizes that people and creatures are often not who they appear to be, and those perceptions of friends and enemies are sometimes misleading. This novel's complex plot and themes symbolize teenaged Harry's maturation since the first Harry Potter book and reveal his increased self-confidence and control over his insecurities. In the beginning of the book, public hysteria over the escape of the notorious mass murderer Sirius Black from the wizard prison, Azkaban, results in heightened security at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry first hears of Black's escape while watching news with the Dursleys. He is upset when Vernon Dursley refuses to sign his permission slip to visit Hogsmeade, the magical village adjacent to Hogwarts that only third year students and older can roam, unless Harry acts appropriately, in Vernon's opinion, when his sister Marge visits. After an emotionally devastating encounter with Aunt Marge, Harry flees from his guardians' home.

Wandering the neighborhood, Harry is afraid that he will be banished from Hogwarts for using magic vengefully against Marge.

He sees an alarming black dog and is rescued by the Knight Bus that deposits him at a boarding house called the Leaky Cauldron where he seeks sanctuary until school begins. While waiting for school to begin, Harry learns that the black dog he saw is a Grim, a death omen. His friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger eventually join Harry at the hotel. As the friends prepare to go back to school, Harry overhears Arthur and Molly Weasley discuss their fears that the fugitive Black will murder Harry because of comments that he reportedly muttered while sleeping in prison; they do not realize that Black is actually seeking Harry to protect him from the true culprit, Peter Pettigrew. Harry discovers that twelve years earlier Black was accused of betraying his parents whereabouts to Lord Voldemort thus exposing them to his murderous rage.

Black was also blamed for killing thirteen Muggles with one curse when he was apprehended on a public street. Harry is not concerned, though, because he believes that he will be safe at school where Albus Dumbledore will ensure his security.

At Hogwarts, Harry tries to resume his normal school schedule but is hindered by people's concern for his safety. While he enjoys his classes, Harry continues to endure antagonism from his rival, Draco Malfoy, and suffers excruciating nightmares.

Seeing the Grim on campus, Harry worries about Black pursuing him. Harry falls from his broom, losing his first Quidditch match.

He is frightened when Black breaks into his Gryffindor dormitory room.

Harry is especially appalled by the Dementors, the menacing hooded Azkaban prison guards who linger around campus, figuratively paralyzing Harry physically and emotionally. With the aid of his Invisibility Cloak and the Marauder's Map, given to him



by the Weasley twins, Harry explores the subterranean tunnels leading to Hogsmeade where he learns more about the circumstances of his parents' murder and becomes enraged at Black's duplicity. Presented a Firebolt from an anonymous gift giver, Harry is upset when the broomstick is confiscated because Professor McGonagall fears that it is cursed. Harry practices with Lupin to learn how to deflect the Dementors' paralyzing effect on him by focusing on happiness to prevent him from hearing his parents' death shrieks.

Manipulating time, Harry and Hermione intervene to rescue Hagrid's Hippogriff, Buckbeak, from execution in an eerie subplot that parallels the Dementors' vengeful search for Black. At the book's climax in the Shrieking Shack, Harry is confronted by truths and falsehoods, forcing him to react morally instead of emotionally and to be self-sacrificing instead of selfish. He learns the dangers of false accusations and the fleeting nature of freedom, both physical and mental. Although some of his innocence is lost, Harry continues to have faith in himself and his decisions and acknowledges that some of his mentors, especially Dumbledore, are fallible and cannot always protect him.

About the Author

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born on July 31, 1965, in Gloucestershire, England. The daughter of Peter and Anne Rowling, an engineer and laboratory technician, respectively, she developed her interest in literature and writing during her childhood in rural southwestern England.

In addition to her parents buying books, mostly British children's classics, and reading aloud to Joanne and her sister Diana, Rowling created fantasy tales about rabbits, one of her favorite animals, to amuse her sister. Rowling enjoyed roaming the countryside near her home, viewing historical sites and castles that sparked her imagination. She also played with neighbor children named the Potters. Their games often involved fantastical elements such as pretending to be wizards and witches much like Rowling's fictional protagonist and his friends.

At school, the teenage Rowling favored literature courses and disliked mathematics and chemistry classes. Writing funny stories to amuse her classmates, Rowling dreamed of some day publishing a book that she would see for sale in stores but kept her ambitions private in fear of discouragement. Rowling also worried about her mother's health. Ann Rowling was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1980. Despite her angst, Rowling became more confident and earned high grades. She was selected Head Girl during her last year of school.

Rowling enrolled at Exeter University where she majored in Classics and French, both subjects which she utilized in her fictional creations. She later used her scholarly background to create the clever plots, archetypes, and allusions that make the Harry Potter books so appealing. The Harry Potter novels have a mythological foundation, and some characters and places have French-derived names. Rowling's parents had advised her to study languages in order to secure steady employment as a bilingual secretary. While she was in college, Rowling earned credits as an auxiliary teacher in Paris. This experience later influenced her to teach English as a second language. Rowling held a variety of positions, including researching human rights issues for Amnesty International and performing office work in Manchester. Her job with a surveillance equipment manufacturer inspired some of her inventive devices used by the characters in the Harry Potter saga.

Disliking her clerical tasks, mainly because she was disorganized, Rowling often wrote at work, scribbling notes about characters and settings on office memos and sketching drawings of her characters. She completed some fiction for adult readers but did not submit it for publication because she questioned its quality. She also often traveled to see her mother whose health was worsening. Riding a train because she does not drive automobiles, Rowling daydreamed on her journeys. She has related in several interviews that it was during a delay on one of these trips in 1990 that she experienced an epiphany about Harry Potter, an orphaned wizard, who "just strolled into my head fully formed." Lacking a pen and paper, Rowling brainstormed her idea then rushed home to jot down details about characters and settings.



Rowling planned to write seven books which would tell about Harry's adventures at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and his confrontations with evil characters. She decided that each novel would focus on one year of Harry's life at school from the age of eleven to seventeen when he would become a mature wizard. While Harry gained information about his family and identity, he also would seek vengeance for his parents' murder, discover his magical heritage, and secure sanctuaries where good wizards and witches could peacefully thrive. By carefully planning each novel, Rowling skillfully placed subtle clues in the text that readers later recognize as crucial to characterization and plot development.

Rowling's mother died in 1990, following which she decided to move to Oporto, Portugal, to teach English as a second language. She wrote about Harry Potter in the mornings before teaching her classes in the afternoon and at night. During this time, 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 encouraged Rowling to complete her first Harry Potter novel—Rowling had shipped home boxes of manuscript drafts and notes that she had worked on in Portugal. Although the media emphasizes that Rowling was on public assistance during this time, Rowling clarifies that she reluctantly accepted such welfare because she was initially unable to find work that paid a sufficient salary for her to afford suitable childcare for Jessica. When possible, Rowling began teaching in a local school.

Admitting that this period of her life was extremely difficult, Rowling says that the despair and depression that she experienced are what inspired her to create the joyless Dementors in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. She emphasizes that the Dementors symbolize the affects of depression, and how it can suck happiness out of people.

Rowling continued writing the first Harry Potter novel for her personal entertainment, solace, and sense of accomplishment. She did not envision her novel as a children's book and did not create her fiction with any specific age group of readers in mind. She sent her manuscript to agent Christopher Little who recognized Rowling's literary talent and began submitting the book to British publishers. London's Bloomsbury Press bought Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in 1996. The next year, Scholastic Corporation purchased the rights to publish the book in the United States, replacing the word "philosopher" with "sorcerer" in the title to attract American readers. The Scottish Arts Council gave Rowling a grant, the largest sum ever given to a children's writer, to complete her second book, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Her third novel, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, was published in 1999 and nominated for the prestigious Whitbread Award, which was presented to Seamus Heaney's Beowulf in January 2000, sparking heated exchanged amongst judges, many of whom did not think that a children's book should be considered for the award. Rowling's fourth novel, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, was simultaneously released in Great Britain and the United States. Hype surrounding the publication of the fourth Harry Potter book saturated print and broadcast media, and Rowling toured Great Britain in a replica of the Hogwarts Express. She sold the Harry Potter film and merchandising rights to Warner

Brothers, and toys began appearing in stores in 2000. The first Harry Potter movie was cast in the summer of 2000 and scheduled for release in autumn 2001.

Both reviewers and readers have praised Rowling. She has won numerous awards, including the Smarties Prize for her first three books, and topped bestseller lists worldwide. Because the Harry Potter books dominated the New York Times bestseller list for so long, that newspaper created a separate list specifically for children's books.

In 2000, Rowling was named Author of the Year at the British Book Awards and received honorary doctorates from her alma mater, the University of Exeter, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Now a celebrity, Rowling has been the featured reader at charity events and celebrations including the White House Easter egg roll.

Appealing to a diverse audience of all ages and ethnicities, the Harry Potter books have been lauded by many as a catalyst for a cultural phenomenon that promotes literacy and humanity. Millions of copies of Rowling's books have been printed in more than thirty languages and sold in over one hundred countries. In contrast, the dark themes in Rowling's novels have caused some conservative groups to attempt to ban the books from classrooms and school libraries. Rowling herself asserts that she does not believe in witchcraft, and that her stories emphasize the triumph of goodness and morality over maliciousness and corruption. She also contends that children deserve to know the realities of evil.



Plot Summary

It is Harry Potter's third year at Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The book starts out with Harry getting some revenge on his Uncle Vernon's sister, who has come for a visit and has been berating him for years. When she begins to viciously insult his parents, however, Harry finally snaps and puts a spell on her. This incident causes him to flee the Dursley's in anger and frustration over the years of bad treatment in their home.

As he heads off down the street, he is dreading his expulsion from Hogwart's for performing underage magic. Much to his surprise, he is not expelled and the Minister of Magic himself appears at the Leaky Cauldron to tell him that he is not in trouble. Instead, he must stay indoors. Sirius Black, a murderer, had escaped from Azkaban the wizard's prison. He is very dangerous and the ministry is concerned about Harry's safety.

Sirius Black turns out to have been the best friend of Harry's parents and it is thought that he betrayed them to Voldemort. He had led the Dark Wizard to them and thus, it was due to him that they were killed. It is assumed by all the Hogwart's staff and by the Ministry of Magic, that Sirius will try to come after Harry. Dementors, which are Azkaban prison guards, are posted at Hogwart's to capture Sirius Black. The Dementors, however, cause all forms of mayhem in their pursuit if the escaped prisoner.

We are introduced to yet another, new Defense Against the Dark Arts instructor, Professor Lupin. He was also a friend of Harry's parents and has joined the staff to teach this ill fated class.

Lupin turns out to be one of Harry, Ron and Hermione's favorite teachers. However, the teacher has a dark secret. He is a werewolf and must take a strong potion every time the moon is full to prevent his transformation and the imminent destruction of any in his path.

Harry, Ron and Hermione find out that Sirius Black may not have been the one who betrayed his parents. They are surprised to find out who the real traitor is and attempt to bring him to justice, only to have him escape. Sirius is captured and held on Hogwart's ground falsely, but no one can prove his innocence. He is about to be executed, when Harry and Hermione create a plan to save his and another innocent's lives.

It is the escape of Sirius Black and the resulting truth of what happened on the night of James and Lilly Potters murder, that is the central plot of this story. Much mayhem, mystery and magic work their way into the plot in generous doses. The book answers many questions from the previous two books and ends with questions unanswered. The reader's curiosity is peaked, as anticipation deepens for the next book in the series.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Harry Potter is a young wizard. He lives with his non-magical, or "Muggle," Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon and Cousin Dudley at number four Privet Drive. It is summer vacation from his school of magic, but he does not see it as much of a holiday. He is about to turn thirteen years old and it has grown increasingly hard for him to endure his relations' verbal abuse and emotional neglect. It has become more difficult, not only because he is getting older and thus less tolerant of their ignorance, but also since he has found out he is a wizard.

It is very difficult for him, as he is not allowed to practice his lessons or do his homework in the Dursley's house. He has to sneak his books into his room and do his homework by wand light. Still, it is decided by the Headmaster of his school, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, that Harry continue to live with these relations until he is old enough to be on his own. It is the safest place for him since the murder of his parents when he was an infant. It is believed that their murderer, the dark wizard, Voldemort, is still at large in some form. Harry needs to be kept out of reach of this wizard, who ultimately wants to kill him.

Even though Harry is not allowed calls or visits from his friends, he does receive birthday cards and gifts via his owl companion and message carrier, Hedwig, as well as deliveries from his friends' own owls. His best friends from school, Ron and Hermione, do their best to stay in touch with him. He looks forward to spending some time with Ron and his family before the start of the term. He has five more long weeks till the start of the term.

Presently, Harry's biggest concern is getting his Aunt or Uncle to sign a permission slip, which will allow him to go to Hogsmeade Village. The Village is an area of shops and Inns that caters exclusively to the wizarding community. Third year students and above are allowed to go to Hogsmeade on occasional weekends; if they have a signed permission slip.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Harry is allowed no phone calls or visits and he has no friends in town. His cousin Dudley, his Aunt and Uncle are terrible people and take advantage of every opportunity to give Harry a hard time. While other children his age look forward to the coming school year with dread, Harry looks forward to the freedom and friendship he knows awaits him.

The reader again meets Harry on the eve of his thirteenth birthday. This chapter is written for new readers who are not familiar with Harry Potter, as well as for veteran

readers of the series. It is a balance between introducing the history of the books for novices and filling in old readers on some new facts and information.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The Dursley's receive a visit from Uncle Vernon's sister Marge, who Harry is forced to call Aunt Marge. It is the day of Harry's birthday, but the Dursley's don't even acknowledge it.

Aunt Marge is a nasty woman, who never been married and had children. Instead, she has a dog, just as nasty as she is. She dotes on the dog and feeds it from her plate. She despises Harry and fawns over Dudley. She makes it clear that she thinks Harry is a burden to her brother and sister-in-law; and she believes Harry is a good-for-nothing child that should consider himself grateful for his life with the Dursleys.

After they all have had dinner, Harry gets busy cleaning up the dinner mess. Aunt Marge, who has been given a glass of after-dinner brandy, begins to pontificate on how rotten she thinks Harry really is. She warms to her subject and begins to turn to his parents as the cause of his obvious inbred deficiencies. Harry tries to remind himself that he needs to be nice, so that he can get his permission slip signed. His Uncle Vernon has said that he will sign it if the visit with Marge goes well.

She is obviously inebriated when she finally she goes over the line. She says that Harry's parents were probably drunk when they died in the car crash and left him a burden to his poor Aunt and Uncle. Harry is angry and shouts that they did not die in a car crash. Marge begins screaming at him, her face swelling with fury. Suddenly, she stops talking as her red face begins to expand, her eyes bulge and she inflates like a tweed-covered hot air balloon. Marge then slowly begins to rise off the chair and floats into the air.

Harry makes a mad dash to his room and shoves his things into his trunk. He grabs Hedwig's empty cage and heads back downstairs. His Uncle Vernon runs after him, screaming at him to fix his sister right now. Harry is overcome with reckless rage and points his wand at his Uncle. He tells him that he is going and that his sister deserved what she got. Harry goes out the door and into the dark night, dragging his trunk behind him.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Aunt Marge is a horror and Harry just does not have the tolerance to stand her or the Dursleys any longer. There is no doubt in his mind, or the readers, that Marge got what she deserved. Harry has grown and changed since his first year at Hogwart's. He is no longer alone in the world and he has people who love and respect him. He also knows the truth about his parents. They were good, brave people. While it would seem that this would make it easier for him to live with the Dursley's, it is quite the opposite. As the

saying goes, ignorance is bliss. Now Harry's life is in upheaval, as he recognizes a better life, without the ill-treatment of the Dursleys and Aunt Marge.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Harry walks for a while and then collapses onto a low wall several streets away from Privet Drive. Once his anger wears off, he realizes that he is alone, stranded and will most likely be expelled from Hogwart's for performing underage magic. He contemplates what he is to do. He decides that his best bet would be to use a little more magic to get to London to make a withdrawal from Gringotts Wizards Bank. He will use his invisibility cloak, his broom and some magic to lighten the weight of his trunk so that he can fly unseen to London. He searches in his trunk for his cloak, when he senses something watching him from the shadows.

Harry lights his wand and sees a large, dark, hulking form across the way in the alley in front of him. He backs away and trips over his trunk. As he gets up, he is blinded by a bright light in the road. A triple-decker bus appears in the street before him with the name *The Knight Bus* spelled out on the windshield. A conductor, Stan Shunpike, leaps from the bus and tells him that the bus is emergency transport for stranded witches and wizards. Stan then invites Harry aboard and asks for his destination. Harry gets on the bus, pays Stan and asks to be taken to London.

As the bus flies through the streets at light speed, Harry notices that Stan is reading the Daily Prophet. Harry sees a picture of a crazy looking man on the front page, with the headline "Black Still at Large." Harry asks Stan if he could see the paper and reads the article. Sirius Black, the most infamous and dangerous prisoner of Azkaban, has escaped and is still at large. Stan tells Harry that Black was a loyal follower of Voldemort.

The bus arrives at the Leaky Cauldron and Harry goes to leave. He sees that Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic, is in front of the Inn, apparently waiting for Harry to arrive. Harry's heart turns cold at the sight of him. He believes he is there to arrest him for what he has done to Vernon's sister Marge.

To Harry's surprise, Fudge is not there to expel or arrest him. He is there to make sure he does not stray from the area until it is time to leave for Hogwart's. Harry begs Fudge to sign his Hogsmeade permission slip, but he cannot or will not. The Minister then leaves, warning Harry, again, not to leave the area of Diagon Alley. Luckily, Hedwig has also turned up at the Leaky Cauldron in anticipation of Harry's arrival there.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Sirius Black is a very ominous and mysterious figure. Black is obviously very dangerous, so dangerous that the Minister of Magic feels the needs to warn Harry about him personally. Harry is quite relieved that he will not be expelled or sent to Azkaban for

his indiscretion. He is also a little confused by Fudge's concern for him in regard to Sirius Black and his refusal to sign the permission slip.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Harry greatly enjoys his new freedom. For the first time in his life, he can get out of bed when he wants, eat when he feels like it and come and go as he pleases. He heads down to Diagon Alley to gather his books and supplies for his third year at Hogwart's. While getting his third year books, he sees a book about death omens on a table in the book shop. On the cover is a image of a large black dog with gleaming eyes; it looks strangely like the figure he saw in the alley just before the arrival of the Knight Bus.

On the last day of the summer holiday, Ron and Hermione surprise Harry by showing up to meet him for the day. Ron's dad had told them he was staying at the Leaky Cauldron. He fills them in on the past five week's events and walks with them as they shop for their own school supplies. Hermione purchases a rather large orange magical cat named Crookshanks. Ron's own magical creature, a rat named Scabbers, is a hand-me-down from his brothers. He is not too fond of Hermione's new companion. The two immediately start to go at it and Ron tells Hermione to return the nasty cat to the shop. She refuses to do so.

Ron's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Weasley and his brothers join them all at the Leaky Cauldron. Ron's sister is now a student of Hogwart's and has a huge crush on Harry. That night, Harry overhears Mr. Weasley telling Mrs. Weasley the reason the Ministry is so concerned about Harry is that they have reason to believe that Black wants to target Harry specifically. They have put Azkaban guards outside the school to safeguard it and hopefully catch the outlaw. Harry keeps having visions of the "death omen" from the alley way in his head.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Harry has never in his life been allowed to do as he pleases. At the Dursleys, he had to live under their strict rules and regulations. Even though he had a little more freedom at Hogwart's, at least on the weekends, he still had to follow school rules and be up for classes. It is a great revelation to him to experience being on his own and do whatever he pleases. He does not, however, take advantage of his new freedom. He pays heed to Fudge's warning to stay at the Inn for the remainder of the summer.

Harry is sure the dog-like creature he saw in the dark alley is the same one featured on the death omen book's cover. He now has a feeling of dread with the added knowledge that Sirius Black, an escaped murder and assumed "Death Eater," (or follower of Voldemort) may be looking for him specifically. He still does not know exactly why the escaped prisoner of Azkaban would be looking for him.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Mr. Weasley, who works for the Ministry of Magic, drives them all to the train station to catch Hogwart's Express to the school. Just as they are all about to board the train, Mr. Weasley pulls Harry to the side and makes him promise that he won't go looking for Black. Harry is taken aback by this request and asks Ron's father why he would go looking for someone who was trying to kill him

Harry, Ron and Hermione try to find an empty compartment, but they are all full. They finally find a nearly empty one with a man in shabby robes asleep in a corner. They decide to stay in the compartment, despite the sleeping stranger .

They notice that the sleeping man's luggage tag says "Professor R. . Lupin" and Hermione surmises that he must be the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, as it is the only vacancy at the school. Harry tells his friends about the overheard conversation from the night before and also about Ron's fathers warning to not go looking for Sirius Black. Ron and Hermione are both perplexed by all of this and wonder why Black would be after Harry or why Harry would ever want to go looking for him.

Suddenly, the train starts rolling to a stop and all the lights go out. The compartments are thrown into pitch darkness. They hear noises outside and they hear someone tell them to be quiet. It is Professor Lupin, who has suddenly awoken. He stands to go towards the door with a light in his hand, but before he can get there it slides open. A dark, very tall, cloaked, hooded figure enters. It is not a man, but its hand resembles that of a skeleton with decaying skin left on it. The thing takes a slow inward breath and they are all swept with in intense coldness. The coldness hits Harry very hard and seems to enter his heart. He begins to pass out, as he feels the coldness dragging him under and hears pleading, terrified screams as darkness overcomes him.

A Dementor had come into the compartment. Harry finds out that Dementors are the guards of Azkaban. Lupin had to set a spell on it to make it release Harry. No one but Harry had passed out and only Ginny, Ron's sister, seemed to have lasting effects. Harry is embarrassed that he reacted so strongly when the others seemed unaffected.

The train arrives at Hogwart's and they proceed to the first night feast. Headmaster Dumbledore announces the addition of Lupin to the staff and also the appointment of Hagrid as the Care of Magical Creatures instructor.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Harry once again has a lot to contend with on his first night back at Hogwart's. He has a madman after him, the Dementors seem to have some horrible effect on him and he can't get his pass to Hogsmeade signed by anyone. Nevertheless, when he arrives in

his dorm room, he feels like he has come home. Harry is bewildered as to why the Dementor's seem to only affect him and is embarrassed about it. He has worked very hard at showing others that he is brave and strong, only to have everyone treating him like he can't take care of himself and needs constant supervision.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

The next day at breakfast, Malfoy is taunting Harry about his episode with the Dementor's. As Ron, Hermione and Harry look over their schedules, Ron realizes that Hermione has got ten classes a day. He asks her how she is supposed to be getting to all of them. She vaguely tells him it's fine and that it's all cleared with McGonagall.

Their first class is Divination with Sibyll Trelawney. Her classroom is at the top of a trap door in the ceiling and they must climb a silvery ladder to enter it. The students listen to her talk for about five minutes and Ron, Harry and Hermione promptly decide she is a fake. Their first lesson is to read each other's tea leaves. Trelawney takes Harry's teacup, which Ron is attempting to read and gasps and tells him he has "The Grim." A Grim is a dog that haunts churchyards. It is the omen of death.

Their next class is Transfiguration. McGonagall tells them about Animagus, or wizards who can transform into animals; but no one seems to be listening. She asks them what is wrong and Hermione tells her they just had Divination. McGonagall dryly asks them who is to die this year. She tells them that Divination is the most imprecise branch of magic and that they should not take it too seriously. Harry and the rest of the class are somewhat relieved by this news and McGonagall's apparent distaste for the subject and the professor who teaches it.

Their next class is with Hagrid near his hut and the Forbidden Forest. Hagrid greets them with several Hippogriffs tethered to a fence. Hagrid asks for volunteers, but no one will step forward except Harry, Ron and Hermione. Hagrid tells them that Hippogriffs are proud creatures and that they should never insult one. They must be approached politely.

Hagrid brings one of the creatures closer and he asks Harry to come forward. He tells him to bow to the Hippogriff, whose name is Buckbeak. The creature bows back and Hagrid instructs Harry to carefully pat it on the beak. He then tells Harry that he should be able to ride Buckbeak now. To Harry's astonishment, Buckbeak flies him around the paddock and back to Hagrid and the other students. All merrily applaud, except for Malfoy.

Malfoy, who is very jealous of Harry's success, walks straight up to Buckbeak and insults him. The Hippoglyph promptly slashes Malfoy's arm with its talons. Malfoy claims that he is dying and is going to bleed to death, as there is some blood coming from the gash. Hagrid picks him up from the ground and takes him to the hospital wing of the school.



Chapter 6 Analysis

Harry has had a harrowing first day of classes. He is told he is going to die; he is forced to ride a wild Hippogriff; and his friend Hagrid is in trouble, due to Malfoy's ignorance and intent on making the most of his injury to get Hagrid fired from his job. The reader is again confronted with the contrast of Harry's bravery, compared to Malfoy's cowardice and false bravado. Harry, despite Hermione's objections and McGonagall's reassurances, still has a feeling of foreboding in connection with the dog he saw before the term started.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

The next day, they have Potions with Snape. Professor Snape makes the lives of all but the students of his own house, Slytherin, miserable. They find out during potions that Sirius Black has been spotted near the area of the school.

Hermione keeps appearing unexpectedly and Ron is confused as to why she is carrying so many books with her. Their next class after lunch is Defense Against the Dark Arts with Professor Lupin. He is the same Lupin who saved Harry from the Dementor on the train ride to school.

The lesson starts with a lesson about Boggart's, shape shifting spirits who become whatever their victim's worst fear is. He tells the students they must think of something funny to deflect the Boggarts and also cast the spell "Riddikulus!." Lupin releases a Boggart and calls the students up one by one to try the spell out.

First, Neville turns the Boggart into Snape, wearing his grandmother's clothes, which in turn makes them all laugh and confuses the Boggart. Then, Ron is confronted with a huge spider, his worst fear, which he turns into a spider on roller skates. All the students go in turn, until Harry is before the Boggart. It is just about to change form when Lupin jumps in front of Harry. The spirit turns into a shiny orb which becomes a cockroach with the Riddikulus spell cast by Lupin. Lupin dismisses class for the day and Harry is put out that Lupin did not allow him to try on his own.

The class is a big success and everyone immediately loves Lupin, even Hermione. Only Harry seems upset by the class and Lupin jumping in front of him before he's had a chance to cast the spell on his own.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Harry wonders if Lupin has stopped him from trying the Riddikulus spell because of what happened on the train. He thinks that Lupin must think he would pass out again if he were confronted with the Boggart. He is upset and annoyed at Lupin's actions.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Lupin quickly becomes the students' favorite professor. All but Malfoy are happy with his class and all Malfoy can say is that his robes are shabby. The rest of Harry's classes are not going as well. Potions is a difficult task, with Snape constantly harassing him and his friends. Divination is boring and odd.

Ron's rat, Scabbers and Hermione's cat, Crookshanks, are fighting constantly now. As a result, Ron and Hermione are fighting as well. The cat is relentless in the pursuit of the rat, who seems to be losing weight and acting oddly.

It is Halloween day and the long awaited trip to Hogsmeade has arrived for the third year students. Harry cannot go along, because he does not have a signed permission slip. He wishes his friends a good time and decides to go get some homework done.

Harry passes Lupin's office and the Professor invites him in for a cup of tea, asking where his friends are today. Harry tells him about Hogsmeade and then asks him why he jumped in front of him and the Boggart. Lupin tells him that he was afraid that the Boggart would turn into Voldemort. Harry is surprised at his honesty and at the fact that Lupin is the only one, besides himself and Headmaster Dumbledore; he has ever heard call the dark wizard by his proper name. Harry tells him that he was not thinking of Voldemort, but of the Dementors. Lupin is impressed by this. He tells Harry that his action indicates that what he fears most is fear itself.

Professor Snape enters the office with a goblet in his hand. He tells Lupin that he should drink it right away. Harry asks why he needs a potion from Snape and he tells him that he has not been feeling well and Snape has been kind enough to make it for him.

After Harry's talk with Lupin, he heads back to the dorm. Ron and Hermione soon come into the common room, dumping sweets on his lap and telling him all about their trip. They all head down to the Great Hall for the Halloween Feast.

When they return back to their dorm after dinner, they find that the fat lady is gone and her portrait has been slashed to shreds. Headmaster Dumbledore comes to the Gryffindor dorm and is very upset by what he sees. Peeves shows up and tells the Headmaster that it was Sirius Black who has shredded the painting, because the fat lady would not let him enter the dorm.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Harry is very forlorn that he does not get to go to Hogsmeade. He is even more upset to see his new favorite professor drinking a potion made by Snape. He fears that Snape is



trying to poison Lupin. Harry is proud that Lupin tells him that he is wise to only fear the emotion of fear itself. He's also impressed that Lupin says Voldemort's correct name. There are many hints in this chapter, as it is getting near the midpoint of the book. Even with all the Dementor's outside, Sirius Black has managed to get into the school.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

All the students are rounded up into the Great Hall. The staff needs to do a complete search of the school. The students will be spending the night in the Hall and Dumbledore sets them all up with sleeping bags before leaving.

Later on in the night, Harry, still awake, overhears Dumbledore and Snape talking. Snape reminds the Headmaster that he thought Black could have outside help getting into the school. Dumbledore cuts the conversation short and leaves the Hall. Snape seems angry.

Classes get back underway and Harry arrives late to Lupin's class, only to find Snape in his place. Harry asks where Lupin is and Snape tells him that he is too ill to teach today. Snape decides to cover werewolves for the lesson, although the subject is not to start for weeks. He then assigns them a long essay on the subject of werewolves, due on Monday.

The following day is a big Quidditch match, Gryffindor against Hufflepuff. It is very windy and the rain is coming down fast, covering Harry's glasses. Hermione puts a spell on them to make them waterproof. The game starts and as Harry spots the Snitch and flies towards it, he sees many Dementors enter the playing field below him. Suddenly, he feels very cold and hears screaming inside his head as he begins to fall off his broom to the ground below.

He wakes in the hospital wing with the entire Quidditch team, Ron and Hermione around him. They are all drenched and muddy. They lost the game to Hufflepuff when Harry fell and the other teams Seeker caught the Snitch. Hufflepuff wanted to re-match, but Gryffindor declined, feeling they had won fair and square.

Dumbledore had chased the Dementor's away and was very angry that they had been on the field at all. Harry's broom was smashed to bits by a Womping Willow tree.

Chapter 9 Analysis

There are more hints in this chapter, leading to the middle of the book. Snape obviously has a suspect in mind that he feels is giving Black inside help. He also seems to have a dislike for Lupin that goes beyond his desire to take over his class. He assigns them a very long essay on werewolves. The entire class hopes that Lupin will return soon. Harry thinks that Lupin is ill because of something Snape has done to him.

The Dementor's are pulling memories out of Harry that he could not distinguish before. He realizes that it is his mother screaming in his head. He is hearing the memory of the night his parents were killed at the hands of Voldemort.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Harry begins to wonder if he is weak because of his reaction to the Dementors. He is the only one who seems to pass out every time they come near. He spends the weekend in the hospital wing with ample visits from friends. When he returns to classes, he finds that Lupin is back on the job.

After class, Lupin pulls Harry aside to ask about the game. He wants to know if his broom can be repaired and Harry tells him that there is no way. It is in bits. Harry takes the opportunity to ask Lupin if he is weak because of the way he reacts to the Dementors. Lupin tells him that he is not weak; it is just that his past was much more difficult than any of the others in the school and the Dementors feed on painful memories.

Harry asks Lupin if he can teach him how to defend himself from them. Lupin says that he will, but it must wait until after the upcoming holiday break. Ron and Hermione decide to stay at the school for the holidays and Harry is very grateful. There is to be a last trip to Hogsmeade before the break starts. Everyone leaves and Harry is again left alone at the castle. As he heads back to the dorm, Fred and George Weasley, Ron's twin brothers, motion him into an empty classroom.

The twins present him with The Marauder's Map, which looks to Harry like a blank piece of parchment, until George taps the paper with his wand and says "I solemnly swear that I am up to no good." The ink on the paper starts to become visible. It is a map showing all the details of the castle and grounds. In addition, it shows every person, spirit and animal in the school and their movements, represented by small labeled dots. The best feature of the Marauder's Map is that it shows all the secret passageways in the school; there is one that goes right into Hogsmeade. They give Harry the map as an early Christmas gift and show him how to wipe it clear by tapping it and saying, "Mischief managed!." Then, the twins head out to Hogsmeade.

Harry heads to the secret passage entrance to Hogsmeade. His heart is pounding as he heads down the passage way, which ends at the top of a long flight of stairs with a trap door above. The door opens into the cellar of Honeydukes magical candy shop. He sneaks up into the shop and sees Ron and Hermione discussing which candies they should purchase to bring back to Harry. They jump when he comes up behind them and ask how he got to Hogsmeade. He tells them about the Map and Hermione wonders if Sirius Black also knows about the secret passageways.

Ron and Hermione show Harry around the village and then they all head for the Three Broomsticks Pub for butterbeers. There is a blizzard outside and they want to get out of the snow. Ron gets the drinks as Hermione and Harry find a table in the back of the room. They have a toast and then the door to the Pub opens. McGonagall, Flitwick and



Fudge, the Minister of Magic, enters. Harry hides under the table, while Hermione enchants a Christmas tree to rest in front of their table, hiding them from view. The teachers and the Minister take a table on the other side of the tree.

The group begins talking about Sirius Black. Harry, Ron and Hermione overhear the entire conversation. They learn that Sirius and Harry's father were very best friends. Sirius was their human "secret keeper" in a spell that kept Lilly, James and Harry hidden from Voldemort. Unless the secret keeper spoke, Voldemort would never know where to find them. Dumbledore cast the spell because he suspected someone had been leaking information to Voldemort about the Potters whereabouts. James Potter trusted Sirius Black completely and would make no other his secret keeper, even when Dumbledore offered to shoulder the task himself. After the Potters were killed and Harry was taken from the house by Hagrid, Black took off. A boy who had tagged along after James and Sirius all throughout school, Peter Pettigrew, hunted Black down and was killed trying to stop him. The only thing left of Peter was one of his fingers. Sirius was captured and taken to Azkaban, where he has remained ever since.

McGonagall, Hagrid, Flitwick and Fudge all get up and leave to head to the castle for dinner with Dumbledore. Harry and Hermione look under the table at Harry with shocked, sad expressions on their faces.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Harry has finally gotten the answers to several of his most troublesome questions in this very long chapter. He discovers that he is not weak because the Dementors have a terrible effect on him. He is riddled with horrible memories that draw the Dementors to him to feed on his suffering. He also gets the whole story of Sirius Black and exactly why he would be after Harry, personally. From this knowledge, he understands why Mr. Weasley told him to not go looking for Black. Ron's dad knew that if Harry found out that Black betrayed his parents, he would want revenge.

The Marauder's Map is an excellent addition to the story. Its obvious part in the plot is that Harry is able to get to Hogsmeade and join his friends. However, it is so much more, as it is a central thread in pulling together the plot. The existence of the map means that there are secret entries into and out of the castle. This translates to a way for Sirius Black to have gotten into and out of the school. It also reveals all who are in the school at any given time, showing their names, not their images. The Marauder's Map promises to be a useful plot device in later chapters, as well as a fun aid in accomplishing some mischief.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Harry is upset that no one told him the truth about the friendship between his parents and Sirius Black. He is tortured by thoughts of Sirius betraying them and is filled with overwhelming hatred and a desire for revenge.

When he wakes up the next morning, the castle is deserted. Everyone has left for the holidays. Hermione and Ron are sitting in the common room and the three of them decide to go to Hagrid's. Harry wants to ask him why he never told him the truth. When they get the Hagrid's hut, however, he is so distressed over a letter he has gotten from the school governors. The letter tells him he must have a hearing with Buckbeak to uphold the official complaint of Mr. Lucius Malfoy. Lucius is, of course, Draco's father. Hagrid is certain that the man's pull with the committee will end in Buckbeak's execution. Harry feels so bad for Hagrid, he does not even bring up the issue of Sirius Black with him.

On Christmas morning, Ron and Harry wake up to loads of gifts on their beds. Harry sees a long package and opens it curiously. It is a Firebolt riding broom. It is the fastest and most expensive broom sold anywhere in the wizarding world. It is Harry's dream broom. The boys are extremely excited and wonder who could have sent it as there is no card attached or enclosed. Ron suggests Dumbledore, but Harry thinks not. Then Ron suggests Lupin, as he seemed very sorry that Harry's broom got ruined.

As they are admiring the new broom, Hermione walks in. She sees the broom and asks who sent it. They tell her they don't have a clue. She tells Harry that he should not ride the broom. It could be a trap and it could be jinxed. She is about to continue when her cat, Crookshanks, smells Ron's rat and jumps from her arms to chase him.

The three go down to dinner and a small group is gathered in the Great Hall. The staff, two first years and a Slytherin fifth year are sitting at a long table. They enjoy a fine Christmas feast and Harry and Ron head back to the common room. Hermione stays behind to speak with Professor McGonagall.

As Harry and Ron gaze at the new Firebolt, McGonagall and Hermione come into the common room. Pointing to the Firebolt, the Professor asks Harry to give it over to her. He's flabbergasted and asks why. She tells him since there was no card, it could be jinxed and they need to have it tested for spells. She will return in about two weeks. Harry and Ron are furious with Hermione, but she stands her ground telling them that she thinks Sirius could have sent the broom. Professor McGonagall agrees with her.



Chapter 11 Analysis

Harry remains kind to his friend Hagrid, even though he is very angry with him for not telling him about Sirius. Likewise, he is angry at Hermione but does not scream at her the way that Ron does. Harry understands that she meant well and told McGonagall only because she was concerned for his safety. He is showing a very mature sense of control and thoughtfulness. He is becoming wise beyond his years.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Ron and Hermione do not speak to each other for the remainder of the holiday break and Harry is glad when classes start again. Harry and Lupin set a date for anti-Dementor lessons and they meet on a Thursday evening.

Professor Lupin enters their first meeting carrying a large case. Inside is a Boggart that they will use for practice. He tells Harry that what he is going to teach him is very advanced magic. He will learn the Patronus Charm; which conjures up a Patronus or guardian that shields the caster from Dementors. Each Patronus is unique to the wizard who conjures it. He warns Harry not get discouraged if he cannot get it for a while.

He tells Harry he must think of his most happy memory, hold it in his mind and then utter the charm "Expecto patronum!" Lupin then opens the case and lets the Boggart out. Harry tries the charm, but to no avail; he passes out for several moments. He comes to his senses and he begs Lupin to let him try again. He passes out again hearing his mother's screams, his father's voice and Voldemort's laughter louder than ever. Lupin tells Harry that he knew his father in school, he feels guilty making Harry try a spell so advanced. Harry asks for one more go, he just needs to find the proper memory.

This time he thinks of the first time he found out he was a wizard; when the Boggart comes out and transforms into a Dementor, Harry is able to produce a strong enough Patronus to muffle the screaming voices and keep from passing out. Lupin gets the Boggart back in the case and congratulates Harry on his achievement.

As the term goes on, Harry has still not gotten his broom back and his anti-Dementor lessons are not going all that well. He is getting to know Lupin better and asks him what is under a Dementors hood, Lupin says he's not sure, as they only lower their hoods to perform the "Dementor's Kiss," an action that sucks the soul out of the unfortunate individual who has to endure it.

Harry finally gets his Firebolt back, just in time to test it out before Saturday's Quidditch game against Ravenclaw; it was apparently jinx-free all along. In the common room that night, Harry asks Hermione how she has been getting to all these extra classes she has been taking. Just as she is about to explain, Ron bursts into the room with a bloody sheet. Scabbers, the rat, is gone; and there are cat hairs on his bed. He is furious with Hermione.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Harry again is stronger than he knows. He is able to produce a complicated charm far beyond his wizarding level. However, as time goes on, he has trouble doing it again. He thinks it is because he is hearing his parents' voices for the first time and does not want



to loose contact with the memories of them, no matter how painful the memory is. He knows until he can let go of this wish to hear his parents, he will not be able to produce a powerful Patronus. Hermione is obviously hiding something having to do with her being able to take so many classes and something is strange about the constant battle between Crookshanks, the cat and Scabbers, the rat.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Ron has had it with Hermione for letting her cat eat Scabbers. He will not speak to her at all and Hermione thinks Ron is falsely accusing Crookshanks. Ron is very upset at the loss of Scabbers, even though his brothers remind him that the rat had lived three times longer than it should have.

Harry rides the Firebolt in practice and it is all that he dreamed. The big day of the match against Ravenclaw arrives; they have a new Seeker, Cho Chang, who is reported to be very good. She is also very pretty and Harry gets a few butterflies when he first sees her on the field. It is a very exciting game and Cho is just as good as everyone says. Harry misses the Snitch four times, once because he gets knocked by a bludger, twice because he is trying to be a gentleman to Cho, the last time because suddenly three Dementors appear on the field. Harry doesn't even think. He races towards them on his Firebolt, casts the Patronus charm and flies after the Snitch, just catching it before it raced away again. The game is over, Gryffindor has won.

His team is upon him, yelling for joy, as this win puts them in the finals for the Quidditch Cup. Everyone is running to congratulate him and he hears a voice say "That was some Patronus." It was Professor Lupin. Harry finds out that his charm was wasted, as the "Dementors" on the field were really Malfoy, Crabbe, Goyle and Marcus Flint, standing on one another's shoulders for height and wearing dark robes. They are all lying in a crumbled heap on the ground, tangled in the robes. Malfoy is furious, it seems Harry scared them to death with his charm. They were in quite a bit of trouble for this.

The Gryffindors party until late into the night; they are told to get to bed by McGonagall. Harry has a nightmare that wakes him up and when he does, Ron is screaming that Sirius Black was just in the room with a knife and has slashed his curtains. Professor McGonagall comes in and thinks Ron is dreaming, until she asks the Portrait guard if a man had entered the dorm. The Portrait tells her yes and the man had all the passwords for a week on a piece of paper. McGonagall asks who would be stupid enough to write down the passwords and then lose them. It was Neville Longbottom.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Harry seems to have a crush on Cho, the Seeker from the Ravenclaw team. His strength and bravery is shown yet again, as he dashes down to what he thinks are three Dementors and produces a grand Patronus. He is a tad disappointed when he finds out they weren't real Dementors, but is delighted to find out that it was his least favorite person, Draco Malfoy. He is especially happy that it is Draco getting in trouble instead of him and Ron.



Sirius Black has obviously found some way in and out of the school. The last visit was not a fluke and he is getting more desperate. The question in this visit is why he slashed Ron's curtains and not Harry's. If he is presumably after Harry, he would have attacked him and not Ron. It could have been a simple mistake in the dark, or it could be a hint about future chapters.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Ron is an instant celebrity getting as much attention as Harry now because of his escape from Sirius Black. The boys wonder why Sirius did not simply kill Ron and then find Harry if he had the wrong bed. After all, he was alleged to be a coldblooded murderer.

There is a trip to Hogsmeade coming up and Harry and Ron have it planned that Harry will come via the secret passage, but this time he's bringing his invisibility cloak. As Harry is about to enter the passageway, Neville comes round the corner and sees Harry. He asks Harry to come help him with his homework, then he suddenly sees Snape standing behind Harry and jumps. Snape looks at the passage entry. Snape sends them back to their dorm and begins looking the passage entry over carefully.

Harry ditches Neville and checks the Map. Snape is back in his office, so Harry runs to the passage, jumps in, wipes the Map and heads to Hogsmeade. He finds Ron and the two head off the Shrieking Shack, the most haunted house in Britain. They peer through the fence and Ron says that his brothers told him all the entries are sealed.

Malfoy, Crabbe and Goyle come sauntering up and spot Ron, who appears to be alone as Harry has his cloak on. Malfoy immediately starts taunting Ron. Harry walks behind them and starts throwing mud at them. They think it's ghosts from the shack; the cloak gets caught and Harry's head pops out. The three boys scream at the sight of Harry's head and run away.

Harry quickly runs back to the school before they can tell anyone. Just as he exits the secret passage and closes the door, Snape rounds the corner. Obviously, Malfoy has gotten back to the school first. Snape has no proof but tries to get Harry to confess. They argue about Harry's father, then Snape tells Harry to empty his pockets. Snape picks up the blank Map. When Snape tries to make the map reveal its secrets, it insults him.

He calls Lupin into his office and asks him to look at the Map, because it seems to be full of dark magic, Lupin's specialty. Lupin looks at it and tells Snape that it is an insulting parchment; a joke, most likely from the local shop in Hogsmeade. Ron rushes in and confirms that he bought the joke parchment for Harry. Lupin puts the map in his pocket and escorts Harry and Ron out of Snape's office. He tells Harry that he knows the writers of the map and that he must keep it as it could be dangerous to Harry.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Snape is on to Harry and his dislike of him prompts his curiosity further. Harry finds out that Snape was bullied by his father and was not quite the hero he thought he was. This



is hard to swallow, coming from Snape. Lupin saves Harry and the Map and obviously knows a lot more than he is letting on. It seems that he was closer to Harry's parents than Harry first believes and is astounded that Lupin knew the makers of the map and so much about it. It is also clear that Snape and Lupin have some history between them.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

Hagrid has lost his case and Buckbeak is to be executed. Harry, Ron and Hermione are very upset. The news has stopped the feud between Ron and Hermione. While the three are outside, they hear Malfoy gloating to Crabbe and Goyle about Buckbeak's upcoming execution. Just as Ron is about to hit him, Hermione walks up to him and slaps him hard in the face. Then, she pulls her wand on him. They take off and head back to the school. Ron is amazed at Hermione's uncharacteristic attack on Malfoy. They head back to classes, but Hermione seems to have disappeared.

They find her sleeping in the common room. She seems confused when they wake her and unaware that she has missed the last class. Ron thinks she's cracking up. They head to Divination and Hermione acts out of character again, telling off Professor Trelawney. She's had enough of the teacher's quackish predictions. She storms out of the classroom.

The tension of the big Quidditch match against Slytherin is building. Everyone is guarding Harry and the Firebolt so Slytherin doesn't try sabotage. Harry must not catch the Snitch until they are up by fifty points, or they will lose their chance at the Cup. On the night before the match, Harry is wakened by nightmares and gets up for some water. When he looks out the window he sees Crookshanks and a black shaggy dog trotting beside her. He realizes that it can't be an omen if the cat can see it also.

The next day, the Gryffindor's head to the field and Harry is wished good luck from Cho. It is a dirty match and Slytherin is trying every rotten trick to win the game. Gryffindor is up thirty points. Several times, Slytherin tries to take Harry out of the game, but the Firebolt is too fast for them. Gryffindor is at over fifty points ahead. Harry spots the Snitch and goes for it, but Malfoy catches the end of his Firebolt and holds him back. This causes a foul and Harry misses the Snitch. Suddenly, Harry sees Malfoy racing downwards toward the Snitch. Harry makes it just in time to knock Malfoy's arm away and grab the Snitch in his hand. Gryffindor has won the Cup.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Hermione is cracking under the pressure of the added classes and Ron and Harry don't understand how she is managing it all. Ron is impressed, however, with the new rule-breaking Hermione and delighted that she has slapped Malfoy and told off Trelawney.

Harry sees a shaggy dog outside with Crookshanks and he wonders what it could mean. He realizes that it must not have been a grim after all. If it were, the cat would not have been able to see it.

In winning the Quidditch cup for Gryffindor, he has found a moment happy enough to produce a spectacular Patronus that would repel an army of Dementors.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

The weather is starting to break and it is warm and sunny outdoors. While the students of Hogwarts want to be outside enjoying the warm weather, they cannot. Finals have started and they are under the gun to study.

While Harry, Ron and Hermione are in the common room of their dorm, Hedwig, Harry's owl, flies in with a note from Hagrid. The appeal for Buckbeak is set for the sixth, the last day of exams. They are coming to Hagrid for the hearing with an executioner, which indicates that the council has already made up its mind.

They somehow manage to make it through exams, with Hermione being the most stressed with all the classes she has been miraculously taking during the term. The last day of exams arrives and Harry, Ron and Hermione run into the Minister of Magic, Cornelius Fudge. He is on his way to see Hagrid with his associates, for the final appeal for Buckbeak.

Their last exam for the day is Divination with Professor Trelawney. She calls the students up to her room one by one and has them gaze into a crystal orb and make predictions. Harry's turn comes and he sees Buckbeak. However, he does not see him getting executed. Professor Trelawney is about to dismiss him when she suddenly goes into a trance that looks like a seizure to Harry. She says in an odd disembodied voice, "The Dark Lord lies alone and friendless, abandoned by his followers. His servant has been chained these twelve years. Tonight, before midnight . . . the servant will break free and set out to rejoin his master. The Dark Lord will rise again with his servant's aid, greater and more terrible than ever he was. Tonight. . . ." Her head then fell forward and when she looked up she did not seem to know what she had said to him. She thinks she had just dozed off from the heat. Harry quickly leaves her class very shaken.

He runs to tell Ron and Hermione but doesn't get a chance as they hand him a note, telling them that Buckbeak has lost the appeal and the hippogriff will be executed at sunset. He tells them not to come down to the hut.

After dinner, they decide to go anyway to try and comfort Hagrid. They retrieve Harry's Invisibility Cloak from the secret passage and go to the Hut. While in his hut, they find Scabbers, Ron's rat hiding in a jug. Then, as Ron picks him up, the Committee to execute Buckbeak heads towards the Hut. Hagrid chases them out. They grab the cloak and go out the back door. They hide in the woods and hear Buckbeak's execution.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Professor Trelawney seems to have had a real prediction for the first time Harry has known her. What she says is very unnerving. It also tells the reader that the plot is about

to accelerate in the next chapters as the book nears its end. The prediction is vague enough to not give the final outcome away, while also containing hints to the ending.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Harry, Ron and Hermione stand in the woods, under the cloak, outside Hagrid's cabin in horrified silence. They hear Hagrid yell in sorrow and because they can do nothing else, they head back to the Castle. Darkness begins to fall and Scabbers is fighting to get free of Ron. Finally, the rat bites him and Crookshanks the cat appears. Scabbers jumps free of Ron's grip and Ron chases after him. He catches the rat and as they attempt to head towards the Castle again, they hear running and turn to see a huge black dog running towards them.

The dog grabs Ron's arm in its teeth and begins dragging Ron and Scabbers away towards a large hole in the base of the Womping Willow tree. Harry and Hermione dodge their way through the branches, which are whipping around them in every direction attempting to knock them down. They make their way into the hole and follow the dog and Ron. The two follow a tunnel and realize that it leads to the Shrieking Shack, the haunted house in Hogsmeade.

They head up a flight of stairs and enter a room where Ron is sitting with an injured leg. Behind the door is the Black dog, which has now taken its wizard form as Sirius Black. Black disarms Harry and Hermione with Ron's wand. He speaks to Harry about his father and Harry is filled with rage. Harry heads towards Black and gets all three of their wands back. Harry is about to kill Black, when Crookshanks jumps on the wizard's chest, protecting him. Then, in bursts Professor Lupin, who disarms the three again to their shock and dismay. He then helps Black up from the floor and hugs him like a brother.

Hermione tells Harry and Ron that Lupin is a werewolf and that she trusted him and was covering for him all along. They are all in shock and believe that Lupin must have been in league with Black. Lupin tries to explain what is going on, but they won't listen. He gives them back their wands and tells them to be quiet and listen. He tells them that he helped create the Map and this is why he can read it and work it. He noticed on the Marauder's Map that Ron was with Peter Pettigrew, who he and everyone else, believed was dead. It turns out that Peter is an Animagus, just as Black is. However, he turns himself into a rat. This is what Black was after all along; Peter Pettigrew, not Harry or Ron.

Chapter 17 Analysis

An interesting turn of events takes place in this chapter. Harry is so filled with anger that he doesn't understand the truth of what is going on. He misinterprets Black's words as a taunt about killing his parents. Harry is so filled with rage, that he is willing to kill the man he believes betrayed his parents. Lupin's appearance saves Black and even

though Harry, Ron and Hermione trusted him, they immediately think that he must be Black's accomplice. With the emotional charge, it is difficult for them to really listen to reason. They already have a formed opinion of the truth and changing their minds is difficult. It is a very intense chapter, which really builds the tension for a great climatic revelation.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Harry, Ron and Hermione do not believe them at first. They just find the whole idea absurd. Black lunges for Scabbers/Peter, anxious to kill him. He is in as much a rage at Peter as Harry was at him. Lupin tries to stop him, telling him they must explain what is going on. He pulls Black away from Ron, who is still clutching Scabbers tightly in his grip. Black agrees to let Lupin explain, but to be quick about it.

Professor Lupin explains to the three that as a young child, he was bitten by a werewolf. In order to attend Hogwart's, the Womping Willow and the Shrieking Shack were put in place for him to transform without hurting anyone. People thought the Shack was haunted, because they would hear his howling and screams, as he transformed every full moon.

Lupin's best friends, Harry's dad James and Sirius, figured out where he was going every month and taught themselves how to turn into animals. They never registered with the Ministry of Magic, for the obvious reasons. They also helped Peter Pettigrew become an Animagus, because he was close to the three boys. They did this so that Lupin would not have to be alone every month in the Shack. As animals, they could keep him company and in check. He was no harm to them as animals.

He then tells them about Severus Snape and how he found out about Lupin's problem. He snuck around and followed them for months, hoping to get them in trouble. One day, Sirius, sick of his snooping, decided to play a trick on Snape. He told him that he could hold a knob inside the tree to get into the Shack. Snape, not knowing that a dangerous werewolf was inside, went ahead and tried this. When James found out about the trick, he grabbed Snape and pulled him out of the way, just in time. He wasn't bitten by Lupin, but did see him as a werewolf.

As Lupin finishes his story, Snape himself walks into the room, pulling off the Invisibility cloak as he enters. His wand is pointed directly at Lupin. He had been listening at the door for a long while.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Harry and Hermione, even though they are disbelieving, are fascinated with this information. Hermione is intrigued by the tale, as well as James Potter and Sirius Black's ability to learn such a difficult spell at a young age. Harry is more interested because the story involves his father's youth. This is information that he is hungry for.

A plot extending twist in the story and a way to make the ending all the more exciting is introduced with the entry of Snape at the door of the Shrieking Shack.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Professor Snape seems to be in some mad trance. He is so bent on satisfying a schoolboy grudge that he will not listen to reason at all. He only wants to take Black and Lupin to the Dementors. He ties Lupin up with cords that shoot from his wand and tries to leave the Shack with Black and Lupin. Harry tries to stop him, but he is more vicious than ever; calling Harry an arrogant boy who is just like his father.

Harry, driven by frustration, puts the disarming spell on Snape. At the same time, so do Ron and Hermione. Snape is knocked into the wall and passes out. They untie Lupin and Harry asks for the rest of the story. Black explains that it was not Peter who hunted him down on the night Harry's parents were killed; it was the other way around. When Black had found him, he shouted to the crowd that Black had betrayed Lilly and James and then blew apart the street killing all those close by. He then cut off his finger, threw it on the ground, transformed into a rat and went down the sewer.

Lupin asks Ron to give him the rat and Ron is reluctant. He hands over Scabbers and, with their wands, Lupin and Black set a transforming spell on him. The rat transforms into Peter Pettigrew; a very small man with rat-like features and a bald head. He immediately begins begging for his release. He tells Harry and Lupin that he did not do anything and it was all Black. No one believes him. If he were innocent; why would he have stayed a rat all this time? He was hiding from the Death Eaters, Voldemort's followers and he was waiting for Voldemort to regain power. The fact that he was close to Harry meant that he could kill and bring Harry to Voldemort as repentance for his mistake with the Potters. It was on Peter's information that Voldemort lost his powers and was vanquished.

Black then tells them all that he had convinced James Potter to make Peter the "Secret Keeper" at the last minute, thinking that Voldemort would never come looking for Peter. He suspected Lupin was a spy and he did not tell him about the change. Peter continues to plead his innocence, but now the whole room is sure that it was he was the one who betrayed the Potters and had them killed at Voldemort's hands.

Black desperately wants to kill Peter. as does Lupin. Harry stops them, telling them that his father would not have wanted them to become murderers for him. He tells them they must bring him to the Dementors. They let Harry make the decision. They tie up Peter, chain him to Ron and Lupin, splint Ron's leg and put a floating charm on Snape.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Harry hears how Black escaped from Azkaban and how he has been living as a dog since his escape, transforming only to watch Harry's Quidditch games. He tells Harry that he would have died, rather than ever betray Lilly and James. Harry finally believes



him. The story does seem true enough and at the end of the chapter, Peter confesses when he thinks that Black and Lupin are going to kill him. Harry's decision shows his strength, because he wants Peter dead also, but feels that they should not become killers.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

With Crookshanks in the lead, Lupin, Pettigrew and Ron leave the Shack first, followed by a floating and still unconscious Snape. Sirius is behind him, holding him up with Snape's own wand, followed by Harry and Hermione. Snape's head bumps into several walls, but Sirius seems to be making no effort to avoid it.

On their walk out, Sirius tells Harry that with Pettigrew turned in, he will be free. He also tells him that he is Harry's Godfather and was appointed Harry's guardian if anything were to happen to them. Harry is filled with a feeling of joy at the idea of leaving the Dursley's and he asks Black when he can move in. Harry sees Black smile for the first time and it makes him younger and more like the photos he had seen of Black in his parents' wedding album.

Once outside, they walk into a clearing and notice that the moon is full. Lupin has not taken his potion. Lupin begins to transform into a werewolf before their eyes and while still chained to Pettigrew and Ron. Black tells them to run, but Harry can't leave Ron. Black transforms into his dog form and runs towards the werewolf, who has now broken free of the chains. Black grabs Lupin and drags him away from Ron and Peter. Lupin drops his wand and Peter dives for it. Before Harry can disarm him, he transforms himself back into a rat and escapes into the grass.

The werewolf takes off into the forest and Harry tells Black that Peter has escaped. A bleeding Black takes off after the rat. Harry and Hermione run over to Ron, who is unconscious. Then Harry hears a yelping coming from the woods and he takes off to help Sirius. As Harry and Hermione reach the shore of the Lake, they see that Black has turned himself back into a man. He is crying and at least one hundred Dementors are gliding towards him across the lake. They have come to suck out Sirius's soul. Harry tries desperately to stop them with the Expecto Patronum charm, but it is not working. Hermione passes out next to him.

Harry is losing his own senses and he is terrified. As they move closer to Sirius, the Dementor grabs Harry first and is sucking the life out of him. Harry makes out a bright light from across the lake heading towards him. The Dementor lets him go. The light chases the Dementors away and the air begins to warm again. He sees a bright animal gallop away towards a familiar figure across the lake, just before he passes out.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Sirius risks his own life to save the others. Harry is already attached to the idea of having Sirius as a guardian, someone who knew and was loyal to his parents. Harry goes after Sirius, who he knows is in pain, after only a moment's hesitation. The sheer multitude of Dementors that swarm around Harry, Sirius and Hermione is overwhelming



for them all. The chapter ends with many questions. Will they find Peter or will Sirius now be sent back to Azkaban with no proof of his innocence? Who is the familiar figure across the lake that summons the Patronus that saves them? It is a very emotionally charged chapter that leads the reader to quickly turn the page to find out the end result.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Snape is standing with the Minister of Magic outside the hospital wing, telling him that it was lucky that he was around to save everyone. He is also making a plea to get Harry expelled or suspended for almost letting Black escape. It is to this conversation that Harry comes to. Groggy and tired, he sees that Hermione and Ron are in beds next to him. She is awake and hushes him to listen to Snape and Fudge.

Headmaster Dumbledore enters and asks to speak with Hermione and Harry alone. He has been to see Sirius Black. Snape questions Dumbledore, asking him if he believes the lies he is telling. Dumbledore will not discuss this with Snape and asks him, Fudge and Madam Pomfrey, head of the hospital wing, to leave the room. Fudge tells Dumbledore that he will summon the Dementors for the "kiss" that will take the soul of Black.

Harry and Hermione plead with Dumbledore to free Sirius. They tell him their story and swear to his innocence. Dumbledore tells them that he believes them, but that no one else will. He cannot override Fudge and the committee in this matter.

Dumbledore tells them it is up to them now. He starts speaking to Hermione. He tells her that they need time and that three turns should do the trick in order to save two innocent lives. Harry is baffled by this conversation. The headmaster tells them it is vital that they are not seen. Dumbledore leaves, locks the door to the hospital wing and wishes them good luck. Harry is still confused as Hermione pulls a long chain from around her neck with a small hourglass charm at the end. She puts the chain around both of their necks and then turns the hourglass three times.

The world around them whizzes past and then suddenly stops. Hermione explains that the charm is a "time turner," given to her by Professor McGonagall so that she can get to all her classes. They have gone back in time to an hour before Buckbeak was executed. Dumbledore meant for them to save Buckbeak and Sirius Black.

The two head down to Hagrid's hut and wait outside until their future selves leave. They then untie Buckbeak and head into the woods with him to wait until time catches up and the events at the Womping Willow take place. Harry wants to go after Pettigrew when they watch him turn into a rat, but Hermione insists that he cannot, they can't be seen.

They watch the scene at the willow unfold before them and Harry cannot help running down to the lake to find out if the familiar figure that saves them with the Patronus is his father. When he realizes that no one else is coming he summons a magnificent Patronus of a stag that chases the Dementors away across the lake. It was himself he saw before he had passed out, not his father. Hermione is amazed at his ability to do this magic.



They head towards the castle on the flying back of Buckbeak and find the window of the room where Black is being held as directed by Dumbledore. They get Sirius out and the three of them fly to the battlements so that Harry and Hermione can dismount the Hippograph. They tell Sirius to hurry and go and he flies off into the night with Buckbeak.

Chapter 21 Analysis

This is the next to last chapter in the book. It is very long, as it mostly deals with finishing the story and providing the setup for the final chapter. The long length does not detract from the book. In fact, it goes very quickly, as it is action-packed and imaginative. It is finally revealed to the reader how Hermione has been mysteriously getting to so many classes. The time turner has been her aid in academic juggling all year. Dumbledore realizes that they can also save Buckbeak and this speaks of his compassion. Harry, for the first time, realizes that Dumbledore does not have some ultimate power over everything in the magical world when he tells them he can do nothing to save Sirius.

Harry is convinced that the figure he saw save him, Sirius and Hermione from across the lake with the powerful Patronus was his father. It makes sense to him that the brotherhood of boys from Hogwarts who wrote the Marauder's Map could be there, Lupin (Moony), Black (Padfoot) and Peter (Wormtail), then why not his father (Prongs). He learns a lot about himself, when he realizes that it was him that created the powerful Stag Patronus that saves all their lives. He and Hermione acted very bravely in their successful efforts to save Buckbeak and Sirius Black.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Harry and Hermione just make it to the outside the wing, when they see Dumbledore telling them goodbye and closing the door to lock it. They panic and run up to him. He smiles when he sees them and asks them how they did. They tell him the news; they have saved Buckbeak and Sirius Black. He congratulates them and tells them to get inside and he will lock the door.

They get back into their beds and Madam Pomfrey enters the room. Suddenly, they all hear yelling. Snape, Fudge and Dumbledore are headed towards the wing. Snape is fuming; he believes that Harry had something to do with Black's escape. He bursts into the room and screams at Harry. Fudge is aghast at Snape's behavior. Madam Pomfrey confirms that they have not left the room at all. Snape is not convinced.

Harry, Ron and Hermione leave the hospital wing the next day. The term is just about over and all the students are outside enjoying the early summer weather. Hagrid comes up and tells them about Buckbeak's escape. They act surprised to hear it. He then tells them that Lupin is back and packing to leave. Harry heads right to his office to see him.

Lupin tells Harry that Snape let it "slip" that he is a werewolf and it is best that he goes. He gives Harry the Marauder's Map and the Invisibility Cloak. He confirms Harry's belief that his father's Animagus form was a stag and why he was called Prongs. Dumbledore enters the office to say goodbye to Lupin. Lupin leaves and tells Harry they will meet again someday. Dumbledore stays to talk with Harry.

Harry tells the Headmaster about Trelawney's prediction and how he feels that it is his fault that Pettigrew escaped. Dumbledore tells him that this is Trelawney's second prediction and that he believes that someday he will be glad for showing mercy to Peter Pettigrew, who is now in debt to Harry.

Harry, Ron and Hermione board the Hogwart's Express to leave the school. As they sit in their compartment, a tiny owl comes to the window with a large letter. Harry retrieves it and it is a note from Sirius. He is safe and in hiding. He also enclosed a signed permission slip for visits to Hogsmeade. He tells Harry that it was him who sent the Firebolt for his birthday. He tells him he will stay in touch. Harry is thrilled.

Chapter 22 Analysis

The book has a happy ending with some sadness and question marks at the end. The ending is very open-ended as to allow the sequel, Book Four, an entry point. Dumbledore brings up several questions for Harry and the readers to ponder and the note from Sirius indicates that Harry will have a continuing relationship with his Godfather and true guardian. It is clear that Peter was the "servant" of Voldemort that



Trelawney predicted will be reunited with him and will help him to become more powerful than ever before. These are all great teasers for the readers to look forward to the next book to follow in this great and imaginative story of the boy wizard, Harry Potter.



Characters

Harry Potter

Harry Potter is the main character of the story. He is born a wizard to parents who are also magical, James a wizard and Lilly a witch. He is sent to live with his mother's sister and her family upon the death of his parents. They treat Harry terribly for many years and he is unloved and alone in the world. His father is killed by Lord Voldemort, a dark wizard. His mother is also killed by Voldemort, while trying to protect Harry from him. He is famous in the wizarding world, because he has survived Voldemort's spell of death. He finds out he is a wizard on the dawn of his eleventh birthday, when he is sent to Hogwarts school of magic. It is here that he learns about his true past and is shown understanding. Harry is now thirteen years old and this is his third year at Hogwarts.

Ron Wesley

Ron is Harry's best friend. They met on the train ride to Hogwarts School in their first year. He comes from a very large family. His twin brothers also attend Hogwarts, as does one of his older brothers, Percy. He has six siblings all together, two who have grown and left home, the three who attend Hogwarts and a younger sister, Ginny, who is now in her second year at the school. His family is very close and both of his parents are magical. He is rather poor, due to the size of his family and his father's low paying job with the Ministry of Magic. However, they are a happy family and the love they have for one another is evident. He remains Harry's closest friend and confidant.

Hermione Granger

Hermione is a very smart and hard working young witch with Muggle-born parents, who are both dentists. She has become the third in this tight knit group, always remaining the voice of reason for Harry and Ron. Hermione changes quite a bit in this story. She is more willing to break the rules and sees sometimes that it is a necessity of life to do so for a higher moral good.

Draco Malfoy

Draco is Harry's nemesis and a rather nasty and arrogant boy. He is fond of telling everyone that he is a "pure blood" wizard. Both of his parents are magical and obviously very rich and affluent. He is a member of Slytherin House and has two bully friends, Crabby and Goyle, who guard him wherever he goes. He lives to make Ron, Harry and Hermione miserable. He is very jealous of Harry because of his fame, talent and good luck. His family is reputed to have been "Death Eaters" or Voldemort's followers before he vanished. They came forward after his disappearance, claiming a spell was cast on them. However, not many believe this story.



Headmaster Dumbledore

Albus Dumbledore is a very wise, smart and humorous wizard. He is the head of Hogwarts school. He is the same wizard who takes Harry to live with the Dursley's in the first book to keep him safe and uninfluenced by his fame in the wizarding world.

Professor Snape

Snape is described as a lank and oily looking wizard, full of malcontent. He is the head of Slytherin House and the Potions teacher. He has a deep dislike for Harry. Harry's father and Snape had attended Hogwarts together and had a relationship similar to that of Draco and Harry. Snape's hate for Harry grows beyond reason during this book.

Professor Lupin

Lupin is the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher. A werewolf, he was a best friend to Harry's father James, Sirius Black and Peter Pettigrew. He was known as "Moony" to his friends.

Sirius Black

Initially thought to be the one who turns the Potters over to Voldemort, Sirius Black was James Potter's best friend. He has been serving a term in Azkaban for twelve years for a crime he did not commit. He escapes early in the book and is central to the plot. He is Harry's godfather and the chosen guardian of Harry by James and Lilly Potter. He is an Animagus and changes into the form of a large black dog.

Peter Pettigrew

Peter is the real betrayer of Lilly and James. He is also an Animagus, whose form is that of a rat. He has been hiding as Ron's rat for the last twelve years. He is the reason Sirius Black escapes Azkaban. He was a spy for Voldemort and one of his Death Eaters.

Professor McGonagall

McGonagall is the Head of Gryffindor and the instructor of Transformation. She gives Hermione the "time turner" so that she can take more classes.



Professor Trelawney

Professor Trelawney is the Teacher of Divination. She is considered to be a bit of a quack by most of the students and staff.

Hagrid

Hagrid is described as a giant-sized man. He is Hogwarts' Game Keeper and is fascinated with magical creatures. He loves Harry, Ron and Hermione. He becomes the teacher for Care of Magical Creatures in this book. His lessons prove to be a disaster. He is very loyal to Dumbledore and likewise the Headmaster trusts Hagrid completely.

Uncle Vernon

Vernon is Petunia's Muggle husband. Harry's mother was his sister-in-law. He is very stern, uptight and closed-minded. He hates the fact that he must care for Harry and is stingy and mean to him. He does everything he can to keep Harry from becoming a wizard. He hates wizards and witches and sees their lives as strange and frightening.

Aunt Petunia

Petunia is Harry's Aunt. She is his mother's sister. She treats Harry like dirt and also cannot stand to have to raise him. He is a burden to her and she could not stand her own sister when she was alive. Always jealous of her, she disapproved of her life and made sure to keep her distance from her and her family. She overindulges her only son to the point of defeat; turning him into a spoiled bully who has no respect or manners.

Dudley

Dudley is the prodigal son of Vernon and Petunia. He is a fat, lazy, spoiled bully who tortures his cousin constantly. Underneath it all, like his father, he is a coward and a fool having no interest in anything but himself and his own gain. He is Harry's nemesis in the Muggle world. He is not very bright.

Aunt Marge

Aunt Marge is Vernon's sister and just as closed-minded and pompous as he is. She is not a fan of Harry's or his parents. She is "blown up" into a balloon early in the story. She is the reason Harry must flee the Dursley's before the start of term.



Lord Voldemort

Voldemort is the dark wizard who killed many in the wizarding community and caused great grief and darkness during his rise to power. He is called "you-know-who" by many who are afraid to say his name out loud. He killed Harry's father, James and in an attempt to kill Harry, also killed Harry's mother, Lilly. When he turns his spell on Harry, however, the spell rebounds on him and vanquishes him. He leaves Harry with a lightening bolt scar on his forehead. He is in hiding and will be joined by Peter Pettigrew.

Cornelius Fudge

Fudge is the Minister of Magic.



Objects/Places

The Knight Bus

The Knight Bus is a bus for stranded wizards. The Bus takes Harry to the Leaky Cauldron after he leaves the Dursley's house.

Quidditch

Quidditch is the wizarding world's national game. It is played in the air on broomsticks. Each team must score goals and defend their side of the "field." The Snitch is a winged golden ball that flies about the field during game play. The seeker, which is Harry and Draco Malfoy's position, must capture the Snitch to win the game for their side. If the Snitch is captured at any point during the game by the team that is ahead, that team automatically wins as it adds one-hundred and fifty points to their score. Also, if the Snitch is captured by either side, before any points are scored, that side automatically wins the game.

Hogwart's

Hogwart's is the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry headed by Albus Dumbledore. The school was started by four great wizards and witches. Their names were Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw. The four houses of the school are named after the four founders of it.

Hogsmeade Village

Hogsmeade Village is an exclusive village for wizards and witches. Only third years and above are allowed to visit the village, if they have a permission slip.

The Leaky Cauldron

The Leaky Cauldron is an inn and pub for wizards and witches. It's also the entryway from the Muggle world to Diagon Alley.

The Firebolt

The Firebolt is the best flying broom made to date. It's very expensive and used by professional Quidditch players.



Marauder's Map

The Marauder's Map is a map of Hogwarts School. The map shows all secret passageways in and out of the school, as well as all the people, creatures and spirits currently inside the school. The map was created by Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot and Prongs, all former students of the school. The map was given to Harry by Ron's twin brothers, as an early Christmas gift.

The Grim

The Grim is a dark sign of death, represented by a large black dog. The person who sees a grim will die soon.

Setting

is primarily set at Hogwarts. In addition to places familiar to readers of the first two Harry Potter books, this novel introduces several new settings separate from Hogwarts as well as new sites within the castle. The village of Hogsmeade is the book's most significant setting. Described as the only all-magical village in Great Britain, Hogsmeade seems exotic to Hogwarts students and readers because it is off-limits until young wizards and witches are thirteen years old. This rule is symbolic of the transition phase of children toward adulthood by becoming teenagers when they are age thirteen.

Hogsmeade is home to a variety of magical people and creatures who own, manage, or patronize local businesses. The stores offer exotic treats such as soothing Butterbeer and revolting candies for Hogwarts students, faculty, and staff to savor. Other businesses sell magical jokes and tricks or deliver messages by color-coded owls. Located within an hour's walking distance of Hogwarts (in the valley below the cliff on which the castle sits), Hogsmeade symbolizes freedom for Hogwarts students. Children and adults interact in the village without the formal restrictions expected on campus. Special Hogsmeade weekends are scheduled for students to buy Christmas gifts or to relax after grueling weeks of study and tests.

Although the village has appeared in previous Harry Potter books, it is very significant to plot development in this novel.

Harry is not allowed to go to the village because of concerns regarding Black. But eventually, through the use of the Marauder's Map and Invisibility Cloak, Harry identifies the correct statue (a hunchback which foreshadows future physical discomfort for Harry) to enter and travel through underground tunnels to reach the basement of Honeydukes, the candy store in Hogsmeade.

While concealed, Harry overhears conversations at the Three Broomsticks between adult wizards about Black's alleged betrayal of his parents which infuriate Harry who vows vengeance. Harry's clandestine trips to Hogsmeade also alert him to the vigilant search for Black. Harry sees posters, almost reminiscent of something from an old Western movie, warning people to be inside by sunset. He also is chilled by the sight of Dementors patrolling Hogsmeade.

The Shrieking Shack is the most important Hogsmeade structure in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Harry and Ron tour the village, walking up the hill to view the dilapidated building, surrounded by weeds, which local legends declare is the most haunted place in Great Britain. According to tradition, years ago villagers overheard screams late at night from the two-story house. Harry and Ron's visit to the Shrieking Shack foreshadows their later confrontation with Black, Snape, and Peter Pettigrew. On the boys' first trip to the building, they encounter Draco Malfoy and his cronies, Crabbe and Goyle. Hidden by the Invisibility Cloak, Harry torments his archrival by throwing



mud at him. Unfortunately, the cloak slips, and Harry's head is revealed, exposing him not only to Draco's taunts but possible punishment for disobeying orders to stay on campus until Black is recaptured. Harry's quick return through a tunnel to Hogwarts culminates in a conference with Snape and Lupin in which Harry learns more about his father's years at Hogwarts and realizes that Lupin is his ally while confirming that Snape is his adversary.

The book's climatic scene occurs in the Shrieking Shack. After comforting Hagrid before Buckbeak's execution, Harry and Hermione follow the black dog when it drags Ron into the tunnel with an entrance near the Whomping Willow. They emerge into the first floor of the Shrieking Shack.

The inside is dusty and worn much like the weather-beaten and mistreated exterior. A path in the dust, much like a slug's slimy trail, shows where the dog pulled Ron towards and up the stairs. Harry and Hermione, desperate to save their friend, bravely proceed upstairs to the bedroom where Ron is being held captive. Immediately, they confront Black who pleads for mercy to tell his story. They are shocked by Lupin's kindnesses to Black. Snape's arrival, courtesy of Harry's dropped Invisibility Cloak, further complicates a situation as messy as the Shrieking Shack. Learning that the shack's image as a sinister place had been designed to protect Lupin from curious villagers during his werewolf phases, Harry and his friends realize that the building is a facade much like the false faces presented by characters such as Scabbers (a.k.a. Peter Pettigrew).

Although the Shrieking Shack does not initially seem nurturing, it actually is a shelter for good characters and a means for exposing evil characters, reinforcing the theme that appearances can be deceiving.

The secret passages leading from Hogwarts to Hogsmeade are crucial for connecting the two settings. These tunnels are utilized for both devious and clandestine missions.

Innocuous journeys to Hogsmeade occur above ground, usually on a straight path, and in the light. The tunnels, in contrast, are buried beneath the earth, twisting, and dark.

They are often narrow, forcing people to bend over to move through the ground, indicating their flexibility to pursue their objectives. The tunnels resemble veins, bringing essential characters to crucial sites much like veins transport oxygenated blood to major organs. The passages could also be compared to the birth canal, delivering individuals to a new level of being and understanding.

In contrast to the subterranean tunnels, the Divination classroom in the north tower of Hogwarts lifts students above their earthly concerns. Hogwarts pupils rise to the turret on a spiral staircase and through a trapdoor to reach a heavily perfumed and poorly ventilated room. Dim lighting and thick vapors contribute to establishing this classroom's sense of obscurity and students' confusion about lessons regarding fortune telling and predictions. Unlike this confined space, the Hippogriff paddock permits students to become part of the outdoor landscape and rise above it if the Hippogriffs are willing. Adjacent to Hagrid's hut, the Hippogriff paddock provides a controlled environment for



students to practice their skills at communicating with a magical creature. The paddock is a setting that rewards students like Harry who follows the rules and punishes students like Draco who disdain guidelines. If Buckbeak had been executed, the paddock would have been a tragic place. Instead, it represents the possibilities of resolving problems through ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Azkaban is only described through recollections by various characters who have either visited or been incarcerated there.

Located on an island in the cold North Sea (somewhat like the notorious American prison Alcatraz near San Francisco), Azkaban isolates its dwellers from the comforts of normal wizard life. Although escape from the island prison seems impossible, Black outwits the Dementors. Azkaban symbolizes despair for wizards, especially lawabiding wizards who are fearful of being falsely accused and convicted. The indirect contact with Azkaban enhances our perception of the prison as lonely and foreboding.

The lake near Hogwarts has been referred to in the two previous Harry Potter books. In the third novel, the lake becomes a battleground when Harry is surrounded by his worst fear, Dementors. On the opposite shore, Harry believes he sees his father's Animagus, a stag, which bolsters him to fend off the Dementors. The lake is a buffer zone between the sanctuary of Hogwarts and the hostility of Harry's enemies. It serves as a demilitarized zone where Harry is paradoxically somewhat protected but vulnerable to sudden destruction. Harry's favorite outdoor setting is the Quidditch field which is a hostile arena in this novel.

Harry's playing abilities are hampered by the appearance of a group of Dementors and by Draco and his friends masquerading as Dementors in an effort to unnerve Harry. Harry finds comfort in Lupin's office, although it had also housed Harry's former nemesis Professor Quirrell and the inept Gilderoy Lockhart. The History of Magic classroom is a metaphorical stage for Harry to practice his techniques to cope with Dementors after not being permitted a turn in the faculty lounge, a setting whose interior was not featured in previous books.

The Great Hall nourishes the students and serves as an overnight campground where they gather to sleep, whisper, and eavesdrop when Black is known to be nearby.

Another new setting introduced in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is the Knight Bus which transports Harry from the Muggle to magical realm. A triple-decker bus which travels wherever its passengers desire to go, the Knight Bus resembles a motorhome or hotel on wheels. The Knight Bus is significant to plot development because Harry hears rumors about Black presented as fact on the Knight Bus. Other modes of transportation are significant to characterization and plot development. On the Hogwarts Express, Harry meets Lupin and sees his first Dementor. The horseless carriages that convey students from the Hogsmeade station to Hogwarts reinforce Harry's connection to Lupin before school starts. Because he boards at the Leaky Cauldron, Harry, and readers, becomes more familiar with that business' contents and clientele which provide clues about wizard culture and history. The Gryffindor common



room and dormitory shelter Harry but also prove vulnerable when Black breaks in one night. Professor Flitwick's seventh-floor office, with the thirteenth window right from the West Tower, serves as Black's prison cell and salvation because it is high enough that Harry, Hermione, and Buckbeak can fly Black to freedom.

Social Sensitivity

features such social issues as crime, punishment, and justice. Black's unfair incarceration and public disgrace are revealed during the novel's climax. Peter Pettigrew, the actual culprit, has dishonorably avoided legal repercussions for his criminal transgressions against James and Lily Potter and the Muggles that he massacred with one curse. By allowing Black to be punished for his crimes, Pettigrew cowardly refused to be accountable for his decisions and actions.

Harry's ability to recognize Black's innocence and offer him redemption indicates his moral character. Also, Harry's merciful treatment of Pettigrew despite his heinous behavior exemplifies Harry's sense of fairness and tolerance toward others. Harry patiently avoided assaulting Marge Dursley with magic until she insulted his parents, an unforgivable act. Perhaps Voldemort is the only culprit that Harry would be unable to interact with without bias because of the atrocities he has committed on Harry's parents and friends. Rowling injects her personal philosophy that most people are innately good unless they have suffered extreme emotional or physical abuse. She stresses that her stories depict the consequences of evil and how innocent people are often victimized unfairly.

Moral messages are embedded in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Harry is a role model for courageous and responsible behavior and decision making, even when faced with highly-charged and confusing situations and volatile personalities. Harry encourages people to cooperate and work together instead of excluding others. He strives to form his own opinions instead of relying on gossip or uninformed and unsubstantiated news stories. Although pressured by peers and adult wizards to embrace certain viewpoints, Harry is capable of distinguishing right from wrong and does not conform merely to appease others.

Such integrity helps Harry become a moral mentor for his friends and readers, establishing standards for acceptable behavior.

He resents favoritism between teachers and students and tries to treat people equally.

Harry recognizes the importance of choices and sacrifices and understands the importance of helping others rather than pleasing himself.

Accountable for his actions, Harry justifies bending rules only when such extremes are necessary for the greater good of the Hogwarts community. He worries about both humans' and animals' welfare, investing energy into helping Hagrid defend Buckbeak, then assertively rescuing the condemned beast from his execution. Harry's respect and compassion for individual uniqueness and his sense of social responsibility helps readers to discard any harmful prejudices they might have themselves. Harry recognizes that knowledge is more powerful than magic. Accepting his imperfections, he



urges his classmates to become better people and is loyal to his friends even when they disagree with him. Harry often bravely pursues a course of action despite the threat of ridicule, risks of losing treasured possessions, or possibility of encountering hazards. In contrast, Draco Malfoy purposefully incites trouble for others such as when he insults Buckbeak then seeks punishment for both the creature and Hagrid as compensation for his resulting embarrassment. His faking an injury indicates his lack of character and self-esteem. Other social issues addressed in the third Harry Potter novel include popular acceptance and rejection of predictions, horoscopes, and fortune-telling. Privacy and secrecy are also important social topics, particularly the question of when is it permissible to violate individual rights for the public good.

The Dementors provoke depression and guilt, both significant social problems as well as rage and vigilantism which are Harry's impulsive reactions toward first Black, then Pettigrew.

This Harry Potter novel broaches the topic of the role of legislation and institutions to regulate human interactions and behavior. Much like parallel authorities in contemporary society, in the wizard world, agencies of public servants make laws.

Rowling has not clarified if any of these professionals are elected and if wizard voters choose representative groups to pass legislation. Some wizards are law enforcement officers who identify, pursue, and arrest suspected law breakers. Courts and judges decide suitable punishments, including incarceration in the wizard prison, Azkaban, and/or the Dementor's kiss, which effectively removes a person's spiritual, emotional, and intellectual essence without physically killing them. The concepts of freedom and happiness permeate Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, and Harry gains new appreciation of time and his inner strength to protect himself and others from false accusations.

Literary Qualities

Rowling's literary style in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* continues her traditional writing techniques found in the first and second *Harry Potter* novels. Her third novel, however, offers more complexities of plot, language, and characterization.

Her characters and settings are multi-layered because of her use of mythological and historical allusions. Rowling utilizes recognizable symbols and motifs, such as the full moon, to create images that communicate her themes of love, despair, despair, illumination, and forgiveness, and she skillfully foreshadows confrontations, such as the quarrel between Scabbers and Crookshanks, early in the book. Her sense of humor balances otherwise tragic and bleak depictions. Rowling speaks to her readers by addressing timeless, universal human concerns such as social acceptance and public humiliation and ostracism.

An omniscient narrator tells the *Harry Potter* saga. The novel resembles an oral folktale that praises the deeds of a hero who has survived tragic circumstances. Such storytelling is reminiscent of legends, myths, and fairy tales told by people from diverse cultures throughout time because of the common elements featuring heroes and villains. Such stories satisfy readers' desire for adventurous and intriguing narratives. The jargon that Rowling has invented especially for her characters' activities, their bureaucratic titles, and their magical devices, such as the Sneakoscope, combines the mundane aspects of life with fantastical possibilities, permitting readers to feel a sense of belonging in *Harry Potter's* world. Rowling's figurative language and vivid descriptions make her characters more human and plausible, inviting readers to immerse themselves vicariously into the settings and action even though, in the novel, Hogwarts and its surroundings are limited to magical fictional characters. Readers feel as if they are stooping in the tunnel en route to Hogsmeade or are having chillbumps rise on their arms as they watch Scabbers become Peter Pettigrew.

Rowling's choice of names for people, places, and beasts is her most effective stylistic device. She recognizes the power of names and chooses monikers that suggest aspects of characters' personalities and quirks such as Sirius Black sometimes being a black dog, Sibyll Trelawney being clairvoyant, Remus Lupin transforming into a werewolf, or Draco referring to the Latin word for serpent. The names that Rowling selects are sometimes alliterative and often rhythmic, enhancing literary tones of anticipation and fear, particularly when passages are read aloud. Information is conveyed to readers through omniscient passages, dialogue, second-hand accounts of other wizards' and witches' comments, and news accounts on the television and in the *Daily Prophet*. The words used for spells also are self-explanatory or humorous such as "Alohomora" to open the window of the office where Black was held; this spell might be translated as including the Hawaiian word "Aloha," meaning both hello and goodbye which appropriately sums up Black's rescue and departure.

In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Harry undergoes a traditional quest cycle: he begins action in the normal Muggle setting from which he flees because of abuse



and a misunderstanding; he is then transferred to fantastical milieus, first Diagon Alley, then Hogwarts and Hogsmeade, where he seeks forgiveness for his previous actions and serves as an apprentice, developing his talents and mastering his craft in an effort to atone for his mistakes; he resolves inner conflicts with despair as well as opposing external enemies like Peter Pettigrew, his archenemy Voldemort's collaborator, in the Shrieking Shack; Harry forgives and attempts to exonerate Sirius Black and rescues him from further harm, returning from his adventure as a respected hero with bolstered self-confidence and esteem to resist further abuse.

Cliffhangers in each chapter intensify suspense, and Harry is sometimes in jeopardy for uncomfortable periods of time before plot resolutions. Readers feel emotionally and physically involved with the characters and their surroundings, thus heightening the tension of the narrative.

Rowling reveals clues about the action throughout, and the repetition of events courtesy of the Time-Turner clarifies previous occurrences, permitting the reader to learn what really happened and to compare this with what they thought had happened.

The confrontation in the Shrieking Shack reveals each person's point of view and their motivation for acting a specific way and explaining any grudges they hold. As characters define themselves, previous characterizations are no longer as valid. Black's long, matted hair and gaunt figure do not make him seem like a fugitive after Harry learns what Black has endured to save Harry from Wormtail. Scabbers is no longer a pathetic rat that Ron wishes to dose with tonic to restore his vigor. Lupin's threadbare clothing and exhausted demeanor are understandable. Rowling's paradoxical depictions of characters and places as simultaneously humorous and horrifying, good and evil, creates an unsettled tone which results in readers distrusting their perceptions of people and events. The literary motifs of secrecy, disguise, illusions, and deception predominate in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Most of Rowling's characters are outsiders and limited by their self- and peer-assigned definitions. These ostracized individuals discover and rely on inner strengths to express their individuality. In Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban such personal expressions and memories symbolize the truth. The literary depiction of duality emphasizes that people and actions are sometimes more complex than they initially appear and that good and evil are inseparable.

Rowling's writing also has sensory details that alert readers to emotional cues.

Colors such as black are used interchangeably to represent malice and friendship.

Sirius Black is ultimately revealed to be kind, while the black-cloaked Dementors are unresponsive to logic and individual differences, viewing everything, figuratively, in shades of black and white with no gray areas for exceptions to rules. The white snow can be comforting or accompany evil.

Temperatures also vary, with warmth usually representing good, although the summer heat accompanies Buckbeak's execution and the incident in the Shrieking Shack.



The Dementors figuratively chill Harry.

Stormy weather accompanies tense scenes.

Noises mostly spook Harry, alarming him, yet he yearns to hear his parents' voices even though they upset him. Tastes, such as sips of Butterbeer, usually indicate pleasure and relaxation. Smells can be disturbing, such as the cloying perfume of the Divination classroom. The fog and mists in that room and around Hogwarts can conceal both good and bad characters. The darkness inside and outside the castle contributes to the ominous tone of the novel, and Harry's sleeplessness and nightmares add to the sense of uneasiness as the fugitive Black's presence near Hogwarts is known and the Dementors cluster closer to Harry. Unconsciousness, whether sleeping deeply or blacking out from fear, represents people, primarily Harry and Lupin, removing themselves from emotionally intolerable situations.

Some scholars might interpret Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban as a cautionary tale because of the fairy tale elements, mythological allusions, and religious imagery incorporated in its literary style. For example, mythologist Joseph Campbell might have depicted the tunnels as an underworld where Black served as a guide to the heroic Harry. He could have suggested that Harry should contemplate what his fascination with stags and voices might mean to him. Psychoanalysts might apply Freudian ideas to understand Harry's motivations and adventures, suggesting that recurring symbols images such as tunnels revealed Harry's anxiety about his maturation and sexuality and his repressed desires, or through the analysis of Jungian imagery, hypothesizing that the decaying atmosphere of the Shrieking Shack represented Harry's fears and introverted personality. Harry's reaction to the Dementors might reflect his internal agony and conflict within his psyche about unresolved issues concerning his parents' murder. These diverse literary interpretations emphasize the concept that imagination is the primary foundation of magic.



Themes

Coming of Age

This theme displays itself throughout the book. Harry and his friends are thirteen now and much has happened to change them over the course of two years at Hogwarts. Harry has matured considerably. He is beginning to realize his full potential and power. His ability to summon a powerful Patronus is magic that is well beyond his years. He also is learning to accept the loss of his parents and the faith in himself and his own abilities is growing. He makes better, more well-reasoned decisions and is learning how to not act rashly.

Hermione and Ron are also maturing and changing. Hermione is learning that the "rules" are truly not always the best means of accomplishing great and heroic acts. She still has a strong respect for learning and teachers, but she is more open to the idea that adults are not always right. Ron has matured also, as can be seen by his great effort to help Hagrid win his case for Buckbeak. He is also concerned for Hermione and notices that she is stressed. He keeps his mouth shut when he knows she is at the breaking point.

Rebellion

In addition to thirteen being the "coming of age" year, it is also the year that marks rebellion for most people. The act of rebelling is, in essence, a means for a maturing teen to question authority and discover their limitations and boundaries outside of what they are told and taught is right and wrong. It also is a vital part of the maturation process. It is at this time of life that most people start to form their own opinions about the world around them in a safe environment.

The use of the Marauder's Map to sneak into Hogsmeade, the visits to Hagrid when they are not supposed to leave the school, the disarming of Professor Snape and the rescuing of Sirius Black and Buckbeak are all indications of Harry, Ron and Hermione's natural urge to rebel and find their way in the world. They are taking action on things they know are right, even though some adults would have them believe that they are wrong.

Bravery

As in the first two stories of the series, bravery is a predominant theme. Bravery abounds throughout the book. Harry learns to defend himself against the Dementors. Hermione stands up to Professor Trelawney, when she knows that she is wrong. Ron faces off with Sirius Black, when he thinks he is after Harry, telling him that he will have to kill him if he wants to get to Harry.



Harry confronts Black, even at his young age, in defense of his parents' memory. He also is brave in telling Black and Lupin not to kill Peter Pettigrew, even though he realizes that he is the real culprit in leading Voldemort to his parents. He does not want to see Black and Lupin become murderers for him and his parents.

Harry and Hermione risk their lives to save Sirius Black from the Dementor's Kiss and also to save Buckbeak. Harry also calls upon his own deep well of valor, when he summons the Patronus both before they use the time tuner and after.



Themes/Characters

Manipulation and redemption are two prominent themes in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Major characters present dual natures, reflecting both deceitful and empathetic traits. Some deceptions are benign and initiated to avoid confrontations or intrusiveness, such as Harry's pretence to be Neville Longbottom when he does not want the Knight Bus' driver and conductor to recognize him. Other impostors have malignant intentions, wanting to mislead people in order to take advantage of them and sometimes harm them.

Although *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* is primarily plot driven, the characters are essential in propelling the plot forward through their selfish motivations and machinations of each other and reactions to circumstances, both contrived and naturally occurring. Rowling's characters are archetypes representing heroes, helpers, villains, and other essential roles. These archetypal characters represent extremes of good and evil, and the battle between those two forces is the basic theme of the Harry Potter saga.

Although some characters seem stereotypical and derivative, their predictability aids readers in understanding their purpose. Many characters are polar opposites, such as Harry and Peter Pettigrew, yet they paradoxically share some traits and, like some settings, experience opposing characteristics within themselves, presenting an amalgam of good and bad. Readers are familiar with many of the recurring characters—humans, ghosts, creatures, and enchanted objects—in the third *Harry Potter* novel. These characters are important to plot development in the third book as well as the plot of the overall saga. New characters are introduced to elaborate on information previously presented in the first two books, especially details concerning Harry's parents.

Harry and his friends, Ron and Hermione, are entering adolescence in the third *Harry Potter* novel. The magical trio is connected by their friendship and faith in each other's unique abilities. Their teamwork is essential for them to vanquish foes effectively.

Although Ron and Hermione are pivotal to plot development, Harry is the hero of the saga. One of the stages experienced by archetypal heroes is learning to use a tool or a way of thinking to conquer a foe and/or help others. Harry achieves this by using his reasoning skills to interpret Black's and Pettigrew's narratives in the Shrieking Shack.

Such unbiased thinking and acquisition of knowledge are crucial for Harry to proceed on his overall heroic quest. The combination of his innate goodness empowered by his enlightenment in his third adventure will help him ultimately to defeat wickedness.

In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Harry is constantly reminded of his parents' tragic demise because he hears their traumatized voices whenever the Dementors are near him. Sacrifice is a major theme of this novel, as well as the entire saga, and Harry knows that he survived Voldemort's assault only because his mother



sacrificed her life in exchange for his. Harry, as a result, feels obligated to be worthy of Lily's selfless action. Although he is anxious to enact vengeance on his parents' enemies, Harry learns to distinguish between reality and falsehoods in order to remain good himself and insure that justice is achieved.

Ironically, Harry is an enigma who keeps secrets from others and even himself. He gradually recognizes truths about his abilities and admits to himself what he is capable of enduring and performing. The theme that goodness is often an unconscious response while malevolence is a deliberate action is always evident in the third Harry Potter novel. He discovers that the news is often an unreliable source of truth and accuracy and that sometimes the most obvious conclusions are incorrect.

Most characters surrounding Harry are unchanged. The Dursleys are as loathsome as ever. Snape is cruel, and McGonagall strict. Dumbledore exudes wisdom. Hermione is still an overachiever and even convinces Dumbledore and McGonagall to make an exception for her so that she can study more subjects than normal students. Ron is the same apathetic pupil who does not take his homework seriously and criticizes Hermione for studying too much. In order to be the center of attention, he embellishes his role in repulsing Black's attack in the dormitory and expresses his irritation at Hermione's cat for attacking his rat. He begins to exhibit maturation when he admires the voluptuous Madam Rosmerta at the Three Broomsticks and acts stoically despite his fractured leg, which symbolizes the splintering of truths that the children have believed.

Similar to the first novel, Hermione participates in solving the adventure and helping Black and Buckbeak escape. Despite her overwhelming schedule, Hermione devotedly helps Hagrid with Buckbeak's defense and provides the brainpower that saves both Black and Buckbeak. The Weasley twins are still active pranksters and provide Harry with a means to escape Hogwarts and pursue the book's mystery. The constancy of these characters symbolizes the normal aspects of Harry's life and emphasizes how extraordinary he is in comparison.

In the first two Harry Potter books, Voldemort appeared through the bodies of Professor Quirrell and Tom Riddle before being defeated and retreating to recuperate and scheme how to destroy Harry. In contrast, Voldemort is absent in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and is represented only by his ineffectual crony Peter Pettigrew who is seemingly insignificant during most of the book when he is disguised as Scabbers but then has a great impact when he is forcibly exposed in the Shrieking Shack prior to escaping. Pettigrew's missing finger (self-amputated, which horrifyingly reveals his disregard for self and his diabolical nature) symbolizes his inability to make his point effectively. The distancing between Harry and Voldemort in this book intensifies tension because Harry alarmingly realizes how vast Voldemort's network of allies is and what they are willing to do to serve their master.

Although he is initially cast as a villain, the innocuous Sirius Black is the most significant adult wizard that Harry knows. As Harry's godfather and James Potter's best friend, Black is even more important to Harry than Dumbledore and Hagrid. Black's name suggests his importance and also conveys the sense that he has a dark side; Rowling



might have derived his name from Scotland Yard's Black Museum featuring notorious criminal artifacts and documents.

Astronomically, the name Sirius also refers to the dog star (part of the constellation, Canis Major, meaning the great dog), emphasizing his importance to Harry's destiny, his role as a guide, and his lofty stature to Harry. Able to transform into a large black dog, Black exhibits canine tendencies such as companionship, devotion, and loyalty. Falsely accused of and imprisoned for Pettigrew's crime in which Pettigrew betrayed the Potters and massacred thirteen people with one curse, Black seeks redemption for enduring malicious rumors about his character and alleged abuse of his position as the Potters' Secret Keeper. Only cognizant of Black from contrasting images in television footage and photographs from his parents' wedding pasted in his album, Harry eventually provides Black this spiritual deliverance. In this novel, Black symbolizes the themes of forgiveness and second chances and also represents how happiness often seems unobtainable for Harry. Black is a refugee, eluding his tormentors, much like Harry is running away from his unhappy home. Pettigrew emphasizes the theme of betrayal in the Harry Potter series, and his dual nature as a rat, whether in human or animal form, and cowardice contrast starkly with Black's boldness and ingenuity either as man or dog.

Remus Lupin is the most successful Defense Against the Dark Arts professor in the saga. Harry, Hermione, and Ron discover Lupin sleeping on the Hogwarts Express, which is unusual because teachers usually travel to Hogwarts by other means.

The children observe Lupin's unconscious form and ponder if he will be a good teacher.

Oblivious to the stares and comments, Lupin awakens to defend Harry from a Dementor that enters their train car. Lupin's intervention and concern impresses Harry and his friends and establishes a bond between them. Like Harry, Lupin arrives at Hogwarts lacking new clothing and materialistic items.

He is drained of energy. Lupin stoically endures Draco's taunts and does not misuse his power to punish or belittle Draco in class. Instead, Lupin nurtures and encourages his pupils. He refuses to react to Snape's attacks on his character and teaching methods when he substitutes while Lupin is ill (even drinking a potion Snape prepared him much to Harry's dismay) and shocks Harry by saying Voldemort's name aloud.

The names Remus and Lupin represent Professor Lupin's wolf-like tendencies, recalling the Roman child Remus suckled by wolves and the Latin term for those beasts. Lupin is also similar to the fictional character Uncle Remus who knows how to outsmart wily creatures the same way Lupin manages to outwit Grindylows and Kappas.

Because Lupin knew Harry's father when they attended Hogwarts, he generously tells Harry information that no one else has divulged. Lupin devotes time outside class, almost like a father figure or uncle, to teach Harry how to summon his inner resources to protect himself from his fears which arise whenever the Dementors are near Harry.



Rubeus Hagrid, the Hogwarts' gamekeeper, is assigned the responsibility of teaching the Care for Magical Creatures class. As shown in the first two Harry Potter books, Hagrid's primary flaw is not recognizing the dangers posed by monstrous creatures. Excited and proud about his new position, Hagrid overestimates his students' abilities, even assigning a monster book that must be tamed. Hagrid's first class initiates a subplot that interweaves with Harry's pursuit of Black. When Draco insults the Hippogriff Buckbeak and is injured, Hagrid desperately tries to save Buckbeak's life and his job. He also speaks frankly to Harry and Ron, chastising them for being inconsiderate of Hermione's feelings.

Perhaps more ineffectual than Hagrid, the Divination Professor Sibyll Trelawney is less respected by the majority of her students. Trelawney's first name tells that she is a fortuneteller, like the mythical Sibyl of Cumae, although Trelawney is not a consistent prophet like her namesake.

Trelawney unfairly selects favored students to dote on in class while skeptically dismisses others such as Hermione and Ron.

Uncharacteristically, Hermione is so incensed at Trelawney's behavior that she quits taking the class. Harry resents Trelawney's constant overdramatic forecasts of his impending death. Ironically, when Trelawney later makes an accurate prediction while in a trance, she does not believe her own words, indicating that her character is as flimsy as the veils she drapes over lamps in her turret classroom. Trelawney relies on perfumes and mists to sweeten and conceal her uselessness.

Draco Malfoy, Harry's nemesis, is Hogwarts's most sinister student. Resembling a vampire because of his sharp, bloodless face and icy grey eyes, Draco is descended from powerful elite wizards. His first name suggests Draco, the ancient Athenian lawyer, whose harsh law code inspired the word Draconian. The surname Malfoy hints of malfeasance. Draco is a Slytherin, like his constant companions, Vincent Crabbe and Gregory Goyle, their names suggesting people who are crabby and grotesque like a gargoyle. They help Malfoy commit his hateful deeds, and although Malfoy exhibits intelligence, albeit evilly applied, Crabbe and Goyle are dim-witted oafs with more brawn than brains that are easily duped and scared by Harry's floating head at the Shrieking Shack. At times Harry alarmingly thinks that Draco better understands his rage at Black than Ron and Hermione.

Also bumbling but benign, Neville Longbottom, Harry's Gryffindor dormitory roommate, is like a jester because he is accident-prone and forgetful. His carelessness sometimes exposes his friends to risks such as when he loses his list of passwords, which Black uses to enter the Gryffindor house quarters. Lavender Brown and Parvati Patil are the only students that Professor Trelawney thinks have psychic promise, and they cannot understand why Harry does not take Trelawney's warnings seriously, goading him to be more careful.

These students are significant as contrasts to Harry's, Ron's, and Hermione's strengths and weaknesses as they cope within the Hogwarts community.



Cornelius Fudge, the inept Minister of Magic, reassures Harry that he will not be stripped of his powers for using a magical spell on Aunt Marge, yet does not seem empathetic to Harry's feelings about the Dursleys. Often "fudging" or messing up his duties, Fudge seems more concerned about appeasing Hogwarts' governors and wizard bureaucrats than assuring that justice is secured. He refuses to believe Snape's accusations that Harry freed Black and Buckbeak. Other supporting characters include wizard store clerks, the Knight Bus driver Ernie Prang and conductor Stan Shunpike (who often does ignore roads) who are crucial for telling Harry information, albeit often distorted, about his past and the present. James and Lily Potter are significant characters in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban because of their legacy.

Aunt Marge, in direct contrast, needles Harry to behave uncharacteristically. A large, loud, mustached woman, Marjorie Dursley has no use for people and animals that she considers inferior. Colonel Fubster (hinting that he might have mobster tendencies) drowns bulldog puppies she deems worthless like Walden Macnair, the wizard executioner, destroys magical creatures considered hazardous.

Animals are important characters in the third book. Scabbers, the hand-me-down rodent, proves to be a rat in more ways than one. Scabbers's idle existence and mutilated body offer clues about his previous activities and future intentions. Hermione's cat Crookshanks, introduced in this book, is also unpleasant but demonstrates that he is more loyal than contrary. His actions cause readers to wonder whether Crookshanks is truly a feline or perhaps an Animagus, the ambiguous human-animals into which James Potter, Sirius Black, and Peter Pettigrew transformed. The stag that James Potter becomes represents the grace and fleetness of mythical deer. Dogs are symbolic because both Black and Harry are underdogs.

Harry fears the canine Grim, and Aunt Marge's favorite bulldog, Ripper, loathes Harry and represents the Dursleys' brutish nature. The Hippogriffs' name suggests a kindredness with the Gryffindors. Buckbeak is a helpful, obedient beast despite the Malfoys' accusations that he is dangerous.

An amalgam of dutiful horse and cunning eagle (and lacking the centaurs' intellectual reasoning skills), Buckbeak, whose name is derived from the beasts that form him, refuses to tolerate insults and is able to take revenge against Draco that Harry is forbidden to pursue.

As in the previous novels, the Hogwarts's ghosts, particularly the poltergeist Peeves, annoy and assist Harry. They represent parallel images of the school's students and professors. The Boggarts are manifestations of peoples' worries and can be deflected with humor or happiness. In extreme cases, such as Harry's confrontations with the Dementors, a Patronus is created from joyfulness and love. This wispy protector is a screen between a victim and his or her tormentor. Although Harry's parents do not appear as ghosts in the stories, his thoughts of them are the basis of the Patronuses he successfully conjures to counter the Dementors. These guards, resembling the Grim Reaper, are tall, hooded figures that are eager to suck out peoples' souls (somewhat



like the Mafia's kiss of death), and, as their name implies, seem demented, are demanding, and wreak havoc.

They conflict with Harry's equilibrium and symbolize his childhood's horrors and deficiencies.

Enchanted and personified artifacts are also significant characters. The Pocket Sneakoscope alerts Harry to possible dangers, especially potentially harmful people lurking in disguise. The Marauder's Map, which plots where everybody is located at Hogwarts and its surroundings, offers Harry an escape from reality but also delivers him to face his worst fears in the Shrieking Shack. The Time-Turner, used correctly, can offer the user more time but not does restore their energy; Hermione was constantly exhausted by her extra hours. Figures in portraits and moving photographs either guide or mislead characters. The monster textbook requires stroking to tame it so that readers can use it. Harry's new Firebolt broomstick is a paradox because it promises to sweep to victory in Quidditch matches but also represents danger because of its anonymous donor. This limbo accentuates Harry's in-between status as an apprentice wizard who is old enough to go to Hogsmeade but still too young to practice magic autonomously. These fantastical elements and motifs balance the realistic aspects and themes in the third Harry Potter book, enhancing its appeal to readers.

Style

Point of View

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is told in 3rd person limited Point of View, with the narrator unidentified and invisible. The tone is objective. Harry is the character whose thoughts, feelings and experiences are revealed to the reader. The narrator mostly relays events as they happen and also reveals some, but not all, of the thoughts and feelings of the main character Harry Potter. The actions and thoughts of the other characters are relayed to the reader via the conversations between the characters themselves. The actions of the main characters and the narrative descriptions of them tell the reader what type of person they are. The characters and places are not always accounted for by the narrator, sometimes they are described through the eyes of Harry.

Setting

The larger setting of the story is England. Earlier in the book, within this larger structure, is the Dursley's house on Privet Drive. The Knight Bus and The Leaky Cauldron are also key settings in the story. The remainder of the story takes place at Hogwarts and in Hogsmeade Village.

Language and Meaning

The language of the book is extremely easy to read and follow. It is written in a flowing style that both children and adults can enjoy. Although the book was classified as a children's book, it goes a long way in entertaining readers of any age, who enjoy imaginative, straight-forward story telling. However, the language is obviously simplified for the originally-intended audience.

There are some British phrases and idioms thrown in here and there, but they do not confuse the reader to any extent. It is said that the American version of the story was changed to better suit American tastes, slang and culture.

Structure

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is written in twenty-two chapters. Most are rather short and either explain a point outright or lead the reader to the next chapter for explanation. They also all end with enough intrigue to lead the reader to turn to the next page. The paragraphs are longer than in the previous books and seem to have grown with the age of the reader. They are still mostly short, however, presumably because the book was written for children aged eight to twelve. This in no way takes away from the book. In fact, it lends to its easy-to-read language. The sentences are also often short and to the point.



Quotes

"Harry Potter was a highly unusual boy in many ways." Chapter 1, page 1

"Far from wishing Harry a happy birthday, none of the Dursleys made any sign that they had noticed Harry enter the room, but Harry was far too used to this to care." Chapter 2, page 16

"What was going to happen to him? Would he be arrested, or would he simply be outlawed from the wizarding world? He thought of Ron and Hermione and his heart sank even lower." Chapter 3, page 31-32

"It took Harry several days to get used to his strange new freedom. Never before had he been able to get up whenever he wanted or eat whatever he fancied." Chapter 4, page 49

"Harry and Ron scowled at each other; Snape wouldn't have said "settle down" if *they'd* walked in late, he'd have given them detention." Chapter 7, page 123

"In no time at all, Defense Against the Dark Arts had become most people's favorite class." Chapter 8, page 141

"The school talked of nothing but Sirius Black for the next few days." Chapter 9, page 166

"But nothing anyone said of did could make Harry feel any better, because they knew only half of what was troubling him." Chapter 10, page 183

"Why had nobody ever told him? Dumbledore, Hagrid, Mr. Weasley, Cornelius Fudge . . . why hadn't anyone ever mentioned the fact that Harry's parents had died because their best friend had betrayed them?" Chapter 11, page 211

"Harry knew that Hermione had meant well, but that didn't stop him from being angry with her." Chapter 12, page 233

"At long last, Harry mounted his Firebolt and kicked off from the ground." Chapter 13, page 254

"For the first time in his life, people were paying more attention to him than to Harry and it was clear that Ron was rather enjoying the experience." Chapter 14, page 270

"They can't do this, said Harry. They can't Buckbeak isn't dangerous." Chapter 15, page 291

"Harry's euphoria at finally winning the Quidditch Cup lasted at least a week." Chapter 16, page 314



"By the time they reached open ground, darkness was settling like a spell around them."
Chapter 17, page 333

"It took a few seconds for the absurdity of this statement to sink in." Chapter 18, page
349

"You fool, said Lupin softly. Is a schoolboy grudge worth putting an innocent man back
inside Azkaban?" Chapter 19, page 359

"The consequences of our actions are always so complicated, so diverse, that
predicting the future is a very difficult business indeed. . ." Chapter 22, page 426

Adaptations

The third book in the Harry Potter saga, following *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* 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 a canon of related books written by C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Roald Dahl, Philip Pullman, Diana Wynne Jones, Patricia C. Wrede, Jane Yolen, Diane Duane, and L. Frank Baum (*The Tin Woodman of Oz* [1918] features large beasts called "Hip-po-gy-rafts"). Numerous books with similar themes, characters, and plots as the Harry Potter novels are often overlooked.

Alexandre Dumas's *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1846) depicts the plight of a falsely accused man imprisoned for a crime committed by another person. Louis Sachar's *Holes* (1999) is set at an isolated juvenile detention camp where the main character, Stanley Yelnats, unravels a family secret.

Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) have twisting plots that revolve around mistaken identities of criminals, runaways, and fugitives from justice. Similarly, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (1883) and *The Strange Case of Dr.*

Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886) have plots based on people's perceptions of others and then discovering that appearances are deceiving. Joel Chandler Harris's *Uncle Remus* books, published from the 1880s through the early 1900s, also portray characters who delight in deceiving others about their true identity and purpose and who participate in plots that usually result in justice being secured for victims.

Carol Kendall's *The Gammage Cup* (1959) features a magical protagonist named Muggles who seeks vengeance for her wronged people, the Minnipins. The *Magician's House Quartet*, written by William Corlett in the 1990s (*The Steps Up the Chimney*, *The Door in the Tree*, *The Tunnel Behind the Waterfall*, and *The Bridge in the Clouds*) described the main characters' adventures in *The Welsh Golden House* where they can communicate with animals and view and see their surroundings through animals' senses. Welwyn Wilton Katz' *The Third Magic* chronicles the adventures of Morgan Lefevre who is swept to another time and place when she visits King Arthur's birthplace because she is falsely identified as her ancestress and must conquer evil forces to save Earth and herself. Joan Hiatt Harlow's *Star in the Storm* tells about a brave Newfoundland dog named Sirius who is reminiscent of Sirius Black.

Jay Bennett's mystery thrillers have characters fleeing stalkers, suffering self-doubt, and questioning other's identities much like Harry does in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Characters present false facades in young adult literature written by Robert



Cormier and Michael Cadnum. John Rowe Townsend's *The Intruder* (1970) depicts how a stranger assuming familiarity with the shopkeeper that he works for is upsetting to teenager Arnold Haithwaite. In Robb White's *Deathwatch* (1972) the protagonist Ben witnesses a murder and is stalked as he escapes through the wilderness. He is incredulous when no one believes him when he tries to press charges against the murderer. Lois Duncan's *Don't Look Behind You* (1989) describes how April's life and identity changes when she and her family are hidden in the federal witness protection program and stalked by a hired killer. Joan Lowery Nixon presents stories similar to Harry's plight in *The Stalker* (1985), in which seventeen-year-old Jennifer attempts to prove her best friend is innocent of murder by proving who the murderer is, and in *The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore* (1979), in which the title character is kidnapped but everyone thinks she staged the crime to receive ransom money from her rich grandmother. Eve Bunting's *Someone is Hiding on Alcatraz Island* (1984) is a thriller set on the infamous prison site in which Danny is tormented by gang members in a cell block. Jane Yolen and Martin H. Greenberg, editors of *Werewolves: A Collection of Original Stories* (1988), present diverse literary interpretations of shapeshifting.

Popular adult fiction that is similar to the plot and themes in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* include the suspense novels such as *Devices and Desires* (1990) written by P.D. James, which feature protagonist Adam Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard and Elizabeth George's *In the Presence of the Enemy* (1996). Authors who have written novels about fugitives from justice include James Lee Burke, Patricia Cornwell, Thomas Harris, William Hoffman, John Gilstrap, Robert R. McCammon, and Joseph Wambaugh.

Nonfiction works which can be consulted to supplement reading of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* include Douglas G. Browne, *The Rise of Scotland Yard: A History of the Metropolitan Police* (1973); Tom Tullett, *Strictly Murder: Famous Cases of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad* (1980); and Jonathan Goodman and Bill Waddell, *The Black Museum: Scotland Yard's Chamber of Crime* (1987). John Briggs, et al, *Crime and Punishment in England: An Introductory History* (1996) and Robert Chesshyre, *The Force: Inside the Police* (1989) provide factual information about the English criminal justice system. Roy D. King and Kathleen McDermott, *The State of Our Prisons* (1995) is part of the Clarendon Studies in Criminology Series published by Oxford University Press which examines various aspects of criminal justice in Great Britain.

The short chapter book by Lori Haskins, *Breakout!: Escape from Alcatraz* (1996), introduces young readers to the infamous American prison on an island (like Azkaban) near San Francisco, and Thomas E. Gaddis's *Birdman of Alcatraz: The Story of Robert Stroud* (1955) and *Unknown Men of Alcatraz* (1977) provide more details about specific inmates. True stories and legends about prisoners and escapees can be found in Geoffrey Abbott's *Great Escapes from the Tower of London* (1982) and Roger Howard's *Great Escapes and Rescues: An Encyclopedia* (1999). Regarding shapeshifting like the Animagi in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Daniel Cohen's *Werewolves* (1996) is written for young readers and scholarly studies such as Charlotte F. Otten's *A Lycanthropy Reader: Werewolves in Western Culture* (1986) and Brad Steiger's *The Werewolf Book: The Encyclopedia of Shape-shifting Beings* (1999) discuss folktales and literary and historical documents about humans physically changing form into animals.



Topics for Discussion

Why did Harry finally snap and "blow up" Aunt Marge, giving no thought to the outcome? Explain your answer.

What would a Boggart turn into if you were confronted with it? What would you use to disarm it and your fear?

The Marauder's Map is a very imaginative invention. Explain three ways it added to the plot of the story.

Compare the personalities of the three Animagus wizards with the animals they turn into. Wormtail/rat/Peter Pettigrew, Padfoot/dog/Sirius Black and Prongs/stag/James Potter.

What kept Harry from letting Black and Lupin kill Pettigrew?

If you had a time turner, what would you do with it? Explain your answer.

Point out three reasons why Snape is so angry with Harry's father.

Decide whether you see Snape as having the potential for good or evil. Explain your answer.

1. Should Harry have used magic in reaction to Aunt Marge's hateful comments about his parents? What were his alternatives? Should he have been punished by the Dursleys, the Ministry of Magic, or both?

2. How does the permission slip to visit Hogsmeade symbolize Harry's being in limbo between childhood and adulthood? When do the children characters switch roles with adults in this novel?

3. Discuss the irony of someone being indebted to a person he or she loathes.

What would be ironic about having someone indebted to you that you dislike?

4. What is Harry's worst fear and what does this symbolize about him? Do you think he should fear something else?

Describe how the Dementors reveal unseen emotional scars that Harry bears and expand your discussion to the effects of psychological stresses on various characters in this book.

5. Why are the appearances of people, places, and things often deceptive? Are rumors usually not factual? When can rumors be trusted to be true?



6. Analyze the relationship between Lupin and Snape. How do the professors differ? How are they alike? Why does Lupin tolerate Snape's derision? Discuss Lupin's role as a father figure.

What clues in the story suggested that Lupin was a werewolf?

7. How does Hermione change in this novel? What changes do you think will be permanent? How will she be the same when she returns to Hogwarts?

Why is she so serious about her schoolwork? Why can Harry's friends not understand his angst about his parents? What revelations about students help to develop their characters and suggest possible future plot developments?

8. Discuss Harry's decision not to kill Black or Pettigrew in the Shrieking Shack.

What do you think he should have done?

9. Why does the Minister of Magic Cornelius Fudge talk to Harry like an equal?

Why does he trust the Muggle Prime Minister with the information that Sirius Black is a wizard?

10. What inconsistencies can be detected in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, such as how did Sirius Black access his Gringotts's vault to pay for the Firebolt while he was a fugitive?

11. Tell how the Dursleys are gradually losing power over Harry and how he is becoming more empowered to be autonomous.

12. Who would you choose as your Secret-Keeper and why?



Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. Research information about the criminal justice system in Great Britain and the country where you live. Compare and contrast the two systems.
2. Write a paper about how fugitives are depicted in literature and movies. Which fugitives have become folk heroes? Why do they appeal to people?
3. Prepare a persuasive speech about a topic which interests you or that explains something about yourself that people tend to misunderstand.
4. Explain what kind of animal you would be if you were an Animagus. Write a story about that animal and draw a picture to illustrate your tale. Older students can analyze how the Animagi represent both ambiguity and freedom and compare this transformation to the maturing of a child into an adult.
5. Research the history of capital punishment in several countries and compare and contrast public reaction in those countries to that punishment. Do statistics suggest that the death penalty has deterred murderers? Graph annual murder rates for countries with and without the death penalty and analyze the data.
6. Examine the passages in which Harry and Hermione return to Hagrid's shack and write a report about whether you think Dumbledore's statements reveal that he was aware that Harry and Hermione had magically traveled through time? If so, what do you think this suggests about Dumbledore's character? If not, what do you think his comments meant? Discuss the ethical and moral ramifications of Dumbledore's decision to assist Harry and Hermione in freeing Black and Buckbeak.
7. In a journal entry, tell about an experience you had when something or someone was not like you thought it was or they were at first. How did you react?

Did this new knowledge change your opinion about the thing or person? Did you like them more, less, or the same?
8. Write a report about dogs, rats, wolves, or stags and their depiction in mythology and history.
9. What symbols does the Dementor's Kiss parallel in popular culture and literature? Write a paper discussing these similarities.
10. Write an essay describing how effectively the new settings introduced in this book accentuate the series? Prepare a similar paper discussing new characters and their role in advancing the book's and series' plots. This novel differs from the previous books in the series because Harry does not confront Voldemort directly. Write a critical essay about whether this was a satisfactory conclusion or if you would have preferred for Voldemort to have been included.



11. Discuss time as a metaphor in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. What do you think Harry's and Hermione's manipulation of time represents?

12. Analyze how the Quidditch defeat affected Harry and assess whether this was an effective literary device.



Further Study

Del Negro, Janice M. *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (October 1999): 68. This review of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* summarizes the novel's plot and recommends the book because "Rowling's characterizations are succinctly evocative and often slyly funny, ensuring that readers develop a fondness for her players, care what happens to them, and come back for more."

Hainer, Cathy. "Third Time's Another Charmer for 'Harry Potter.'" *USA Today*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* 197 (September 8, 1999): 1-D. Positive review of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* which "scores another home run." Provides hints about plot twists.

Maughan, Shannon. "The Harry Potter Halo." *Publishers Weekly* (July 19, 1999): 92-94. Comments on how the *Harry Potter* novels have encouraged young readers to purchase other hardback editions of children's literature and increased library patronage. Discusses the cultural phenomena of *Harry Potter* and the saga's impact on literacy and bookselling prior to the release of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* in the United States.

Lists recommended novels similar to the *Harry Potter* books.

Mitnick, Eva. *School Library Journal* (October 1999): 128. This review of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* praises the novel, stating "Isn't it reassuring that some things just get better and better?"

Harry is back and in fine form in the third installment of his adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry." This reviewer admires the complexities of Rowling's plot and "nonstop" pacing and "stunning climax," concluding that "This is a fabulously entertaining read that will have *Harry Potter* fans cheering for more."

Parravano, Martha V. *Horn Book* (November-December 1999): 744-745. Recommends the *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* because "all the elements that make the formula work are heightened."

Notes the cultural impact of the *Harry Potter* saga, suggesting that "All current reviews of *Harry Potter* books should probably be addressed to some future audience for whom *Harry* is book rather than phenomenon; at the moment, reviews seem superfluous" and stating "For the record, then, O future reader, this latest installment in *Harry's* saga is quite a good book."

Publishers Weekly (July 19, 1999): 195. This review of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* asserts "Rowling proves that she has plenty of tricks left up her sleeve in this third *Harry Potter* adventure" because of the "genius of Rowling's plotting. Seemingly minor details established in books one and two unfold to take on unforeseen

significance, and the finale, while not airtight in its internal logic, is utterly thrilling." Concludes that "Rowling's wit never flags" and the "Potter spell is holding strong."

Schafer, Elizabeth D. Beacham's Sourcebooks for Teaching Young Adult Fiction: Exploring Harry Potter. Osprey, FL: Beacham Publishing, 2000. A comprehensive, interdisciplinary analysis of the Harry Potter books which elaborates about literary components of the series. Includes a detailed chapter development analysis and discussion questions and suggested activities and projects for Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Provides citations for diverse resources, including reviews and web sites, about Rowling and the Harry Potter series.



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