

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire Study Guide

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J. K. Rowling

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Overview

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is J. K. Rowling's fourth Harry Potter book in what is expected to be a series of seven. Like the books before it (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban), Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire opens during Harry's summer vacation from school. After the first few chapters, the reader returns to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry with Harry and his two best friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. It is at Hogwarts that the main action of the novel takes place. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire describes Harry's, Ron's, and Hermione's fourth year at Hogwarts, and by now we are not surprised to find it framed by the end of summer at the beginning of the novel and by the beginning of summer at the end of the novel. It is also not a surprise that, despite these frames, the bulk of the novel is devoted almost entirely to an academic setting.

And yet, there is a disappointment that familiarity can sometimes bring to readers desirous of new material and technique.

Indeed, of Rowling's Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, noted horror novelist Stephen King writes: "[We] may be a little tired of discovering Harry at home with his horrible aunt and uncle (plus his even more horrible cousin, Dudley, whose favorite Play Station game is Mega-Mutilation Part 3), but once Harry has attended the obligatory Quidditch match and returned to Hogwarts, the tale picks up speed." While King has a point regarding the redundancy of the novel's frames, he is right in suggesting that "the tale picks up speed," for Rowling cannot be described as lacking in innovation (however loyal she is to the traditions of the fantasy genre). In Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Rowling borrows the innovation of human development to keep her work strong. Earlier Harry Potter books use the Muggle (nonmagic) world as a backdrop for the magical world and a springboard for understanding and evaluating Hogwarts as a fantastic, parallel sociopolitical system. But this measure is no longer sufficient. Like the child-hero Harry (now 14 years old), the reader of J. K. Rowling's series craves to know more about the larger adult world that Harry will soon be entering.

For both protagonist and audience, and in keeping with classic British fantasy for young adults (especially the fantasy of C. S. Lewis), this larger world is the world of civil service and old school ties. It is the world of the Ministry of Magic and of adult characters more steeped in the recent history of the magic world—and all the policies, preferences, and politics that adult worlds involve. Happily, Rowling does not skimp on her description of the adult world, nor does she undermine the playful humor offset by wisdom with which she shapes the Harry Potter books. Wisely, rather than forcing Harry and the reader to enter into and successfully negotiate the adult magic world, as soon as the academic year begins, Rowling brings the adult magic world to Hogwarts, to Harry, and to us via the Triwizard Tournament. As Headmaster Albus Dumbledore explains: The Triwizard Tournament was first established some seven hundred years ago as a friendly competition between the three largest European schools of Wizardry: Hogwarts, Beauxbatons, and Durmstrang.



A champion was selected to represent each school, and the three champions competed in three magical tasks. . . . There have been several attempts over the centuries to reinstate the tournament . . . none of which has been very successful. However, our own departments of International Magic Cooperation and Magical Games and Sports have decided the time is ripe for another attempt.

With the Triwizard Tournament comes the adult magic world (yet another challenge for Harry, who, despite being underage, is chosen as a competitor), the usual adjustments of a 14-year-old boy (namely friendship, romance, and puberty), and the political intrigues and devastating gravity surrounding the evil Lord Voldemort's use of the Triwizard Tournament to "rebirth" himself.

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, 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.



Plot Summary

The book begins describing the eerie happenings at an abandoned house in Little Hangleton. This had been the residence of Tom Riddle and his family, all of whom perished in an inexplicable manner. The house had lain empty for years, cared for by an old gardener, Frank Bryce. On the night in question, Frank, attracted by unusual movement, goes up to the house to check what is happening. Here he stumbles across a strange conversation between a short, bald, beak-nosed man named Wormtail and Lord Voldemort. These two men are accompanied by a huge evil looking snake, Nagini. They speak of the murder of one called Bertha Jorkins and the planned murder of Harry Potter. Caught in the act of eavesdropping, Frank is struck down dead.

Harry Potter, staying at his aunt and uncle's house on vacation, has strange dreams and senses something strange when the scar that he received from the evil wizard Voldemort begins to pain him. Strange signs and occurrences are happening in the wizardry world, but few seem to notice. Voldemort is conspiring to regain his powers and use them for evil.

Meanwhile, Harry is now facing his fourth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is now fourteen and demonstrating all the normal characteristics of adolescence. This year seems to be full of exciting events, starting with the great excitement of the Quidditch World Cup. His best friend's family, the Weasleys, has invited Harry to the finals. The match is a wonderfully exciting opportunity for the young friends to see their favorite players and all the fun of being in the middle of all the hustle and bustle of a stadium with thousands of spectators and enthusiastic fans.

The next great exciting event is the Triwizard Contest to be held between three great wizardry schools. Each school is supposed to compete with only one contestant. The names of all applicants are entered into the Goblet of Fire. As this is a dangerous contest, an age limit of seventeen has been established as a minimum age for all applicants to the competition. The great surprise is that not three but four contestants' names are chosen by the Goblet of Fire. The first three chosen were Viktor Krum, from Durmstang, Fleur from Beauxbatons, and Cedric Diggory for Hogwarts. The plot thickens as Harry Potter is amazingly chosen as the fourth contestant. This is a strange situation as not only was it impossible for Harry to put his name in as he was under age, the Goblet could only chose one contestant from each school. Obviously, someone plotted to include Harry in the competition and we wonder what real dangers Harry will be facing.

Behind the scenes of this great contest, everyday life goes on for the young characters. Hermione finds herself being the object of Viktor Krum's attention. Harry's heartthrob Cho Chang seems to be pairing off with Cedric Diggory. Apart from being wizards and witches, the young characters in this book portray all the characteristics of normal boys and girls. Adolescent doubts, crushes, petty arguments, envies, fan clubs, lighthearted fun, and pranks are all part of these youngsters day to day lives.



The main plot, however, revolves around the Triwizard Contest and the three challenges the contestants must face. Harry apparently luckily completes the first two tasks with some help from outside sources and is pushed into the leading position with Cedric Diggory to face the third. As they reach the final prize, after having conquered the dangers placed before them, they decide to reach the goblet of fire together. The Goblet had been transformed into a Portkey to take Harry Potter to a cemetery in Little Hangleton. Voldemort has been plotting all along for Harry to win the Goblet and to be brought to his enemy's presence. We discover Voldemort's evil plan is to regain his strength, become whole again, and regain his powers. The sad and dark happenings at the cemetery give Voldemort a partial success and he is able to retain his powers. Harry, however, manages to escape and return to the school. Yet, the book ends on the disturbing note that Voldemort, the evil wizard, has not only survived, but has also regained his power and followers, and the reign of terror will begin. This leaves the reader anxious to know what further adventures and battles between good and evil will await Harry in the next books.

This is the first book of the series where there is an actual tragedy involving one of the young wizards. It is a little bit "darker" and heavier than the previous books. However, Harry is growing up and life does become more complex as one grows up.

J. K. Rowling manages to reflect the real world and real world moral issues behind her fantasy novel. Moral dilemmas about correct behavior, ethics, and character pervade the book in a very natural way. Temptations and the fight between good and evil are underlying themes which Rowling handles in a down-to-earth manner. Rowling manages to defend upright behavior and strong moral values in a very simple and pleasant way.



Chapter 1 - The Riddle House

Chapter 1 - The Riddle House Summary

The scene is an abandoned house in Little Hangleton where the strange deaths of three members of the Riddle family years before have given the house an eerie and haunted ambience. Tom Riddle, his wife, and son were found dead at the dining room table with their mouths and eyes open with the expression of sheer terror. Frank Bryce, the gardener, seeing a strange light, goes up to the house to see what is happening. Standing outside the door of the drawing room, he hears a conversation between two strangers, Wormtail and Lord Voldemort. In their conversation, they mention the murder of a woman called Bertha Jorkins and plans concerning the fate of Harry Potter. They are also in conspiracy over plans for the Quidditch World Cup.

Frank does not really understand any of this conversation, but feels the menace and evil. He is just about to run to the police when a huge snake appears behind him and communicates Frank's presence to the men in the room. Wormtail suddenly opens the door of the room. Sitting with his back turned, Voldemort addresses Frank, calling him a "Muggle." Due to Frank's ignorance of the term, Voldemort coldly explains that a Muggle is a human who is not a wizard. During the ensuing discussion, Frank confronts Voldemort and threatens to turn him into the police. Voldemort slowly turns to face Frank. The vision before him leaves the brave old gardener totally petrified. In cold blood, Voldemort waves his wand, and with a green light and a rushing sound, Frank drops dead.

Two hundred miles away Harry Potter wakes.

Chapter 1 - The Riddle House Analysis

The book starts with an overtone of fear and mystery. All the ingredients of a thriller are present: a haunted house, mysterious deaths, talks of murder and intrigue, a giant snake, terrifying visions. This is a completely different tone from the previous books of the series, which start off in apparently normal circumstances. The first three books start off with Harry Potter living his own life and eventually running into the menacing powers of Voldemort as if by chance. This book, however, begins with Voldemort scheming. Harry Potter will play an important role in his evil machinations.

In this chapter, Voldemort presents himself as a cruel and cold-blooded murderer. His despotic and arrogant nature is made clear in his relationship with his servant Wormtail and the offhanded manner in which he disposes of Frank Bryce.

Wormtail presents himself as a slimy, subservient suck-up. He is in obvious awe and fear of Voldemort, vying for his approval and affection. His name suits his character very well,



as he tries to worm his way into a privileged position in Voldemort's envisioned new evil order.

The human factor in this chapter is Frank Bryce. He is a brave and no-nonsense type of old man, totally oblivious to the supernatural forces afoot. He plays a small part in the plot, but his presence brings about a sense of reality to the scene.



Chapter 2 – The Scar

Chapter 2 - The Scar Summary

Harry Potter wakes from a nightmare with a start and a pain in the scar on his head. The scene of the old man and the horrible figure of Voldemort make him feel very uneasy. Harry is worried about the fact that his scar is hurting him. This only ever happened before when evil Voldemort was in the vicinity. The likelihood of this seems to be very remote.

Harry, who is now fourteen years old, reflects on his life story. The dark wizard Voldemort murdered Harry's parents when he was a baby. He received the lightning bolt-shaped scar on his forehead when Voldemort tried to kill him too. Harry survived, protected by his mother's love.

Orphaned, Harry goes to live with the Dursleys, his "Muggle" aunt and uncle and their son, with whom he doesn't get on at all well. Harry feels out of place and is badly treated by his new family. Invited to study at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry at the age of eleven, Harry discovers that he is a wizard. . From that point on, Harry becomes part of the wizardry world, only going back to his Aunt and Uncle's during school vacation. His Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon, and cousin Dudley are at the same time scared and ashamed of Harry's magical powers. They try to make Harry's life as miserable as possible whenever he is with them.

Harry's concern about his scar makes him wonder with whom he should talk. His mind roves to his best friend Ron Weasley and his family, or his other best friend, Hermione Granger. Ron and Hermione are also wizards and study at the same school. He thinks of their probable reactions of panic and perplexity. Harry then decides on sending a letter by owl mail to his godfather Sirius, asking for his opinion and advice on the subject. Sirius is a very powerful wizard, but is in hiding abroad, having been unjustly accused of having committed crimes.

Chapter 2 - The Scar Analysis

In this chapter, the author brings us up to date with Harry Potter's background and re-introduces a few of the characters from the previous books. Despite being a wizard, Harry has many of the feelings and reactions of any normal teenage boy. Harry is a fourteen year old adolescent, and feels lonely, discriminated against, and out of place at his uncle's house. He misses having parents. He is at that vulnerable age where he needs the support, love, and advice of an adult, yet has that edge of pride that prevents him from really pouring his heart out, as can be seen in the self-conscious way that he writes to his godfather.

At this age, friends and what they think are also very important. Harry imagines what Ron and Hermione's reactions would be to his worries and the effect his actions.



Chapter 3 - The Invitation

Chapter 3 - The Invitation Summary

Harry is feeling pretty down and isolated. He hates being at his aunt and uncle's house and misses his friends from school. The house is bad enough under normal circumstances, but things are even worse now that the Dursley's decided to go on a strict diet. Bully cousin Dudley is overweight.

Harry is delighted when he receives a letter from the Weasleys inviting him to go with them to the Quidditch World Cup. Mr. Weasley, who works with the Ministry of Magic, manages to get some free tickets. This is a very exciting happening as quidditch, in the wizard, world, is as important as any very popular team sport such as football for ordinary people.

Quidditch is a team sport played on broomsticks, a very quick moving and exciting game. Harry plays quidditch for his schoolhouse and has one of the best makes of broomsticks, a "Firebolt."

Vernon Dursley is not at all happy. He has an extreme dislike for and fear of anything to do with the wizardry world. He is extremely embarrassed by the fact that Mrs. Weasley, not accustomed to the normal mail system, filled the envelope with stamps on both sides. His big concern is that the postman noticed the excess stamps and commented on it. Vernon's first reaction is not to give Harry permission to go, simply to frustrate him.

Harry decides to use his Uncle's fear to his own advantage. Even though it is prohibited for wizards to use their powers against Muggles, Harry makes veiled threats about how upset his godfather Sirius would be if Harry were not allowed to go. Harry knows that these threats are totally empty, but he gets his way and Vernon allows him to go with the Weasleys.

Chapter 3 - The Invitation Analysis

Everything is in a much lighter tone now. Harry is the example of a normal fourteen year-old, stashing food away, loving sports, etc. The excitement of the Quidditch World Cup seems to wash all of Harry's worries and concerns away. The teenage spirit is captured very well here. Harry is a very good and serious boy; however, he is not averse to using a bit of artifice when necessary to get his own way.

The fear of being different and of "what people will think" is depicted very well in Vernon Dursley. His reactions to Harry are just a slight exaggeration of what people's normal reactions are to anyone and anything that is different or not understood. In general, we fear what we don't understand.



Chapter 4 - Back to the Burrow

Chapter 4 - Back to the Burrow Summary

The Dursleys are waiting for the Weasleys to come to pick up Harry. Uncle Vernon is very put out as the Weasleys are late. Using their magical form of transportation, Mr. Weasley, Ron, and the twins, George and Fred, try to come through the chimney. There is an electric fire in the fireplace, so they get stuck in the flue. With no other choice, they burst through the boarded up hearth right into the living room, understandably upsetting the Dursleys. The Weasleys, innocently unaware of the havoc they have caused, try to be friendly and polite to the Muggles. These conciliatory overtures are not well accepted and the atmosphere is extremely uncomfortable.

With a wave of Mr. Weasley's wand and a sprinkle of magical powder, a green fire appears in the fireplace through which the wizards begin to take their leave, heading for the Burrow, the Weasley's home. The magic used to depart scares and antagonizes Uncle Vernon even more. To make matters worse, on the way out, one of the Weasley prankster twins purposely drops a toffee on the floor. Dudley Dursley eats it, not realizing that it is imbued with a spell that makes his tongue swell and stretch. Mr. Weasley tries to put things right, causing Vernon Dursley to panic even more. Fed up with the whole fracas, Mr. Weasley joins the rest of his family through the fireplace, instantly arriving to the comforts of his own home where his wife awaits.

Chapter 4 - Back to the Burrow Analysis

In this chapter, J.K. Rowling brings in a very light-hearted, comical mood to the book, a completely different atmosphere from the initial dark and mysterious tone of the first two chapters. The members of the big, boisterous, a good-natured Weasley family are always easy-going and welcoming; they therefore expect to be received in the same way no matter what. They really cannot understand why their overtures are not well received. The Weasley twins, on the other hand, love a practical joke and typical of many like them, are not very concerned with the consequences.



Chapter 5 - Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes

Chapter 5 - Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes Summary

Harry Potter is very happy and comfortable to be at the Weasley's house. Everything there is bright and happy. Here he reunites with the rest of the family, Ron's mother and other brothers, Bill and Charlie. Percy, another one of Ron's brothers, has a bureaucratic job with the Ministry of Magic and is writing a report for the Department of International Cooperation for his boss, Mr. Crouch. Mrs. Weasley is flabbergasted at the twins' wild idea of starting up their own business enterprise, Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, specializing in pranks and trick artifacts. Hermione and Ron's younger sister, Ginny, are also at the house.

Normal family chitchat takes place. Mr. Weasley and Percy talk a bit about their jobs, commenting on Bertha Jorkins' disappearance. Mrs. Weasley is fuming at the twins about the toffee incident. Ron and Harry are tickled pink that they will be seeing their great Quidditch idol, Krum, playing for Bulgaria. Everyone is very excited and getting ready to go the International Quidditch Championship.

Chapter 5 - Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes Analysis

Here, the author establishes the fact that though they are wizards, Harry and his friends have a very normal life. We can fully identify with them here. We understand Mrs. Weasley's worries and ambitions for her sons' futures, Mr. Weasley's talk about work, the bureaucratic organization of the wizardry world with Ministries, Departments, banks, businesses, the enthusiasm over a sport; celebrity idols, fans, etc. The normality helps the reader feel very comfortable and secure.



Chapter 6 – The Portkey

Chapter 6 - The Portkey Summary

Off the Weasleys and guests go to watch the famous championship. The older sons will just "Apparating," or magically disappear and reappear almost instantly in another place. This mode of transport is allowed only to adult wizards who have a license. Mr. Weasley will be taking the younger members of the group by Portkey. A Portkey is an object used to transport wizards from one place to another. In this case, the Portkey that takes them to the tournament is an old boot. Using the same Portkey are Cedric Diggory and his father. Cedric studies at Hogwarts School with Harry, Hermione, and the young Weasleys, and is the Captain of the Hufflepuff House Quidditch team. Cedric's father is very proud that his son's Quidditch team beat the Harry's House team last year. Harry is a celebrity in his own right in the wizardry world for having survived Voldemort and is also the Seeker for Gryffindor House school team.

Holding onto their Portkey, they are all transported to the International Tournament grounds.

Chapter 6 - The Portkey Analysis

In the same manner as the characters in the book are being transported to their tournament, in this chapter, the reader is transported back to the magical world. This is a very short but important chapter as the reader learns about Portkeys and is introduced to Cedric Diggory. These two happenings are to play a big part in the plot that is to be developed.

Once again the author's insight into human nature is seen in Cedric's father's pride in his son.



Chapter 7 - Bagman and Crouch

Chapter 7 - Bagman and Crouch Summary

The group arrives at the campsite where they will be pitching their tent and staying for the Tournament. This camping area belongs to and is managed by Muggles who have no idea that the groups of eccentric customers are actually wizards and witches. There are wizards from all over the world, of all ages. The campsite is near the stadium and the only place available for such a huge and unusual concentration of wizards and witches. The campers have been told to be very careful, to try to dress like Muggles, not to use magic outside the tents, and not to call too much attention to themselves. The organization of such a big event is quite complicated under normal circumstances, but it also must be ensured that the Muggles are not aware that anything abnormal is going on. More often than not, Muggles have to be put under Memory Charms to modify their memories of what they have seen and heard from the wizardry world.

Harry has never been camping before and is thrilled by the novelty of it. Tents are set up which appear on the outside like normal Muggle tents, but on the inside can be multi-roomed mansions. At the campsite the atmosphere is very festive and happy. Old friends meet up and comment on current activities and news. Bets are placed on the finals between Bulgaria and Ireland. Vendors sell souvenirs. Ron buys a dancing shamrock hat. Harry buys magical omnioculars, magical binoculars that can replay, slow down, or speed up actions.

The Head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports is Ludo Bagman, a veteran quidditch player who is not used to bureaucratic procedure or dealings with Muggles. Mr. Weasley mentions with concern the fact that the Ministry does not know of Bertha Jorkins' whereabouts. Bagman, however, does not seem in the least bit worried, imagining that she has gone off somewhere under her own will. High-ranking Arty Crouch, Percy's very serious and meticulous boss at the Department of International Cooperation, also comes on scene. Mr. Crouch and Bagman talk about some secret future events to take place later in the year at Hogwarts.

Chapter 7 - Bagman and Crouch Analysis

The reader once again is made to identify fully with the wizardry world. Wizards share the same physical space as the Muggles; they have the same feelings and reactions. They, however, have their own, yet similar type of social and political hierarchy, international treaties, sporting events, commerce, etc. The characters described here are the type of characters that we come across everyday, the pompous official, the enthusiastic sportsman, the frustrated mother, the badly behaved child, and so on. They seem to be totally human, except that they perform magic. All the similarities with our own world and experiences tend to make the reader understand what is going on with the characters on a personal basis.



Chapter 8 – The Quidditch World Cup

Chapter 8 - The Quidditch World Cup Summary

The time has finally come and the Weasley party traipses off to the stadium. The stadium is fantastic, fitting one hundred thousand fans. It took five hundred wizards a year to build it. Muggle Repelling Charms were placed all over it, making Muggles suddenly remember other pressing appointments and rush off every time they approached the stadium.

The Weasleys have privileged seats in the Top Box. Harry meets Winky, a house elf who is saving Mr. Crouch's seat. House elves are magical creatures used as unpaid workers for wizards. Winky is a friend of Dobby, a house elf Harry set free from the Malfoy family. Dobby now wants to be paid for his work.

Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic, and Mr. Oblanks, the Bulgarian Minister, are also sharing the Box. Harry, Ron, and Hermione are not happy to see Draco Malfoy. Draco's parents join them in the Box. Draco studies at Hogwarts with the three friends and they have disliked each other since the very beginning. Draco belongs to the rival Slithering House.

The festivities begin with shows from each of the teams' sides. First come the "Veela's," enchanting Bulgarian dancers, who enchant the spectators with their seductive movements. Harry and Ron are Ireland fans, but are totally enchanted by the Veelas. Then come the Irish Leprechauns with an exciting show of colors. Their exciting show brings everyone back in the mood to cheer for their teams.

The quidditch match itself is very exciting and competitive; some of the plays are on the rough side. It looks like it is going to be a victory for Ireland, but brilliant Viktor Krum, Bulgaria's Seeker gets the Snitch. Krum is an idol for quidditch fans. He is only seventeen years old and already plays for the national team.

Chapter 8 - The Quidditch World Cup Analysis

The reader feels that wizards are very similar to normal human beings. The quidditch sport itself may be different, but the competitive spirit is the same. The excitement and exhilaration of being at a stadium, the cheerleaders, and the vendors, and even the betting helps one relate to the books characters and story. The fantasy world created by the author seems very real and natural.

This chapter also brings in the awakening of new feelings in the adolescence. The attraction that both Ron and Harry feel towards the Veelas is one of the new sensations typical of their age group.



Chapter 9 – The Dark Mark

Chapter 9 - The Dark Mark Summary

Happy and excited, everyone leaves the stadium and goes back to their campsites. The youngsters are relaxing and ready for a good night's sleep when Mr. Weasley warns them to get up and run to the forest. A drunken rabble of wizards is tramping through the campsite, vandalizing and causing havoc. The mob has captured the Muggle caretakers of the site and is cruelly mistreating them. The place goes mad, wizards and witches wearing masks are hunting Muggles to taunt and jeer. This mob seems to be made up of Death Eaters, Voldemort's followers who had gone into hiding after his downfall and loss of power. Mr. Weasley, together with the older boys, go to help the Ministry restore order.

The youngsters run to the forest in fright, Hermione lighting the way with her wand. They run into Draco Malfoy, who taunts Hermione about her Muggle blood. It is hinted that Malfoy's family are part of the mobsters. After an exchange of insults, Harry, Hermione, and Ron continue on through the forest, escaping the commotion. At this point, Harry realizes that he is missing his wand. They look all over for it with no luck. They suddenly come across Winky the house elf. She seems upset and is running with difficulty. Winky talks incoherently about bad wizards and hurries on her way.

The three friends wonder what is wrong with Winky. Hermione comments on how unfair life is for the elves, how they are held in slavery, and how they are very badly treated. She comments on how Mr. Crouch made Winky save him a seat at the stadium even when she was terrified. Hermione is very indignant about house elves' fate.

The trio continues on their way and run into a shaky Ludo Bagman. He had lost his jolly manner. Bagman questions what they are doing in the forest alone. They tell him about the rioting crowd. Bagman runs off to help control the situation.

Suddenly, a green light erupts from the forest, forming in the sky the shape of a colossal skull with a snake protruding from its mouth. This frightening vision is the Dark Mark, Voldemort's sign. In the wizardry world, Voldemort is such a frightening figure that he is never mentioned by name, only as You-Know-Who. The vision of the Dark Mark frightens all of the wizards. Ministry of Magic officials rush out to find who is responsible for making the mark. They find Winky fainted in the forest with Harry Potter's wand on her. It becomes apparent that it was Harry's wand that was used to conjure the Mark. The group of Ministry officials made up of Mr. Crouch, Mr. Weasley, and Mr. Diggory conclude that Winky was not the perpetrator. Mr. Crouch, however, unpitifully fires her and banishes her from his house. The whole incident is very disturbing and all are very worried. However, everything calms down. The vandals, sobered and frightened by the Mark in the sky, return to their tents unidentified. Everyone can relax and rest.



Chapter 9 - The Dark Mark Analysis

There are crowds and fan clubs. There is also a group of cowardly bullies out on the rampage. There are feelings of euphoria and excitement. Things can actually turn nasty from one minute to the next. A line can be drawn straight from the incidents in the book to real life vandalism by hooligans and other fanatic sport supporters. A pleasant experience can quickly turn into a nasty nightmare. Big crowds are made up of all sorts of characters. Hidden in a crowd, some people behave in a terrible manner, bringing out all their worst instincts.



Chapter 10 – Mayhem at The Ministry

Chapter 10 - Mayhem at The Ministry Summary

The group now arrives back at the Burrows kitchen. Mrs. Weasley is very relieved that they are all safely home. The *Daily Prophet*, the wizards' newspaper, carries articles sharply criticizing the Ministry of Magic and the organization of the World Cup for the lax security and the havoc after the match. The reporter, Rita Skeeter, also blames the Ministry for the appearance of the Dark Mark and the fact that the culprits were not apprehended. The Ministry receives a great number of Howlers, complaining letters. The aftermath of the incidents at the World Cup increases the workload of all Ministry employees.

Harry tells Ron and Hermione about his nightmare with Voldemort and the pain in his scar.

Ron and Hermione try to think of reasons for the strange occurrences and are relieved that Harry has written to his Godfather. The young wizard is still waiting for an answer from Sirius, which will put him at ease.

Despite the recent disturbing occurrences, life goes on as usual. It is time now to prepare for school and the teenagers' attention is now back to all normal adolescent concerns such as school talk, sports, clothes, etc.. Mrs. Weasley prepares all the school material and needs for the three friends. For some reason, the school requested that students take dress clothes this year. Harry's clothes are discreet, new and in fashion, and were purchased by Mrs. Weasley for him with his funds. Remember Harry is wealthy in his own right. The Weasleys, on the other hand, have a hard time living off a civil servant's salary. Ron's dress robe is old-fashioned and definitely shabby. This is embarrassing for Ron.

Chapter 10 - Mayhem at The Ministry Analysis

The author now brings us back to a more comfortable setting. The Weasley's home is a safe haven where everything is cozy and nothing bad can happen. The reader feels more comfortable. This return to normality ensures that the youngsters are not traumatized by the fact perfectly normal looking people can suddenly turn into a dangerous rabble.

Fashion is a very important to most teenagers. Teenagers everywhere are worried about what others think of them and how they fit in. An important way to show that one is "with it" is by the clothes one wears. It is very important to be the same as everyone else, not to appear to be poorer or "out." These are the concerns that Ron is having. He is embarrassed by having to wear out-of-fashion hand-me-downs.



Chapter 11 - Aboard the Hogwarts Express

Chapter 11 - Aboard the Hogwarts Express Summary

The youngsters are all preparing to go off to school when Mr. Weasley receives an urgent message from Mr. Diggory at the Ministry. Mr. Diggory tells of some incident involving dustbins, Muggles, and Mad-Eye Moody. Mad-Eye Moody could be in trouble with the Improper Use of Magic Department and this might affect his new job. Diggory and Weasley are going to try to get him off the hook. We get the impression that Mad-Eye is a paranoid wizard, who was very a very efficient Auror, or Dark Wizard Catcher. Due to his profession, he is very suspicious. Weasley, however, likes and admires him.

Mrs. Weasley takes the students to Kings Cross train station, where they will be getting onto the Hogwarts Express. The train leaves from platform nine and three-quarters. In order to reach this platform, the wizards go through an apparently solid barrier separating platforms nine and ten.

The train full of school kids is on its way. Friends meet up and news and gossip is exchanged. Something is going on at the school that they don't know about. Inevitably, the three friends run into their least favored colleagues, Draco Malfoy, Crabbe and Goyle. The latter three antagonize and taunt the friends, belittling Harry, jeering at Hermione's Muggle heritage, and making fun of Ron's clothes and lack of money. Ron feels very humiliated and upset, letting his temper fly and shattering the glass of the compartment door.

The train finally arrives at their destination and they reach Hogwarts in the pouring rain. They see their great and enormous friend Hagrid, who is the school's game master.

Chapter 11 - Aboard the Hogwarts Express Analysis

Showing off, teenage teasing and taunting, and young bullies making fun of those who are different are all part of social reality. Fourteen is a difficult age; everyone wants to fit in. For the bullying kind, the only way to feel good is to make others feel bad. A teenager must always know, do, or have something that is cooler than another. Ron is feeling great, showing off his souvenirs from the World Cup with bravado, and talking about how near he got to Krum. He is quickly brought down and humiliated by Malfoy's nastiness. His mood is changed and confidence is shattered. The scene on the train is a very true reflection of real teenage life.



Chapter 12 - The Triwizard Contest

Chapter 12 - The Triwizard Contest Summary

Upon arriving at Hogwarts, Peeves, the prankster ghost, is up to his tricks. Professor McGonagall comes to the rescue. They all go into the sumptuous Great Hall where dinner will be served. The teachers are assembled at the main table. Unpopular Professor Snape, with whom Harry has never got on, is their Potions teacher. Professor Sprout is the Herbology teacher, and Professor Sinistra teaches Astronomy. White-bearded Dumbledore is the wise headmaster.

The Sorting Hat Ceremony soon begins. Hogwarts has four Houses, or teams, into which the students are divided. At the beginning of every year, the magical Sorting Hat is placed on the head of new students and after examining the candidates deepest qualities, announces which house the student will belong to. Each house favors certain virtues. Gryffindor is for the brave and the House where Harry, Ron, Hermione, the older Weasley brothers, and a nice group of other friends are members. Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle belong to the rival House, which is Slytherin, whose members are very ambitious. Ravenclaw is the House for the clever, to which Cho Chang and the Patil twins belong. Hard workers are to be found in Hufflepuff. This is the house to which Cedric Diggory, the sports hero, belongs. Each house has its own ghost; Nearly-Headless Nick is Gryffindor's.

There is some commotion in the kitchen, bringing to light the fact that there are house elves at the school. Hermione is indignant that the school should make use of what she considers slavery.

After the Sorting Hat completes its tasks, it is time for Dumbledore to make his announcements. He begins with the list of forbidden objects amongst which, are Screaming Yo-Yo's, Fanged Frisbees, and Ever Bashing Boomerangs. Other regulations are reiterated. Then the students are informed Mad-Eye Moody is to be their new Defense Against Dark Arts teacher.

The last and most surprising announcement is that there will not be an internal school quidditch competition this year. Hogwarts will be hosting the International Triwizard Tournament instead. This is a competition between three of the biggest European wizardry schools, Hogwarts, Beauxbatons, and Durmstrang. Delegations from the two other schools will be arriving at Hogwarts in October.

A champion is chosen from each school and the three champions compete in three challenges. The champion who scores highest points wins. This tournament used to be held every five years, hosted by the schools in turns. The competition has not been held for some time due to accidents and deaths that occurred in the last meet. In deciding to reinstate the contest, new safety precautions are taken and new rules set. The rule now is that students under the age of seventeen cannot submit their names as contenders.



The news of the tournament arouses the student body. The older students are excited about their possibilities of becoming champions. Harry, Ron, and their peers are frustrated that they will not be able to compete. Harry falls off to sleep dreaming of Cho Chang's admiring look if he were only able to participate in the competition.

Chapter 12 - The Triwizard Contest Analysis

The author is taking the reader slowly back into the fantasy world. Although the school itself is very similar to a typical British boarding school, with houses and prefects, once inside there are ghosts, elves, magical tricks, etc.



Chapter 13 - Mad Eye Moody

Chapter 13 - Mad Eye Moody Summary

It is the first day of school, a time to get back into rhythm of interesting and boring classes, useful and useless information, and class work and homework. Students fret over pimples, diets, family affairs, and social issues. Hermione seriously takes up the cause to liberate elves. Ron's father is criticized in the newspaper by Rita Skeeter for apparently having embarrassed the Ministry in an incident with Mad Eye Moody. Harry is anxious, as he has not yet received news from his godfather, Sirius.

They begin the day collecting pus from strange plants. Next they listen to forebodings and predictions in the Divination class. Hagrid, now their teacher for Care of Magical Creatures, has the students care for smelly creatures called Blast-Ended Skrewts that let off explosions on one end and have stings on the other.

As can be expected, a day cannot go by without some sort of run-in with Draco Malfoy and his gang. After a heated argument, Draco is about to place a spell on Harry with his wand, when Prof. Moody transforms the former temporarily into a ferret. The youngsters are all looking forward to having class with Moody, because he is a retired Auror and as such, has real life experience with curses and spells. His class on Dark Arts should be very popular.

Chapter 13 - Mad Eye Moody Analysis

Once again, the author is working with characters and happenings with which the reader can identify. Boring classes, small misdemeanors, pranks, and school bullies are all part of any normal adolescent's life.



Chapter 14 - The Unforgivable Curses

Chapter 14 - The Unforgivable Curses Summary

The awaited day for Moody's class finally arrives. Moody goes straight into the defense against illegal dark curses. The first curse he shows is the Imperius, through which a wizard can totally control another's acts. With the wave of his wand he demonstrates the effects of this curse on a spider. The next spell demonstrated on the spider is the Cruciatus curse, an extremely painful and torturous spell. Neville Longbottom, one of Harry's friends seems to be particularly upset by this demonstration. Finally, Evil-Eye gives way to the Avada Kedavra, the killing curse, instantaneously killing the spider. This is the curse that Voldemort used to murder Harry's parents and to try to murder Harry. The only person known to have survived this curse is Harry Potter himself. This lesson is quite frightening and one would think the students are not yet prepared for such dark demonstrations.

On a lighter note, Hermione gets more serious in her campaign to liberate the elves. She is making badges for others to join her in her campaign. She founds the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare, SPEW. Even her best friends tease her; they are not at all concerned about the way elves are treated.

Harry finally gets an answer from his godfather, Sirius. Sirius is more concerned than usual, cautioning Harry to watch out and advising that he will be going up to be with Harry. This really upsets the boy, provoking uncharacteristic explosions of temper.

Chapter 14 - The Unforgivable Curses Analysis

The author is now taking the reader into the darker and more dangerous side of her fantasy world. The reader's curiosity is aroused by hints of future danger and mystery. We see how perilous Dark curses can be. What dangers could possibly be lurking in the background? Why was Neville Longbottom so upset by the Cruciatus curse?

On another level, we see Hermione taking a stand for a cause in which no one else is interested. Here the author touches on the issues of idealism and social concern. It is during adolescence that one becomes aware of the world outside. This critical view of reality provokes a certain amount of rebelliousness.



Chapter 15 - Beauxbatons and Durmstrang

Chapter 15 - Beauxbatons and Durmstrang Summary

The school term is well in progress, students are already complaining about their workload. All the teachers seem to have increased demands upon the fourth year students. Tension is also rising due to the impending arrival of the foreign delegations. The Hogwarts really want to make a good impression.

In the Defense Against Dark Arts class, Professor Moody decides to experiment the Imperius curse on each one of the students to see whether they could resist the effects. This attitude is extremely unconventional and borders on the illegal. The Professor justifies himself by saying that the lesson is for the students to be aware of the dangers. When put under the spell, Harry Potter, through an extraordinary display of willpower, is the only student who fights against and resists the external control.

Although Harry sends a letter to Sirius affirming that everything is alright and that he just imagined the hurting scar, the boy's godfather comes back to the country and is in hiding near the school.

Finally it is the end of October and the representatives of the two other competing schools arrive. The Beauxbaton delegation arrives in a carriage drawn by giant horses. Madam Maxime is accompanying the group. She is an enormous woman, dressed in black satin and bejeweled in opals.

The Durmstrang students arrive in a ship which rises out of the water of the Hogwarts Lake. Professor Karkaroff heads this team. A great hum of excitement goes through the waiting students, as they see that their idol quidditch player. Viktor Krum is a member of the delegation.

Chapter 15 - Beauxbatons and Durmstrang Analysis

At first, it is hard for the teenager to realize that the older he gets, the more will be expected from him. Pressures increase, work increases and adult expectations increase. Suddenly, the teenager finds that his responsibilities increase at the same pace as his childhood that he leaves behind.



Chapter 16 - The Goblet of Fire

Chapter 16 - The Goblet of Fire Summary

A great banquet is held in honor of the visiting schools. Guests of Honor at this occasion are Mr. Bartemius Crouch, Head of the Department for International Magical Cooperation and Mr. Ludo Bagman, Head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports. These two gentlemen will accompany the whole Triwizard Tournament. Dumbledore, as headmaster of the hosting school and Master of Ceremony, announces the regulations and procedures of the contest.

The three school champions will be chosen by an impartial selector by the Goblet of Fire. Any student who wishes to take part in the competition must put their names on a parchment and place it in the Goblet. However, there is a spell on the goblet that will not allow any student under the age of seventeen to approach. The Goblet will choose only the best contestant from each school.

There is much anticipation as to who will be competing. The younger students feign disappointment at not being able to compete. Some try to think up ways to get past the age spell, but are not able. The school is buzzing with anticipation and the novelty of mixing with new people with different nationalities and customs. Even Hagrid is putting on perfume to impress Madam Maxime.

After dinner the next night, the names of the three final contestants are announced. With the wave of a wand, the Goblet of Fire produces the large flames and a parchment appears. The first contestant's name has been chosen: from Durmstrang is Viktor Krum. The procedure takes place again and the name of Fleur Delacour from Beauxbaton is chosen. The third and supposedly final name is Cedric Diggory from Hogwarts. All three champions are heartedly cheered. To everyone's surprise, the Goblet produces one more name, that of Harry Potter.

Chapter 16 - The Goblet of Fire Analysis

Different nationalities, different cultures, different habits, different clothes, different food provokes curiosity, animosity, and attraction. A whole host of feelings are aroused, but certain reactions and behaviors are common to all. At the banquet table, we see how the students from the different schools look at and size each other up.



Chapter 17 - The Four Champions

Chapter 17 - The Four Champions Summary

While the other champions are cheered on, when Harry Potter's name is called there is a stunned silence. Harry cannot understand it; he did not submit his name. He is scared; the other contestants are older than he is. Why and how was his name put into the Goblet? Is someone thinking of harming him?

The Tournament authorities are also confused. How could the Goblet produce four names when it is only one champion per school? The foreigners are suspicious of foul play. Why did the hosting school get two contestants? There is much discussion, but nothing can be done. According to the Triwizard Tournament's age-old traditions and rules, all contestants chosen by the Goblet have to compete.

Chapter 17 - The Four Champions Analysis

Curiosity is aroused as to how Harry's name was placed into the Goblet of Fire. From this point of the book, the main plot begins to thicken. The dangers of this competition have been built up over the chapters and now readers are lured into believing that the young hero's life will be in danger in the competition.

Young Harry is stunned and frightened. He and his friends have dreamed of taking part in the contest. They even had tried to think of ways to cheat the system. But when he is really called, Harry realized that he is not prepared. He is too young. He does not have the knowledge or the experience of the older contestants.



Chapter 18 - The Weighing of the Wands

Chapter 18 - The Weighing of the Wands Summary

None of his schoolmates except Hermione believe that Harry did not put his name in the Goblet. His best friend Ron will not talk to him. Harry is feeling lonely, angry, and ostracized. Hermione suggests that Harry write to Sirius and he takes her advice.

Harry's anxiety builds up and he has nobody with whom to talk. Draco Malfoy starts a campaign against Harry and in favor of Cedric. Harry's nerves are on edge, his temper is short, and he is distracted and cannot pay attention in class. He is rejected and dejected.

The Tournament is an important happening in the wizardry world. Photos are taken for the press. Harry's entrance into the competition in particular attracts the attention of Rita Skeeter, who has the tendency of twisting things to suit her articles. Publicity is the last thing Harry wants.

The time has come for the weighing and examination of the wands. Each of the contestant's wands is weighed and examined to ensure that there is no foul play. Mr. Ollivander, wand manufacturer, is called in for this task. He comments on the specifications of each wand as he examines them. Harry's wand is made out of holly wood and the feather from a phoenix tail. One other wand in the world is made with a feather from the same bird and it belonged to Voldemort. Mr. Ollivander approves all of the wands.

On going back to his room, Harry receives an owl mail from Sirius, asking him to meet him at one o'clock in the morning on the 21st of November.

Chapter 18 - The Weighing of the Wands Analysis

Harry's schoolmates do not react well about Harry being part of the competition. They thought that somehow or the other he cheated. Quite a few of the younger students had tried unsuccessfully to submit their names into the contest. Therefore, the ostracism is not because he cheated, but maybe because they are envious. Harry is already famous in the wizardry world. Once again, he is different.

Ron, on the other hand, feels betrayed. His best friend apparently lied to him. Adolescent friends have no secrets from each other.



Chapter 19 – The Hungarian Horntail

Chapter 19 - The Hungarian Horntail Summary

Rita Skeeter publishes her article where she puts words in Harry's mouth. She also reports that Harry is in love with Hermione. This is all very embarrassing for Harry, especially as he has a crush on Cho Chang. The teasing and taunting get worse and Harry isolates himself more and more. His only friend now is Hermione, who seems to be spending most of her spare time in the library. Even on the school's day out, Harry wears his invisibility cloak so as not to be seen by anyone. Professor Moody does see him through his special eye.

The day for the first Triwizard Tournament's first challenge is approaching. Hagrid asks Harry to come and see him in his invisibility cloak on the same night that he is to see Sirius. Surprisingly, Hagrid takes Harry hidden by his cloak to pick up Madame Maxime. The latter, totally unaware of Harry's presence, follows Hagrid to an area guarded by thirty wizards.

The wizards control four huge firing dragons, the most dangerous of which is the Horntail. One of the dragon keepers reminds Hagrid that the contestants are not supposed to know that the first challenge involved is getting past a dragon. The keeper gives a quick description of each of the dragons' characteristics. As Hagrid's attention is totally focused on the Beauxbatons Headmistress, Harry slips away to meet Sirius. On the way, he sees Karkaroff spying on the dragons. Obviously, Madame Maxime would tell Fleur and Karkaroff would tell Krum what the first challenge is.

Potter runs to the Gryffindor Tower room to meet Sirius. The young wizard's godfather gives him several warnings and advice. The first important fact is that Karkaroff used to be a Death Eater, one of Voldemort's followers. Karkaroff was captured by Moody and imprisoned in Azkaban. However, after making a deal with the Ministry of Magic, he gave the names of other Voldemort followers and was set free. Apparently, Karkaroff teaches the Dark Arts to his students. Sirius has heard rumors that the Death Eaters are becoming more active and Voldemort might have found out about the Tournament. Sirius believes that someone might try to harm Harry in the Tournament and pretend that it was an accident.

Harry tells Sirius about the nature of the first task and his worry about how to get past the dragon. Just as Sirius is about to give him advice, they hear someone. Sirius flees. The interloper is Ron. Ron questions Harry about with whom he was talking. Harry, already very upset with Ron, tells him to mind his own business and flings some Anti-Harry badges at him.



Chapter 19 - The Hungarian Horntail Analysis

In this chapter Hagrid breaks the rules by showing Harry and Madame Maxime what the contestants will face in the first challenge. This is actually cheating, but no harm is really done, as it is done in favor of our hero and in the name of love.

Karkaroff is doing exactly the same thing, yet his actions are considered wrong and sneaky. Do our private sympathies help blind our critical view of reality? Do we judge our foes and rivals in a harsher way than we judge ourselves and our friends?



Chapter 20 – The First Task

Chapter 20 - The First Task Summary

It is Sunday morning and the first challenge is marked for Tuesday evening. Harry tells Hermione all about the dragons and his conversation with Sirius. Harry and Hermione go to the library where Harry tries to obtain as much information as possible about dragons. Hermione gets a bit irritated when she sees Krum walking in, commenting that he seems to be always in the library with all his girl fans behind him.

On Monday, Harry creates a situation where he is alone with Cedric and warns him that the first challenge is to get past a dragon. Harry thinks it would be only fair to tell Cedric as the other three contestants already knew. Mad Eye Moody, hearing Harry telling Cedric, calls Potter into his office. The young wizard, sure that he is going to get into trouble for cheating, is surprised when Moody congratulates him for doing the decent thing. Moody asks how he found out about the dragons. Not wanting to get Hagrid into trouble, Harry says he discovered them by accident.

Moody gives Harry a piece of advice for him to pass the dragons, to use what he is best at. He goes on to remind Harry that he is a very good flier. To fly, Harry needs his Firebolt broomstick. The contestants can take only their wand onto the challenge grounds. Harry asks Hermione to help him practice the Summoning Charm.

The evening for the first challenge arrives. The four competitors are obviously very nervous. Ludo Bagman calls the four and informs them that the first task is to get the golden egg from a Dragon's pit. Each of the young wizards has to pull out of a silk sack the figure of the type of dragon they would face with a number indicating the order in which they will be called. Harry pulls the figure of a Horntailed Dragon with number four around its neck. Cedric is to be the first contestant, Fleur the second, Krum the third, and Harry the last.

The task at hand is very hard and dangerous. All four of the contestants get through it using different tactics. Harry does exceedingly well, although he does get hurt. Summoning his Firebolt, he flies like he never flew before. He escapes all the dragon's flames and the swipes of its tail with amazing skill. After luring the beast into a convenient position, with tremendous speed he flies in and catches the golden egg.

To judge the contest, there are five judges who grade each competitor's performance. Harry and Viktor Krum tie in first place. At this point, Harry does not really care how many points he gets. It was not his choice to compete in first place and he has been worried for his life.

The good thing that came out of the contest is that Ron finally realizes that Harry did not submit his name and that he was in actual danger. Ron apologizes and is very proud of his friend's performance. Harry is relieved that he has his friend and confidante back.



Chapter 20 - The First Task Analysis

In this chapter, Harry receives and takes the advice to work on his very own talents. Different people have different talents and abilities. All four contestants use completely different means to get past their dragons. Each succeeded in his or her own way.

Self-confidence is a very important asset. Trust and use of our own talents is a very big factor for success.



Chapter 21 - The House Elf Liberation Front.

Chapter 21 - The House Elf Liberation Front Summary

Harry writes to Sirius, updating him on the progress of the Tournament. Ron and Hermione accompany him to send the letter off by owl. It is good to have friends again. Harry goes from being totally ostracized by the student body to being the hero of the moment.

By the rules of the Tournament, the golden eggs retrieved by the contestants contain a clue to the next challenge. There is a period of reprieve between the first task and the next. During this time, the contestants are able to crack the clue contained in the egg and prepare. When Harry opens his egg, the only thing that happens is that he hears a terrible shrieking noise.

Hermione, still totally involved with her cause of freeing house-elves, takes Harry and Ron down to the kitchens to see the elves. There they find Winky and Harry's old friend Dobby. Dobby is very happy to see Harry and thanks him again for freeing him from the Malfoys. Dobby says that the Malfoys deal in the Dark Arts. Hermione thinks that Winky should be happy to be free. Winky on the other hand, is very upset and worried about Mr. Crouch. She thinks that being free is something unheard of, and goes against everything she knows and has been taught.

Otherwise, life at school goes on apparently normally. Hagrid's pet Skrewts grows to a huge size. Prof. Trelawney's gives dark forebodings about an imminent death in her Divination class. The Weasley twins are still up to their tricks and pranks. The reporter, Rita Skeeter, is around again, this time wanting to interview Hagrid.

Chapter 21 - The House Elf Liberation Front. Analysis

Change is something very hard to accept, even when the change is for the better. Change means facing the unknown. Change also means being different. Winky, the house elf, does not want to be different. She does not want the change about which Hermione was so determined. Winky sees things the way she has been educated to see them. To her "slavery" is totally normal. That is the way she was brought up. Therefore, sudden freedom for her is a very scary and frightening thing.



Chapter 22 - The Unexpected Task

Chapter 22 - The Unexpected Task Summary

There is to be a Yule Ball, traditional to the Triwizard Tournament. Young wizards and witches are to wear their dress robes and invite a date to this formal affair. The ball is to be on Christmas Day. Ron and Harry are excited and worry about who they should invite. Hermione is put out, as they do not even think of her. Because Potter is a type of celebrity, he has a few young girls vying for his attention. This makes Ron feel a bit envious. Harry gets up the courage and invites Cho Chang, just to discover that Cedric Diggory has already invited her.

Ron takes a chance and is turned down by Fleur. Ron makes it clear that for him, the only thing that matters is that his partner be pretty. In the end Ron invites Hermione, just to hear that she already has a partner. Hermione keeps her two friends in suspense about with whom she is going to the ball. In the end, Ron and Harry invite the pretty Patil twins.

Chapter 22 - The Unexpected Task Analysis

To Ron, the only thing that mattered is that his date be pretty. Many girls want to go to the ball with Harry because he did very well in the first task. All the girls want to be with the champion boys and the boys want pretty girls. During adolescence, going out with someone is more of a question of status than of liking the person.



Chapter 23 – The Yule Ball

Chapter 23 - The Yule Ball Summary

It is Christmas Day and Harry is quite happy that he is spending it at school and not having to go home to the Dursleys. Harry gets presents from his friends and a pair of socks from Dobby, the elf. The day goes by and soon it is time to prepare for the ball. Ron is embarrassed and fed up with his old out of fashion clothes. Spirits are high and nerves are on edge.

Harry and Ron go to the ball with their dates and are very surprised when Hermione arrives looking lovely at Krum's side. Ron gets irrationally irritated and snidely comments that Viktor only invited her to hear Harry's secrets. This obviously infuriates Hermione.

Percy, Ron's brother is also there. He informs them that Mr. Crouch is ill, so he will be taking his boss' place on the judging committee until the end of the Tournament.

The ball is not too much fun for the two friends. Harry is upset because Cho is with Cedric and Harry is annoyed at Hermione with Krum. They manage to antagonize everyone including their own dates. They take a walk in the garden and by accident hear Hagrid talking to Madame Maxime. Hagrid admits that he is half-giant and tries to make Madame Maxime admit she is one, too. Hagrid is obviously in love with the French lady.

Before retiring that night, Cedric pulls Harry aside and informs him that he would have to take his golden egg to the bath to find out about the clue. Harry seems to be amazingly complacent and uninterested in the Tournament lately.

Chapter 23 - The Yule Ball Analysis

Rowling throws in here a bit of adolescent romance and heartache. Harry likes Cho, but she is with Cedric. Krum is obviously smitten with Hermione. Ron seems to be irrationally annoyed at the fact that Hermione is with Krum. Is he jealous?



Chapter 22 – Rita Skeeter's Scoop

Chapter 22 - Rita Skeeter's Scoop Summary

Rita Skeeter manages once again to upset everyone with her newspaper article. She writes that Hagrid is a giant and criticizes Dumbledore for allowing him to work at the school. Giants are not very well liked by wizards. She also mentions that Hagrid endangers the students' lives with his strange magical creatures. The next thing the students know, Hagrid resigns and they have another teacher in his place. The three friends go to Hagrid's house and after much insistence, convince him to ignore the newspaper article and to take his teaching job back.

Harry has five weeks to go before the second challenge. He seems to be reluctant to work on finding out the clue. As his friends are worried, he pretends to them that he's got it all figured out. Ludo Bagman offers to help Harry. The boy, however, feels that this would be an unfair advantage and refuses to hear what Bagman has to say. Harry decides it is about time he tries out Cedric's advice about the bath.

Chapter 22 - Rita Skeeter's Scoop Analysis

Rita Skeeter's gossip and rumor spreading has a devastating effect on people's life. She really does not care about the consequences. Her worry is to print things that will sell. Newspaper readers take everything they see written in the press as gospel truth. The students' parents all know Hagrid. He has never been a threat to any of their children. With the gossip and rumors spread by the journalist, they immediately change their whole attitude without hearing the other side of the story.



Chapter 25 – The Egg and the Eye

Chapter 25 - The Egg and the Eye Summary

Harry follows Cedric's advice and donning his invisibility cloak, takes the golden egg to the bath. Harry takes his Marauder's Map with him also. This is a Map that allows one to see not only the floor map but also who is in the vicinity.

Once in the bathroom he meets Moaning Myrtle, a specter. She helps him out by telling him to open the egg under water. When opening the egg under water, he can hear a riddled rhyme. With Myrtle's help, he unveils the riddle of the second task. The task is to go find the merpeople under the lake and take back something in their possession very precious to him. He has unraveled the riddle, but now he must find a way to complete the task. How will he be able to breathe under water?

Hidden in his cloak, he leaves the bathroom. He is surprised to see movement on his Marauder's Map. Mr. Crouch is in Snape's office. Why would Crouch be around at this late hour of the night if he is supposed to be ill? Harry decides to go check it out, but he drops his golden egg, which lets out an ear splitting screech. The caretaker, Filch, who is always on the look out for misbehaving students, is disturbed by the noise and immediately comes to check. Professor Snape appears on scene, complaining to Filch that someone has been snooping in his office. Snape recognizes the egg and immediately thinks that Harry is the one who was snooping in his office. Attracted by all the ado, Professor Moody appears on scene. Moody can see Harry through his cloak, but does not mention it to the other two. Snape suspects that Harry is around, but cannot see him. Moody stands up for Potter and retrieves the egg. When Filch and Snape leave, Moody returns the egg to Harry. The boy tells the professor that he saw Mr. Crouch on the Map. Moody borrows the Marauders Map without asking Harry where he got it.

Chapter 25 - The Egg and the Eye Analysis

In this chapter, the author weaves mystery back into the plot. Who is on whose side? Who is trying to harm Harry?



Chapter 26 – The Second Task

Chapter 26 - The Second Task Summary

Harry tells his two best friends about the adventures the night before. Potter mistrusts Snape and thinks that his professor is out to harm him. Hermione, though, reminds him that if Dumbledore trusts Snape, there must be a reason for it. The young wizard also sends a letter off to Sirius about Crouch breaking into Snape's office and all that happened the night before.

Time is running out and Harry urgently has to find a way to breathe underwater. Panic is beginning to sink in, he finds it hard to eat or sleep. Nightmares hound him. He looks up all the books searching for spells, and cannot find any. Hermione tries to help him, but to no avail. On the last day, Hermione and Ron are called by one of the professors. That night, before the task, Harry falls asleep over his research books. He is woken up by Dobby just before the contest is to begin. Harry is about to give up and simply not turn up for the last task, when he is told that Ron is at the bottom of the lake with the merpeople.. Dobby gives Harry some Gillyweed, a special herb that will give Harry gills to breathe underwater. Our hero runs off, arriving at the contest grounds just in time.

Each of the other champions has found a method to stay under the water. They have an hour to complete the task. They all three jump in. Harry eats the Gillyweed and is soon able to breathe freely in the water. He swims down to where the merpeople are. He is the first to arrive and he finds Ron, Hermione, Cho Chang, and Fleur's little sister all held captive by the merpeople. Harry wants to free all four of them, but is not permitted. He is told that he can only loosen his own friend, Ron. Harry desperately waits for the other contestants to find their way down. Finally, Cedric appears and cuts Cho free. He tells Harry to move on because Krum and Fleur were right behind. To Harry's relief, Krum appears and cuts Hermione free. But Fleur doesn't show up. Harry, seeing that his time is very short, fights the merpeople, freeing Fleur's sister also. Harry arrives at the banks of the lake with Ron and Fleur's sister and the time had already run out. Fleur is very relieved and grateful that her sister is saved.

Ron is fuming at Harry for having waited and saving Fleur's sister. He argues that Dumbledore would never have let any real danger happen to the hostages. Harry realizes that this is true, but at the moment the danger seemed very real, and he could not afford to risk someone's life.

The judges convene to give out the points. The chief of the merpeople tell the judges what happened in the lake. Cedric receives the highest points, as he was the first to arrive. Harry, however receives extra points for his bravery and moral fiber. Harry and Cedric are now both tied in first place in the competition.



Chapter 26 - The Second Task Analysis

Doing what one thinks is right no matter what the circumstances is a hard lesson to learn. Ron thought that Harry is silly ensuring that all the others are safe instead of trying to win. Harry demonstrates real leadership and a strong character. His actions are applauded by some, but not by others. This is what happens in real life. Not everyone understands when we insist on doing something that is right.



Chapter 27 – Padfoot Returns

Chapter 27 - Padfoot Returns Summary

There is a great buzz after the second challenge. Everyone wants to know about what actually happened at the lake. Ron enjoys this as he was also a protagonist and is getting some extra attention. Hermione, however, is not happy. Rita Skeeter turns her venom onto her. Rita writes that Hermione is causing Harry great heartache. She says that Hermione is toying with both Harry and Krum's affection. Rita hints that the girl used some type of Love Potion on the boys. This article makes Hermione the object of other girls' catty remarks and ostracism. No one knows that Harry is really in love with Cho Chang.

Harry has a run in with Snape. The professor accuses him of stealing the Gillyweed from his office. Snape cannot miss a turn at being obnoxious to Harry. This obviously puts the boy's back up against the professor. Harry's dislike and suspicion increases when he sees that the older wizard seems to be sharing some dark secret with Karkaroff.

Sirius sends Harry a letter asking him to meet him in the village near the school and to take a lot of food. The three friends sneak food from the kitchens and set off to meet Sirius. At the combined meeting place, they find a large black dog. The dog is actually Sirius in disguise, who has been hiding in a cave and living off whatever he can scavenge.

The three young wizards and Sirius discuss the recent happenings. Harry tells how Ludo Bagman is always trying to help. They talk about Mr. Crouch, Mad Eye Moody, Snape, and Karkaroff, among others. The question is how ill Crouch is and what was he doing in Snape's office. Sirius tells how Mr. Crouch was a very dedicated Auror fighting against the Death Eaters. It was this Auror who had Sirius thrown into jail without a trial. Crouch was so fervently against Voldemort that he had his own son arrested and tried. The boy apparently died in prison and his mother died shortly after of heartbreak. Moody was also a fervent fighter against the Death Eaters; however he always ensured that there was a fair trial and never killed anyone.

On the other hand, Snape and Karkaroff are suspected to have been Voldemort sympathizers. Harry always is suspicious of this professor, but has to admit that Snape once saved his life. The fact that Dumbledore trusts him is a point in Snape's favor.

The three friends leave Sirius, alias Snuffles, and head back to school feeling comforted that Harry's strong and loving godfather is around, even if disguised as a dog.

Chapter 27 - Padfoot Returns Analysis

At this point, the author incites the reader to solve the mystery of who wants to harm Potter. The clues and background information are set out. The plot thickens as the story unfolds.



Chapter 28 – The Madness of Mr. Crouch

Chapter 28 - The Madness of Mr. Crouch Summary

Back at school, Harry and friends head to the kitchen to give Dobby a present. After all, it was the house elf that saved him by giving him the gillyweed. They are also going to pick up some food to send to Snuffles, or Sirius. Winky is there too. She seems to be a bit drunk and is crying about her old master and his secret. Ron tries to discover what Winky is hiding about Mr. Crouch. Hermione interrupts by once again getting on the subject of elves' freedom, shocking the elves and irritating Ron. Ron and Hermione seem to be constantly bickering at each other.

Hermione is going through her own problems. After Rita Skeeter's nasty article, the poor girl receives all sorts of slights, even hate mail. Hermione wonders how Rita is getting her information and how the reporter could possibly have access to private conversations.

Back to the main plot. The four champions are told to go to the Quidditch pitch to hear what the final task will be from Bagman. The pitch has hedges all over it. The third and final challenge will be to get through to the end of the maze where the Goblet of Fire is placed. The first champion to touch the Goblet will get full points.

After hearing from Bagman what the last challenge will be, Viktor Krum pulls Harry aside for a walk in the forest. Krum wants to know if there is anything between Harry and Hermione. Krum has a serious crush on Harry's friend. Harry assures the Bulgarian Champion that there is nothing but friendship between himself and Hermione. Feeling more relaxed, Krum comments on what a good quidditch player Harry is. Mr. Crouch, staggering out from behind the trees, suddenly interrupts the two boys now talking about sports. Crouch is not himself and totally delirious, rambling on about having done something wrong, talking about Bertha Jorkins and his son. He also talks about Voldemort and having to warn Dumbledore. Harry tells Krum to stay put with the older man, while he runs off to get help.

Harry runs to the school looking for Dumbledore. The first person he runs into is Snape. It takes Harry a bit of trouble to get past his teacher to speak to Dumbledore. He convinces the headmaster to accompany him to the forest. When they get there, Crouch is nowhere to be seen and Krum is lying in a faint. Upon resuscitating, Viktor explains that Crouch had attacked him and escaped.

Hagrid, Moody, and Karkaroff all appear on scene shortly after the other. Karkaroff immediately accuses Dumbledore of foul play against his champion in favor of Harry Potter in the Triwizard Contest. Hagrid takes offense and a fight almost ensues between the two men.



Chapter 28 - The Madness of Mr. Crouch Analysis

Teenage crushes and consequent jealousy are all part of the adolescent's life. But young boys can also find a common ground in sport.

Meanwhile, the main plot is getting more and more complicated. The reader's curiosity is aroused. How do all the strange facts that are happening fit in? Who is the good guy and who is the bad guy?



Chapter 29 - The Dream

Chapter 29 - The Dream Summary

The chapter begins with the three friends discussing what could have happened to Crouch. Harry, as usual, is suspicious of Snape. Apparently there is no trace of Crouch in the forest. Moody does not even manage to see him on the Marauders Map.

Harry corresponds with Sirius telling him all. Sirius sends a letter back scolding Harry for going into the forest and reminding him of the dangers. The young wizard scoffs at his godfather's worries. He reasons that if anyone wanted to attack him, they would have done so.

School goes on as usual. Harry practices the different spells he will need for the third and last task. Hermione and Ron, in between their bickering, help their friend along. During a particularly boring and hot Divinations class, Harry dozes off. In his dreams he flies on an owl's back, into an old house.

On the wings of the owl, Harry looks into a room with a fireplace and a chair with its back turned to him. On the floor, there are two figures, one of a huge snake and the other of a sobbing man. A voice from the chair reprimands the man on the floor for some mistake that has been made. The man on the floor is Wormtail and the serpent is Nagini. The voice soothes the snake by promising that Harry Potter will be fed to it. Apparently Wormtail is forgiven, but at the next moment, a wand appears from the chair and the voice calls out "Cruciatius." Wormtail drops to the floor in agony. Harry recognizes the voice as being Voldemort's.

Harry feels a tremendous pain on the scar on his forehead. Harry wakes with his own screams to find the whole class hovering around him in concern. He is confused by the dream. Is it a vision, a premonition, or just a dream? Much to his teacher's and classmates' concern, he leaves the class with the excuse that he is going to the infirmary.

In fact, instead of the infirmary, he goes to find Dumbledore. Dumbledore is talking worriedly with Cornelius Fudge and Moody. They are expressing their concerns about the disappearances of Crouch and Bertha Jorkins when they are interrupted by the boy.



Chapter 30 - The Pensieve

Chapter 30 - The Pensieve Summary

Dumbledore lets Harry into his office and asks him to wait while he examines the grounds with the other two men. While waiting, Harry sees a strange basin filled with some silvery substance. When he looks into the basin, the substance becomes transparent and he sees a room full of wizards and witches sitting in a circle around an empty chair. He peeks in closer to the bowl, when he is suddenly sucked in and sitting in one of the chairs. He is actually sitting next to Dumbledore, to whom he is invisible. He is obviously somewhere in the past. It is as if Harry is in someone's dream.

Two Dementors bring Karkaroff into the room and shackle him to the chair in the middle. Mr. Crouch appears and begins to interrogate the prisoner. Karkaroff agrees to give the names of other Voldemort supporters. Because of the information given, Crouch says his case would be reviewed.

The room starts to swirl, and suddenly Harry is in the same place, but on a different occasion. This time the Dementors bring Ludo Bagman in. Bagman is accused of passing information onto Voldemort's supporters. Bagman admits that he made a mistake, but that he really did not know that the man he talked to was a Death Eater; after all he was just champion quidditch player wanting a job. The jury of wizards and witches clears the player of charges.

The room swirls again and Crouch is questioning four prisoners. One is his own son, who pleads for mercy. The jury of wizards sentence all four, including Crouch's son, to life imprisonment.

Suddenly Harry is pulled into the air, out of the bowl, and back into Dumbledore's office. Dumbledore explains to Potter that the bowl is a Pensieve. In other words, it is a place where he puts his thoughts and memories. When he needs to think things over, he looks into his Pensieve.

Chapter 30 - The Pensieve Analysis

With the Pensieve, the author shows how important it is to stop to review facts and analyze happenings.



Chapter 31 – The Third Task

Chapter 31 - The Third Task Summary

Harry is preparing himself to face the third and final task. In his correspondence with Sirius, they discuss the fact that Voldemort seems to be regaining his powers. Ron and Hermione continue to try to figure out why and how Harry's name got into the Goblet of Fire.

On the day of the third task, another article by Rita Skeeter appears in the Daily Prophet. This time she attacks Harry, hinting that he is unbalanced and dangerous. Rita bases her story on Harry's strange turn in class. She uses Draco Malfoy's comments about Potter's ability to talk to snakes, his friendship with giants, like Hagrid, and werewolves. The big question is, once again, how does she get her information?

On the day of the last challenge, the contestants' families are allowed to come to visit them. Harry is very touched when Mrs. Weasley and Bill, Ron's brother, come to see him. Harry is cheered on and encouraged by all his friends at nice dinner before the final event.

Time has come. First, Cedric and Harry run into the maze, as they have equal points. Krum goes next and last of all is Fleur. Harry and Cedric wish each other luck as they take a different path. There are obstacles and difficulties at every pass. Cedric helps Harry by warning him about one of the paths. Krum, however, is no sportsman and uses the Cruciatus curse on Cedric in order to hamper him. Harry, hearing this, runs to his schoolmate's defense and uses the Stupefy spell on the Bulgarian. Afterwards Harry and Cedric approach the end of the maze from different paths, when Potter once again saves Cedric, this time for an enormous spider. The two boys reach the place where the Goblet of Fire is at the same time. In gratitude, Cedric tells Harry to touch it first. Harry, however, insists that they both touch it together. As each one of the boys holds one of the handles of the Goblet of Fire, they are both pulled away.

Chapter 31 - The Third Task Analysis

Once again Harry takes a very strong character stand. Winning the competition becomes a secondary goal. More important is to help his schoolmate. Fair play is an important issue in this chapter.



Chapter 32 – Flesh Blood and Bones

Chapter 32 - Flesh Blood and Bones Summary

The Goblet is actually a Portkey and Cedric and Harry find themselves in a cemetery at Tom Riddle's grave. Voldemort is there with Wormtail. Cedric is immediately killed by Voldemort and Harry is immobilized and tied to the tombstone. Wormtail brings a very large cauldron filled with liquid and sets it to heat on fire.

Voldemort is just a molten form. In order to get his body and power back, he needs three things, his father's bones, a servant's flesh willingly given, and an enemy's blood forcibly taken. Wormtail puts Voldemort into the cauldron and with his wand summons bone powder from the grave. Next, Wormtail cuts his own hand off and puts it in the cauldron. Finally, he forcefully takes blood from Harry's arm and mixes it in with Voldemort. With the magic carried out, Voldemort rises.

Chapter 32 - Flesh Blood and Bones Analysis

The reader is suddenly shaken from the satisfaction of seeing Harry win an exciting competition and is taken to a very dark world of pure evil. The plot suddenly takes a very heavy turn to cold-blooded murder of an innocent and brave young boy. The reader is taken by surprise, although there were hints and signs all along that there is danger lurking.

The book suddenly changes tone from light-make believe magic to wicked witchcraft. The everyday adolescent scenes that the reader can easily identify with suddenly are gone. In its place, we have death spells and cauldrons with mixtures of blood flesh and bones. From the every day little jealousies, prejudice, and nastiness, the reader is faced with pure evil. The reader is perplexed; from one moment to the next, the whole context changes.



Chapter 33 – The Death Eaters

Chapter 33 - The Death Eaters Summary

Voldemort, whole again, calls his followers by touching the Dark Mark imprinted on Wormtail's arm. He also conjures a silver hand to replace Wormtail's severed limb. Soon Voldemort's followers begin to appear, amongst them, Lucius Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle.

The Death Eaters went into hiding thirteen years before, when Voldemort lost his body trying to murder Harry. The curse deflected off Harry's mother and rebounded back to the perpetrator. Voldemort demands that each of his followers swear their loyalty to him. Four years ago, he tried to get the Philosophers Stone to restore his body and was once again thwarted by Potter. He tells them how he used and then murdered Bertha Jorkins to get information, the information needed to make his diabolical plan to capture Harry. It is also mentioned that he has an accomplice inside the Hogwarts School who set the Goblet of Fire to be a Portkey and ensured that Harry would be brought to Voldemort.

At this point, the evil wizard turns his wand on Harry and curses him with the Cruciatus spell. Harry screams with pain. When he recovers, Voldemort has him untied and hands him his wand.

Chapter 33 - The Death Eaters Analysis

How quickly cowards show their true colors and gravitate towards power. The wizards who had up until then denied having anything to do with Voldemort, suddenly reappear. What attracts them to the dark lord? He treats them badly and humiliates them, yet they crawl around and idolize his power. What seduction does wickedness hold?



Chapter 34 - Priori Incantatem

Chapter 34 - Priori Incantatem Summary

The Dark Lord's intention is to prove that he is stronger than Harry. He calls for a duel. Voldemort attempts to use the Imperius curse against Harry, but the boy reacts. Finally when the evil wizard tries to murder the youngster with the Avada Kedavra curse, Harry raises his wand in defiance. A strange thing happens, the two wizards wands are locked in position. The spirits of those murdered by Voldemort begin to appear from his wand. First Cedric, then Bertha Jorkins, Frank Bryce, and finally Harry's mother and father. These spirits give Harry force and support.

The Dark Lord is frightened by the appearance of the spirits Harry takes advantage of Voldemort's hesitation to grab the Goblet of Fire with one hand and hold onto Cedric's lifeless body with the other. The Goblet takes Harry back to the School.

Chapter 34 - Priori Incantatem Analysis

Relief. The hero Harry Potter is given a chance to fight back. Even if weakened, shocked, and frightened, the young boy has inner the strength to resist Voldemort's terrible power. He receives help from the supernatural world, the spirits of his parents, and friends. This help, though, comes in a different form. It comes in the form of love and encouragement. At no point do the spirits, themselves, strike at Voldemort. They do not have the power to do so. Harry is the only one with the power to fight.

The interesting thing is that Harry does not win. However, he is not defeated. He is only a young boy up against something much bigger. Through sheer willpower, he resists.



Chapter 35 – Veritaserum

Chapter 35 - Veritaserum Summary

Harry arrives back at the school grounds with Cedric's body. Every one is shocked at the death of a young boy. Moody insists on taking Harry to the hospital wing. On the way, he asks Harry for details of what happened.

Moody then admits to Harry that it was he who was working for Voldemort. The whole plan was to make Harry win the contest so that he could be taken to the wicked wizard. Harry's name was placed in the Goblet of Fire by Voldemort's disciple. The Goblet was turned into a Portkey. Harry was being helped on all the way to win the contest. Gillyweed was stolen from Snape, and Dobby was used to give it to Harry.

It was Moody who conjured the Dark Mark in the sky after the World Cup. Just as Moody is about to kill the exhausted Harry, Dumbledore, Snape, and Prof. McGonagall appear and save the boy. They take Moody away and give him a Truth Potion. Moody tells his story. In fact, he is not Moody at all.

He is actually Crouch's son. The real Moody is in a spell locked away in one of the trunks in his room. Young Crouch used Polyjuice Potion to take on Moody's body and get into the school.

Young Crouch's imprisonment caused Mrs. Crouch such heartbreak that she became ill and was dying. Mr. Crouch, through the love of his wife, was convinced to save their son. When they went to visit their son in prison, the Crouches used Polyjuice to change identities between mother and son. Mr. Crouch took his son home and maintained him hidden under an invisibility cloak and controlled him with an Imperius spell. Young Crouch regained his strength and was able to resist the Spell. Bertha Jorkins came across young Crouch by mistake when she went to her boss' house. When Bertha was captured by Wormtail and taken to Voldemort, she told them about Crouch's son. Wormtail and Voldemort sought young Crouch out and plotted their plan. His own Death Eater son eventually kills Mr. Crouch.

Chapter 35 - Veritaserum Analysis

Finally the full plot is unraveled. The reader manages to piece together the clues and facts set out in the earlier chapters.

Motherly love blinded Mrs. Crouch, who could see no evil in her own son. Fervent love for his wife made Mr. Crouch give in to her pleas to free their son. It is not always bad intentions that bring about wickedness. Sometimes one goes against one's conscience in the name of love. The consequences of going against what one believes in can be worse than one thinks. Poor Mr. Crouch, a man who dedicated his life in fighting Voldemort's followers, had to suffer with his own son being one of them.



Chapter 36 - The Parting of the Ways

Chapter 36 - The Parting of the Ways Summary

Sirius Black, Mrs. Weasley, and Bill Weasley are at Harry's side to comfort him. Harry is very down and weak after his harrowing experience. He feels guilty about Cedric. He needs the comfort of family and friends.

The real Moody is taken to the hospital wing and so is Harry. Potter tells Dumbledore his story. There is a sudden commotion as Prof. McGonagall discovers that Cornelius Fudge, using his authority as a Minister, ordered Dementors into the school to give young Crouch the Death Kiss. Dumbledore is very upset. Now Crouch is dead and cannot testify. The headmaster confronts Fudge and complains. He is also upset because Dementors should never be allowed to enter the school building.

Dumbledore is worried about how the Ministry should act to contain Voldemort and stop his followers. Fudge seems to believe that Voldemort has not returned and that Harry invented the whole story. He definitely will not accept that Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle are Death Eaters. They are very old traditional families and their financial support and contributions are substantial. Dumbledore advises Fudge to rid himself of the dangerous Dementors and to try to send an emissary to the giants to enroll their help against the Voldemort and his followers. Fudge will not accept any of Dumbledore's suggestions. This is where their ways part. Each man will take the stand he feels he has to.

Dumbledore and his friends are worried what to do now that the Dark Lord and the Death Eaters are back. Dumbledore organizes their forces. Sirius is sent off to warn other wizards. Dumbledore depends on Snape for some secret mission. Bill Weasley goes off to warn his father and other Ministry employees. The good wizards will put their forces together to defeat Voldemort. Others, like Fudge, will just not admit to the truth and therefore will do nothing.

Chapter 36 - The Parting of the Ways Analysis

Fudge does not believe Harry's story. He does not want to believe it. Whether this is due to fear, ignorance, or sympathy to the Death Eaters, we don't know. We see economic interest here, also. Fudge will not accept that Malfoy is a Death Eater because Malfoy has great influence and financial power. Fudge prefers to face the risk of him being a Death Eater than to lose his financial support. What is obvious is that not as much will be done to fight this evil as should be.



Chapter 37 – The Beginning

Chapter 37 - The Beginning Summary

Everybody is sad and depressed, but life must go on. Cedric's parents are devastated, but they don't blame Harry Potter for the tragedy. This is a small comfort for the young hero.

Harry is safe, but it is not a happy ending. There is none of the usual end-year excitement and anticipation. Everyone is sad and shocked at what happened to Cedric. Against Fudge's orders, Dumbledore makes a point of telling all the school exactly what happened. He asks that everyone be prepared for the hard times to come and to fight against the evil of Voldemort and his followers.

School year is over and vacation time has come. Hagrid and Madame Maxime will be going off on some secret mission for Dumbledore. Viktor Krum is heading home. Fleur Delacour is hoping to come back to England to learn the language. Ron and Hermione are returning to their respective homes. Dumbledore determines that Harry must go back to the Dursleys for the school holidays.

The only ones who seem to be happy are young Draco Malfoy and his two friends Crabbe and Goyle. On the train leaving Hogwarts, they taunt Harry and his friends. This time though, Harry, Hermione, Ron, and his brothers, Fred and George, react, sending a spray of spells at the three bullies.

Harry gives his prize money to Fred and George Weasley for them to start up the Weasley Wheezes business of making new trick articles.

The last scene is Harry leaving his friends and heading back to his uncle's house.

Chapter 37 - The Beginning Analysis

The hero is safe, but it is not a happy ending. Harry won the Triwizard Contest, but there is no special taste of victory. The author leaves us with the impression that there will be future and more difficult battles to fight. The wizardry world is in danger. It is the beginning of a new and very dangerous era. The reader is anxious to see what will happen in the next book of the series.



Characters

Harry Potter

Harry is the main character and hero. He is not the typical run-of-the-mill hero. He is neither tall nor good-looking. He has neither great physical strength nor extraordinary intelligence. He is short and skinny and wears glasses. Actually, he seems to be quite an ordinary boy except that he is a wizard. And even that is not exceptional, as all the other characters of the book also have magical qualities.

What is special about Harry is that he has courage and a strong sense of justice. He is true to his convictions and he is basically good. These are the qualities that make him a hero.

Harry is a fourteen-year-old wizard. When he was a baby, his wizard parents were murdered by the evil wizard Voldemort. Actually, his mother died protecting him, and he himself received a lightning bolt-shaped scar on his forehead from when wicked Voldemort tried to murder him. Having survived the dark Lord's attack makes him quite a celebrity in his magical world.

Orphaned and alone in the world, he was taken in to live with his Muggle aunt and her family. He was never wanted or loved by them and is not one of them. We do not know much about his early life, but we do know he was lonely and miserable at his relatives' house. At the age of eleven, he discovers that he is a wizard and is taken to Hogwarts, the wizardry school. There he discovers his magical powers and for the first time fits in. It is at Hogwarts that he discovers his love for the wizardry sport of quidditch.

At the age of fourteen, Harry is the typical teenager. Sometimes moody, sometimes rebellious, sometimes needy, he fluctuates through his different feelings as all adolescents do. He goes through peer pressure and at times is ostracized by his own friends. In this book, he feels very lonely and is under great pressure, therefore depends very much on the love and support of his two best friends and of his godfather. To make things worse, at the beginning, even his best friend, Ron, doubts him and becomes estranged.

Typical of most adolescents, Harry's interest in the opposite sex is just awakening. He suffers the pangs of unrequited love. Also like all adolescents, he is constantly being faced with choices, and very difficult ones. His strength of character helps him make the right choices, even if these are not the most popular ones. His virtues of friendship, love, courage, self-reliance, and the correct use of knowledge ensure his confidence in his own decisions and choices.

Harry is faced with great challenges, way beyond what could be expected of a young and sensitive boy. Quite understandably, he is scared and insecure, and even at one point thinks of giving up. He does not give up, though. Through the use of his own



talents and qualities, he finds the strength within himself to face up to his challenges with extraordinary resilience and strength.

Ron Weasley

Ron is Harry's best friend. He is a happy-go-lucky boy who comes from a big, boisterous, and loving wizard family. This close-knit family is very happy even though they struggle financially. Ron is lively and always up to something. He is brave and his curiosity always lands him in tricky situations.

Ron is a typical adolescent going through the growing pains that all go through. He has a good sense of humor and a quick temper. He is a bright boy, but not exactly a top student. His enthusiasm outshines his common sense many times. He is a great quidditch fan. He loves watching the sport and much of his time and effort is spent on following the sports news and activities.

Ron, at fourteen, is very concerned about what others will think of him. He feels very hard-done-by, because his parents do not have that much money and cannot afford the things that Harry, who was the heir of wealthy parents, has. He does not stop to think that maybe Harry would prefer to have a loving family rather than money. He gets very much on the defensive when the school bullies tease and taunt him about his clothes, his father's job, etc. He has the tendency of being a bit of a show-off and is full of innocent bravado.

He is in that phase where his better judgment is adversely affected by petty jealousies and envy. This can be seen when he initially turns his back on his best friend, thinking that Harry lied to him.

Unknown to himself, he obviously has a crush on Hermione, though he insists on looking at the prettier girls. This crush becomes evident through the jealousy that he unwittingly shows her. He manages to antagonize her at every other step of the way and they always seem to be at loggerheads.

Despite all of this, truth be told, Ron is a very good-hearted young boy. He admits to his mistakes and knows how to apologize. He is a brave and loyal friend. He is someone to count on when needed.

Hermione Granger

Hermione is Harry's other best friend. She is a serious and studious girl. In the real world she would be considered a bit nerdy. Her parents are Muggles, or non-wizards. This makes her more anxious to do well at wizardry school. She is at the top of her class.

Hermione loves books. She is constantly in the library. Books have the answers to all her questions and doubts. She is the different one. She is very idealistic and concerned



with social issues and with what is right and wrong. She sticks to her ideals and is very righteous. Hermione does not like breaking rules or doing anything questionable. However, for a very good cause, she will go all out.

Hermione has a tremendous amount of common sense; she is the steadying force in the trio of friends. Hermione is very special. She is a great friend. Totally undemanding, she is a truly generous and considerate person. She is the one who listens to the two boys and who will give them good advice. Harry and Ron depend on her a great deal; however, they take her totally for granted.

Here we have a very spunky young girl who is ready to fight everybody else's battles for them. She is very self sufficient and nobody really sees the pains and hardships that she goes through. She suffers injustice for standing up for what she believes. She is the victim of slander and hate mail. Neither Ron nor Harry give this much importance.

Everybody is very surprised when the great quidditch player and champion, Krum, is attracted to her. She is quite understandably very flattered at his attentions. Nevertheless, the bickering and irritation that she feels towards Ron certainly gives one the impression that a romance may be forming there.

Lord Voldemort

Voldemort is a very powerful and wicked wizard who years before, led a group of followers who dealt in Dark Arts. He is a cruel and cold-blooded killer who murdered Harry's parents. Voldemort is greatly feared by all in the wizardry world even though thirteen years ago he lost his bodily form when he tried to kill baby Harry Potter and his deadly spell rebounded back to himself. Even in the molten form without a body, Voldemort's evil persists.

His hatred of Muggles and of any wizard with Muggle blood is well known. This loathing springs from the feelings he had for his Muggle father. His witch mother and Muggle father fell in love. His father, however, on discovering what his lover was, abandoned her to her own luck. She brought her son up alone, but Voldemort swore revenge. Voldemort was capable of killing his own father.

Ambitious, cruel, and totally unscrupulous, Voldemort is very persistent. His hatred and wish for vengeance keep him alive. He has great power of conviction as he rouses the dormant evil and hate in others. He is arrogant and considers himself superior to all.

He uses Dark Arts to control and manipulate. Voldemort ruthlessly uses his followers to reach his ambitions. He will step on any and all to perpetrate his evil plans. He despises everyone and treats his loyal supporters like dirt. His followers cringe and crawl to him and are capable of the most absurd sacrifices to keep him alive. What is this hold he has over others? He plays on and multiplies their weakness and lack of character to his own benefit.



A very dangerous wizard, Voldemort plans his wicked deeds to the smallest detail. He knows how to work on people's weaknesses. His actual power comes from the weakness of others. He is a bloodsucker and has no qualms in disposing of those he has used and no longer needs.

Wormtail

Wormtail is Voldemort's follower and helper. He will do anything and everything to please his evil master. He cringes and crawls to Voldemort, craving for his approval. Wormtail's dream is to help Voldemort back into power.

Albus Dumbledore

Headmaster of the Hogwarts School and a very powerful wizard, Dumbledore is very wise and just. He is understanding and firm. His character inspires respect and stands for everything that is good and noble. Dumbledore looks out for Harry in a special way.

Sirius Black

Sirius is Harry's godfather. He was Harry's parents' best friend and he is the boy's only family in the wizardry world. Sirius is a fugitive: he was arrested and unjustly charged of crimes he did not commit and condemned without a trial. He escaped from the prison in Azkaban the year before in order to help Harry against Voldemort.

Cedric Diggory

Cedric, at seventeen, is the all round school hero. He is popular, good looking, and an excellent sportsman. He is honest and believes in fair play. He is chosen to represent Hogwarts School at the Triwizard Contest.

Viktor Krum

Viktor is the Triwizard contestant chosen to represent the Durmstrang School. He is one of the world's best quidditch players and, at the age of seventeen, already is a member of the Bulgarian National team. He has a vast number of sports fans, including Ron and Harry. He has a highly competitive spirit and is not averse to foul play in order to win. He develops a strong crush on Hermione.

Fleur Delacour

Fleur is the Triwizard contestant for the Beauxbaton School. She is extremely attractive and comes across a bit snobbish.



Karkaroff

Headmaster of the Durmstrang School, he is a dark and suspicious character. He is very competitive, bad tempered, and not an advocate of fair play. He was once a Death Eater, but he made a deal with the Aurors to reveal the names of other followers and was set free.

Madame Maxime

She is the huge, part-giant headmistress of the Beauxbaton School.

Bartemius Crouch

Bartemius Crouch is the Head of the Department for International Magical Cooperation. He is a very serious and meticulous man. He was a dedicated Auror responsible for the arrest of many Death Eaters, including his own son's. He was also the man who sentenced Sirius to prison.

Barty Crouch, Jr.

Bartemius Crouch's son was a Voldemort follower and was arrested and condemned by his own father. He is in the Dark Lord's service and the perpetrator of his evil plans.

Mad Eye Moody

Mad Eye is the newly named professor of Defense Against Dark Arts at Hogwarts. Moody is a very eccentric wizard and combatant against Voldemort's followers. He is very strange looking, and having two different colored eyes that act independently one from the other. He can see things that others cannot.

Ludo Bagman

Bagman is the Head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports. He was once a very popular professional quidditch player. He has a very bonhomie attitude towards life and gets himself into gambling debts.

Hagrid

Hagrid is the clumsy and untidy giant gamekeeper at the Hogwarts school whose favorite creatures are dragons. This year he has been promoted to teach the Care of Magical Creatures class. Hagrid is a Harry's dedicated defender and guardian.



Severus Snape

Snape is the Magical Potions teacher, who has it in for Harry Potter. Snape is a character of whom Harry has always been suspicious, but who Dumbledore trusts. Snape had at one time been a Voldemort follower, but repented and became a spy against the wicked wizard.

Rita Skeeter

Rita is an unscrupulous journalist for who loves to sauce up a story regardless of who it hurts and what of its consequences.

Bertha Jorkins

Bertha was a member of the Ministry staff kidnapped and murdered by Voldemort after she gave him precious information.

Cho Chang

Cho is Harry's heart throb; she plays quidditch for the Ravenclaw House.

Professor Trelawney

Trelawney is the Popular Divinations teacher at Hogwarts School.

Draco Malfoy, Crabbe and Goyle

These are the three school bullies who are always on Harry, Ron, and Hermione's backs

Mr. and Mrs. Weasley

Mr. and Mrs. Weasley are Ron's kindly and hardworking parents. They are very kind to Harry Potter and treat him as a family member. Mr. Weasley is an official at the Ministry of Magic.

Percy Weasley

Percy is Ron's brother and is Mr. Crouch's subordinate at the Department of International Cooperation. Percy takes his job and himself very seriously.



Fred and George Weasley

Fred and George are twins and just a few years older than Ron. They are boisterous boys who are always up to some prank or trick.

Winky

Winky is a house elf that was in the service of the Crouch family. She is very dedicated to the family and was heartbroken when she was fired. She now works in the Hogwarts school kitchen.

Dobby

Dobby is a house elf that Harry freed from the Malfoy's service. He now also works at the school and is eternally grateful and devoted to Harry.



Objects/Places

Muggles

Muggles are humans with no magical powers.

Mudbloods

Mudbloods are wizards or witches who have Muggle blood.

Elves

Elves are small magical creatures with pointed ears, used by wizards and witches as unpaid house workers.

Veelas

Veelas are beautiful, seductive dancing women with an ethereal quality to entrance and enchant their audience.

Leprechauns

Leprechauns are tiny, lively, bearded magical men from Ireland dressed in green with red waistcoats.

Auror

Aurors are law enforcing wizards who hunt and arrest dark wizards.

Death Eaters

Death Eaters are wizard and witch practitioners of Dark Arts who follow Lord Voldemort.

Dark Wizards

Dark Wizards are wizards who deal in the Dark Arts and bring about harms



Dementors

Dementors are sightless soul-sucking creatures used to guard prisoners.

Portkey

A Portkey is an object with the power to transport wizards and witches from place to place.

Quidditch

Quidditch is a popular sport played on flying broomsticks by wizards and witches.

Pensieve

A pensieve is a magical basin which holds one's excess thoughts so that they can be examined and analyzed later in a more leisurely fashion

Owls

Owls are used by wizards to deliver letters and mail.

Howlers

Howlers are reprimanding or complaining correspondence, which when opened let out a terrible howling noise.

Firebolt

A firebolt is the most modern and quickest broomstick, used in quidditch competitions

Triwizard Contest

The Triwizard Contest is the traditional contest held between the three European wizardry schools. One champion of each school is chosen to compete with their magical powers.

Polyjuice Potion

Polyjuice is a potion that allows one to take on another person's appearance for a certain amount of time.



Cruciatus Curse

The Cruciatus Curse is a very strong torturous curse that leaves its victims writhing in pain. To cast this spell is criminal and illegal.

Imperius Curse

This is an illegal mind-controlling spell under which the victim will do everything that he or she is told to.

Avada Kedavra

The Avada Kedavra is a terrible illegal curse that kills its victim on the spot.

Hogwarts

Hogwarts is a Schools of Wizardry and witchcraft in Great Britain. This school is a typical English boarding school in its set-up. The students are divided into four competing houses.

Gryffindor

Gryffindor is one of the four competing houses with Hogwarts. Members of this house are known for their courage. Harry Potter and friends are members of this house.

Ravenclaw

This is the Hogwarts house whose members are known for their cleverness.

Hufflepuff

This is the third Hogwarts house. This house attracts hardworking students.

Slytherin

Slytherin is the fourth house in Hogwarts whose members are very ambitious. This house is Gryffindor's main rival.



Beauxbatons

This is the school for witches in located in France. This school is one of the three that participate in the Triwizard Contest.

Durmstrang

This is the Eastern European school for wizards competing in the Triwizard Contest.

Azkaban

Azkaban is the terrifying wizard prison where Death Eaters and other criminal wizards are incarcerated.



Setting

Before readers of J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* return to the familiar setting of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, they are first given a glimpse of the gray areas to which the fourth *Harry Potter* book expands: the boundary worlds that span the nonmagic Muggle world and the magic world. True to her talent for providing examples and provoking comparative thinking by describing the parallels between the Muggle and the magic, Rowling shows us both of these boundary worlds in the first ten chapters (158 pages) of her mammoth 37-chapter (734-page) novel.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire opens in the village of Little Hangleton—a conservative Muggle town in rural England. We learn that the infamous villain of the *Harry Potter* books, Lord Voldemort ("He Who Shall Not Be Named"), is hiding out, regaining strength, and planning his return to power. Rowling distances her readers from this active threat by describing it as a dream: "Harry lay flat on his back, breathing hard as though he had been running. He had awoken from a vivid dream with his hands pressed over his face. The old scar on his forehead, which was shaped like a bolt of lightning, was burning beneath his fingers as though someone had just pressed a whitehot wire to his skin." But readers well acquainted with Rowling's series know that *Harry Potter's* burning scar is no dreamy matter—it hurts when Voldemort is nearby or feeling particularly hateful towards Harry.

The threat is real and the distance between our hero and the villain is not so great as we would like to believe. In the meantime, the reader must expect that Voldemort's appearance in the Muggle world is a matter of much concern. The well-intentioned witches and wizards (primarily those working in the various departments at the Ministry of Magic) are devoted to making sure that the magic world does not intrude upon, or interfere with, the Muggle world. Rowling describes this from Harry's Muggle-raised, but magic-informed, perspective in the opening chapters of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*: the Ministry covers up the (seemingly foolish) claims of inappropriate and dangerous goings-on in the village of Little Hangleton. Here, Rowling's penchant for parallel and oppositional description is exercised. The Ministry cover-up is told from the perspective of Harry, the young initiate, and from the vantage point of a new setting, the Quidditch World Cup, in chapters 2-9 of Rowling's text.

Chapters 2-9 showcase J. K. Rowling's gift for ingenious, imaginative detail, allowing her to describe once again the magic world that delights both her youngest and her oldest readers. Harry and his good friend Hermione Granger (Muggle-born and raised), and their magic-born friend Ron Weasley (along with the Weasley family), use a portkey to travel to the Quidditch World Cup—an amusing parallel to World Cup Soccer. The Cup matches are held on a deserted moor ("it's very difficult for a large number of wizards to congregate without attracting Muggle attention"). Their portkey ("unobtrusive things . . . [that] Muggles . . . just think is litter," and one of "two hundred portkeys placed at strategic points around Britain") is a "moldylooking old boot" located at the top of Stoatshead Hill. While on Stoatshead Hill, Harry and his friends meet Amos Diggory and his son Cedric, a Hogwarts schoolmate. Once transported to the moor, they are in



greater company, and only some of that company is familiar (Ministry friends and colleagues, school chums, famous figures in the magic world).

Able to slip comfortably past the campsite director ("Mr. Roberts's eyes slid out of focus, his brows unknitted, and a look of dreamy unconcern fell over his face. Harry recognized the symptoms of one who had just had his memory modified"), Harry, Hermione, and the Weasley family set up camp. Their camping accommodations look rather cramped and apparently substandard, but are appropriate because they do not call attention to the party. However, in the world as Rowling describes it, things are not always as they initially appear: "Harry bent down, ducked under the tent flap, and felt his jaw drop. He had walked into what looked like an old-fashioned, three-room flat, complete with bathroom and kitchen." Other wizards shun the need for a low profile so close to Muggle territory and travel to the Quidditch World Cup with ostentation—and sometimes with a misinformed sense of style: [Right] behind a pair of men . . . were having a heated argument. One of them was a very old wizard who was wearing a long flowery nightgown. The other was clearly a Ministry wizard; he was holding out a pair of pinstriped trousers and almost crying with exasperation

"You can't walk around like that, the Muggle at the gate's already getting suspicious—" "I bought this in a Muggle shop, said the old wizard stubbornly. Muggles wear them."

"Muggle women wear them, Archie, not the men, they wear these. . . ."

"I'm not putting them on, said old Archie in indignation. I like a nice healthy breeze 'round my privates, thanks."

While the beauties of Rowling's setting lie in a landscape of rich and thorough imagination, their literary effectiveness is the result of Rowling's ability to translate the setting via characterization—particularly via such characters as Harry and Hermione. Rather than "discovering" the world (as the characters of Lewis Carroll's and C. S. Lewis' fantasies often do—which then involves most of the plot), or having to explain and describe the fantastic setting for us (as is often the case in the novels of J. R. R. Tolkien), Harry's and Hermione's translations allow the reader to see the magic world as fresh and new, and as quickly and effectively as possible. Like the novels of T. H. White, Rowling's works invite the reader into a fantastic landscape that refuses to compromise the intricacies of the plot—and this natural and charming development and inclusion of sophisticated matter is always a boon in young adult literature.

This translative characterization is a facet of the Harry Potter books from the first (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone), in which it is used to fully describe Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. But here, in Book 4, Hogwarts remains the primary setting and is the familiar landscape to which we return following the Quidditch World Cup and the disturbing events that take place there. The Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is a traditional English boarding school located in the fairygreen countryside well beyond London.



The meddlesome caretaker, Mr. Filch, and his cat, Mrs. Norris, carefully monitor the building, and the grounds are kept well by the beloved Keeper of Keys and Grounds (and Hogwarts dropout) Rubeus Hagrid.

During the long-standing tradition of the Sorting Ceremony, first-year Hogwarts students are separated into four houses (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin), each with its own proud history, alumni, and secret traditions. The faculty, respected scholars and authority figures, are removed from the emotional and interpersonal experiences of their students; the curriculum is carefully structured and deliberately traditional; classes are taken by year and with students from other houses.

Residents of each house have points given and taken away for academic achievement, behavior and deportation, and athletic competition, and the points accumulate toward the goal of winning the much-coveted house cup at the end-of-year feast.

Hogwarts is a world all its own; a non-Muggle world. Students arrive by a train taken from platform nine and three-quarters at King's Cross Station. During the journey they snack on candies and amuse themselves by trading cards of famous witches and wizards from packages of Chocolate Frogs. The campus is located inside a moat and the building is a castle.

The house dormitories are in the four round towers located at the corners of the building and accessed by secret passwords that open portrait holes. The Sorting Ceremony stars a Sorting Cap that reads the new students' minds before assigning them to the appropriate house. The access portraits to the houses have a frustrating tendency to visit other paintings in the castle, thereby foiling the stealthy return of many an erring student, who also find that Filch and Mrs. Norris are not the only "caretakers" to avoid.

Peeves the Poltergeist will insist on reporting students out of bed after hours, and the other ghosts (Nearly Headless Nick and the Bloody Baron among them) have loyalties to certain houses. The faculty members also have allegiances—as well as curious (possible threatening) involvement with the adult, magic world. Coursework is difficult and requires much study. The sport of choice is Quidditch, a fast-paced game loosely resembling polo, played on flying brooms.

The setting of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the Harry Potter books is a setting at once comfortingly traditional and offbeat. Rowling also masterfully uses duality in her descriptions of the apprentice magic world of the Hogwarts students as compared to the adult magic world for which they are preparing, or the whole of the magic world as compared to the Muggle world. To the reader, things seem to be somewhat familiar, but given a brilliant twist that makes them totally different from the norm. Accepted Hogwarts students walk through a wall in order to reach platform nine and three-quarters at King's Cross Station. Tapping a brick behind the Leaky Cauldron pub three times with your magic wand will open it to Diagon Alley, the shopping center of the magic world. Diagon Alley is also the only place "in" London where prospective students can get everything they need—from the uniform to course books and other equipment. The Ministry of Magic works to ensure that Muggles remain ignorant of the

actuality of the magic world. And the commonplace systems of the Muggle world amaze and confound witches and wizards. The layering of experiences and perspectives in Rowling's text work to keep the reader both grounded and aware. As such, the reader enjoys a setting that has been wonderfully and completely imagined, described, and realized by J. K. Rowling in the Harry Potter books.



Social Sensitivity

In the past, such eminent critics as Jack Zipes have criticized J.K. Rowling for a perceived lack of political correctness (which is often inappropriately confused with social sensitivity). The argument stands that quality art should not be judged according to its perceived level of political correctness— not even when the literary art has been created for a young adult audience. This consideration is complicated by the defense that Rowling's use of both tradition and innovation is within the "safe" remove of a fantasy setting. But that argument must necessarily be placed alongside the critical notion that young adults form opinions and expectations of their world based, in part, on their reading material and that, therefore, they do not gain the positive socialization from fantastic literature that they do from realism. It must be noted, however, that in fantasy—as in Rowling's Harry Potter books—it is the parallels that inform the reader, and the parallels are no less powerful than the bald truths that realism offers. Indeed, for many readers, and especially for nonlinear thinkers, fantastic parallels can provide a more accurate reflection of how they process their world.

It is a phenomenon of popularity that writers exposed to such arguments and defenses on their behalf might betray the strain of that exposure in their art, and J. K. Rowling seems no more impervious to this phenomenon than any writer. To her credit, however, Rowling shares her strain with us in her usual, tongue-in-cheek and self-aware manner. Within the pages of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Rowling pokes some fun at her critics on behalf of her supporters— thereby raising her above exposure to the debates regarding her art that threaten to undermine the quality of that art. While discussing Hermione's attempt to release the tea cozy-wearing house elves from bondage and to ensure their equal rights and payment, the young protagonists sympathize with Dobby the house elf and discover that (contrary to Ron's brother Percy) they would rather work for an honest person with a sense of humor than an earnest person without one: "I'd still rather work for him than old Crouch", said Ron. "At least Bagman's got a sense of humor."

"Don't let Percy hear you saying that," Hermione said, smiling slightly.

"Yeah, well, Percy wouldn't want to work for anyone with a sense of humor, would he? . . . Percy wouldn't recognize a joke if it danced naked in front of him wearing Dobby's tea cozy".

While it is clear that J. K. Rowling has a sense of humor (specifically here, a sense of humor about the criticism leveled at her work), it is also clear that she is listening to her critics. This has its benefits as well as its drawbacks. For example, Hermione raises a consciousness regarding the treatment of lower and indentured economic classes (especially those categorized by race), and Rowling does an impressive job of describing the complicated psychology of the abused subordinate. But the discerning reader will note that the liberation of house elves is dropped from the plot of the novel once it is no longer useful in classifying the good characters from the evil. As a result, its potential social effect is significantly weakened.



Likewise, the same may be said of other race-related prejudices in the novel, such as Harry's interracial romantic feelings for his classmate Cho Chang (which is lighthearted, unstated, but also unrequited). In a similar vein, Hagrid and Madam Maxim attempt to hide their interracial parentage but, although ogres are feared, despised and ostracized by the magic world, Hagrid and Maxim only suffer mere—and fleeting—ribbing from the gossip columnist Rita Skeeter. Thus, though Rowling's treatment of more socially sensitive aspects of the (parallel) magic world describes her politics, responds to her critics, and amuses her supporters, the textual dismissal of these aspects calls into question whether that treatment is a political gesture or a literary commitment. But neither the political gesture nor the literary commitment is a requirement for quality art and Rowling herself has a magic for parallelism and doubling.

So, it seems our consideration of social sensitivity in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* must be satisfied by the introduction of these aspects and the assumption that they will continue to shape, and to take shape in, subsequent *Harry Potter* books. Let it be a lesson in *Transfiguration*.



Literary Qualities

There are seven (planned) books in the Harry Potter series, and this allows us to consider the fourth book, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, as a halfway point—a benchmark in the series. As such, it is compelling that *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* closes with a chapter entitled "The Beginning." Since the novel describes the evil Lord Voldemort's return to human form, his regaining of full magical powers, and his reentry into the magic world as a "rebirth," the reader is left to assume that—now that good and evil seem unfortunately well balanced—the real action of the series is about to start. Once again, Rowling draws parallels: now that evil has the strength of good, the battle may begin. Thus, the end chapter of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is the series' halfway point. It marks the start of the battle between good and evil that characterizes fantastic fiction and signals the beginning of the hero's coming-of-age that classifies young adult literature.

But the use of traditional themes refuses to undermine the innovation with which we credit J. K. Rowling. Book 4 defines itself in accordance with, and in opposition to, classic British fantasy for the young adult (Lewis Carroll's *Alice* books, C. S. Lewis' *Narnia* chronicles, J. R. R. Tolkien's *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, T. H. White's *The Once and Future King*).

If closing her fourth book with "The Beginning" allows J. K. Rowling to distance herself and her art from the pressures of canonical fantasy as literary precedent, it also enables her to describe the first three *Harry Potter* books as precedent for the fourth. Therefore, we may evaluate classic young adult fantasy (especially British fantasy) as the precedent for Book 1, but we must evaluate Books 1, 2 and 3 as the precedent for Book 4. The first half of Rowling's series is the precedent for the second half of the series.

The familiar motifs of a railway journey, a reflective device, games of logic, and an academic setting with familiar fantastic characterization in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* draws on such masters as Lewis Carroll, C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and T. H. White. These very categories are then broadened and individualized in the subsequent *Harry Potter* books (*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*). In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the railway journey to and from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry has become a standard motif in fantastic literature as well as in Rowling's series; the reflective device has been expanded to ghost images and the reflexive opportunities they provide; the games of logic have been multiplied—and given greater mythic roots—as characters battle dragons, fight off sea creatures, and run a maze in the Triwizard Tournament.

If we are to understand the end of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* as "The Beginning" of the rest of the series, we might predict that the *Harry Potter* books will feature increasingly more sophisticated struggles between good and evil, and that they will draw on the motifs of classical (and not just classic) literature—both traditionally seen as appropriate for young adults.



Themes

The Fight Between Good and Evil

A very strong theme in all of the Harry Potter books is the fight between good and evil. The author portrays these as real forces personified by Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort. Harry is less dramatic and more discreet, but his powers are much stronger than he could imagine.

Voldemort is terrible, threatening, and frightening. Just the thought of him, immobilizes the vast majority with terror. Voldemort's power increases proportionally to the terror he inflicts. He feeds off others' fear and weakness. Evil attracts cowardly and ambitious souls. Wormtail grovels to the Dark Lord and even cuts his own hand off in sacrifice. This wicked wizard could not survive without sapping the life from others. His followers cannot see this, for evil is blinding. It lives off the baser feelings in life.

Just by standing up to the evil and confronting it, Harry manages to weaken its grasp. Good finds its strength in itself. Harry's strength comes from within. It is fed by love.

One might say that in this book, good did not come out victorious. True. Voldemort was not defeated, however, he also did not come out victorious. One young fourteen year old boy was able to stand up to him. Imagine if all were to do the same.

Courage

Another underlying theme is courage. To have courage does not mean to be without fear. Much to the contrary, if one is fearless, one has no courage. To have courage is to fear, recognize, and face danger for a cause one believes in. Courage does not come alone; it is accompanied by love, idealism, friendship, and loyalty.

Harry Potter demonstrates amazing courage all through the book. He is not the superhero. He has no exceptional traits. He is just an ordinary wizard boy stands up to his challenges. With the help of his friends and loved ones, he finds the strength within himself to face his fears. His most courageous act is to stand up to Voldemort. But Harry and the other characters show different levels of courage throughout the plot. Harry knows he is the weaker contestant, yet he accepts his obligation to compete in the Triwizard Contest. Hermione faces everyone's ridicule, yet continues her campaign in favor of the elves. Sirius places his liberty at risk to be near and care for Harry.

Ron, gains the courage to invite the attractive Fleur to the ball, knowing that he will probably be rejected. To have courage is not always synonymous to success. However it brings about the satisfaction of at least having tried.



Differences

The author makes a point in pointing out the differences between people, cultures, beliefs, etc. People are different, not better not worse, just different. It is very important to respect these differences. At Hogwarts, one meets all sorts of different types of people, wizards, witches, giants, and elves. The respect for each one's differences and individuality is what allows for the peaceful living in society. The book brings together nationalities, different cultures, different tastes, and behaviors. Nevertheless, there is always some common ground to be found. As an example of this, Harry and Krum found a common ground in their love for sport.

It is the differences that make up one's individuality. Harry Potter, Ron, and Hermione are three completely different characters. It's their individuality that brings them together. One completes the other. Hermione's solid studious and no nonsense nature and Ron's impulsivity and curiosity, compliment Harry's sensitivity and courage. The three individuals compliment each other.

Competition

Competition is present during the whole plot. The book starts out with the World Quidditch Cup, an international competition that brings together sports lovers from all over the world. Later on, we see the Triwizard Contest bringing together students from different schools and cultures. One usually sees competition as a dividing factor, but in the same way it can be a uniting factor. It all depends on how it is played.

Fair play and sportsmanship unites Harry and Cedric, both competitors in the same contest. Competition brings out the best in them. Viktor Krum, a very talented sportsman and otherwise nice boy, uses foul play to try to win. Competition brought out the worst in him. Competition brings out the best or the worst in a person. Competition itself is not bad; it's how far one is willing to go to win that can make it dangerous.

Some people have a very competitive spirit, like Ron. Others are immune to it and content in their own individuality, like Hermione.

Adolescence

J. K. Rowling manages to capture the essence of adolescence in this book. The doubts, insecurities, peer pressure, rebelliousness, and fear of rejection normally felt by teenagers are all present in the young characters as are growing interest in the opposite sex, crushes and veiled jealousy. Harry has a crush on Cho Chang. Hermione and Viktor Krum are attracted to each other. Ron does not know why he feels so irritable with Hermione when he sees her with Krum.



Themes/Characters

As the characters mature throughout J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter books, they become more savvy and more aware of the very complex and political nature of their world.

This savvy awareness, as we might expect, results in a development and complication of theme. Thus, Book 1, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, we move between the two fixed points of Privet Drive in the Muggle world and Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the magic world. The parallel and doubling becomes more demonstrative of the Muggle world and more descriptive of the magic world in Book 2, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and Book 3, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, and is ultimately expanded to the many levels of intrigue and circumstance in Book 4, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. As a result, though *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is very much a novel about loyalty, the idea of loyalty is necessarily complicated.

Loyalties, and likewise allegiances, while desired, are slippery, suspect, and unsure in this novel.

Most of the magic world, it seems, is divided into two groups: the good (generally, but not technically, lead by Professor Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts) and the evil (under the control and influence of Lord Voldemort). For those readers familiar with the Harry Potter books, this is old territory, and it furthermore involves a longtime grudge between Voldemort and his child-nemesis, Harry Potter. Loyal readers of the series have witnessed the escalation of this grudge, but its history—even that predating the Harry Potter books—is thoughtfully outlined towards the beginning of each novel.

The story goes: Lord Voldemort's once healthy regime brutalized the magic world and victimized many innocents (magic and Muggle alike). Voldemort personally murdered Harry's parents, leaving Harry an orphan, but he was unable to kill Harry—even as an infant. The first three Harry Potter books describe Lord Voldemort's continuing return to power and Harry's uncanny ability to thwart his evil. At the end of Book 4, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, however, Voldemort's return to power is unfortunately realized. Lord Voldemort's "subjects" return to Lord Voldemort's service once they see the Dark Mark, which is released at the Quidditch World Cup and appears on their forearms. There is a great disturbance as the Ministry of Magic is thwarted with back talk and befuddlement—no one knows whose allegiance lies where and every action is a threat (for every action might indicate a return to, and strengthening of, Lord Voldemort's evil regime). Book 4, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, is very much a novel about good, evil, and loyalty, and we are given to understand that, however black-hearted, abused, or bewitched, evil, too, has its loyal members. Some of Voldemort's loyal supporters are not a surprise such as Wormtail and Lucius Malfoy, but most of Voldemort's supporters are characters new to the series: Igor Karkaroff, the Headmaster of Durmstrang; Ludovic "Ludo" Bagman, the Ministry's Head of Magical Games and Sports; and Bartemius Crouch, Jr., the presumed-dead son of the Head of the Department of International Magic Cooperation.



Loyal, too, are those who have fought with Professor Dumbledore against the evil Lord Voldemort: Inerva McGonagle, a faculty member at Hogwarts, and Sirius Black, Harry's godfather (currently on the run due to Wormtail's escape in Book 3). But most realistically unsettling are those characters whose loyalties are not readily apparent (like Severus Snape, the Potions master who is believed to have switched allegiances from evil to good, and Mad-Eye Moody, who helps Harry throughout the Triwizard Tournament) as well as those characters who, though not evil, have questionable agendas that create serious obstacles for good (Rita Skeeter, the gossip columnist for The Daily Prophet, and Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic who functions in an abject state of denial).

Our protagonist, Harry Potter, and his two best friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, are asked to negotiate this increasingly complicated sociopolitical world and, likewise, to establish their own parallel loyalties. Suffering from jealousy over Harry's fame and recognition, Ron stops speaking to him. Relentlessly, Hermione encourages Harry and Ron to make up, though her encouragement does not effect change. It is only when Harry faces the dangers of the first task in the Triwizard Tournament (stealing from a dragon's nest) that Ron becomes convinced that Harry needs—and deserves—his friendship. Other tests of loyalty, allegiance, and friendship are less dire but still significant: Hermione, tired of not being recognized and appreciated as a young woman, accepts Viktor Krum's invitation to the Hogwarts formal ball despite mutual romantic feelings between her and Ron.

Harry holds a grudge against the other Hogwarts champion, Cedric Diggory, when Cedric successfully woos Harry's love interest, Cho Chang.

To their credit, however, and in keeping with the spirited wisdom of J.K. Rowling's books, these young characters are quick to put aside petty conflicts in an ongoing effort to support that which is good—whether in the interest of friendship (as do Harry and Ron and Ron and Hermione) or to benefit their beloved Hogwarts (as do Harry and Cedric). And it should be noted that putting aside his own glory for that of Hogwarts is Cedric's last living act, which makes it all the more significant, appropriate, and profound.



Style

Point of View

J.K. Rowling is an excellent storyteller. She weaves a captivating story with just the right ingredients of suspense, adventure, and fantasy. Her characters are very real and identifiable. The story is written in the third person and takes us into a fantasy world in the Harry Potter series. This world is seen through the narrator's eyes; it is definitely a story. More emphasis is put on Harry and his three friends and Harry is present in the great majority of the scenes.

Harry is the protagonist of the story, but the reader is looking in on the scene and, in fact, sees sometimes more than the main character sees. The narrator is the one who supplies the details that Harry does not really see. The reader sympathizes and has empathy for Harry and his friends' feelings, but cannot see the story totally from their point of view. Although Rowling's character depiction is perfect and the reader can relate many characteristics and personalities to the real every day world, the fact is that this is a fantasy world. The reader can identify with Harry but cannot fully identify with the world in which he lives.

Setting

The main action takes place at the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft. This school is located somewhere in Britain in a type of parallel fantasy world. Rowling blends fantasy and reality in an extraordinary way. The school itself and the hierarchical organization are very similar to that of the real world. The characters, even though they are wizards and witches, elves and giants, all have very real and human reactions.

The initial Harry Potter books are more akin to Peter Pan than to Tolkien, in that in the initial and final scenes take place in the real contemporary world. This book of the series is different for the earlier three. The magic is much closer to the real world. Usually Rowling introduces her book with Harry living in the human, or Muggle, world and the slightly comic world of the Dursleys. Once he gets onto the Hogwarts Express, the reader is taken off to a world of fantasy.

Whereas in the earlier books, magic was confined to a parallel world, this time the magic comes into the real world in many situations. This fourth book of the series begins with the supernatural and mysterious happenings in the real world. Only in the second chapter do we recognize the usual scene of Harry at the Dursley's. Unlike the other books, the action does not go straight to the School. The reader is first taken to the magical Weasley's home. The next scene is a mixed setting of a real world campsite and a magical stadium. The dramatic action takes place in a human cemetery.



This darker side pervades through the book and lurks in even the most comic scenes. The flights of fancy always return to a more comfortable world with the very human type characters and reactions.

Language and Meaning

What captivates the reader in this fantasy novel is the very convincing host of characters. The author's character depictions are perfect. We can identify with every one of the characters, even if they are witches, wizards, elves, and giants. They are a perfect mix of qualities and defects. Everyone knows a meticulous and pompous Percy. Most readers have suffered at the hands of bullies like Draco Malfoy. Mrs. Weasley is your typical fussy and loving mother. And so it goes with the description of all the other characters; we will always know someone very similar.

The book's language is what makes the fantasy more realistic. The wizards do not play a known sport like football, they play "quidditch." They do not drive different model cars; they fly on different model broomsticks. The postman do not deliver mail, owls do. They carry wands and use cauldrons. They have different potions, curses, and spells. Non-magical people are Muggles. This completely different language is somewhat reminiscent of the different languages used on the real world. Every community has its own peculiar language. Teenagers have their slang; businessmen, scientists, diplomats and politicians all have their own lingo to fit in with their reality. So it is with wizards; they have their own words to describe their very peculiar reality. This is how Rowling makes the fantasy appear more real. The wizards and witches would not seem so real if they were to only use our terms.

Some critics believe that there is a much darker side to Rowling's books. They claim that the language used has a black magic symbolism and that the books have a much darker meaning. This is a matter of interpretation.

Structure

The book is divided into thirty-seven chapters. Each chapter revolves around a specific event or character. Every chapter has a title. Sometimes the referenced title is a very minor part of the action in the chapter. These titles are clues to details that should be paid attention to for the unraveling of the plot.

The author's narrative is full of details weaving together in the end as an exceptionally well-developed plot. Her creativity and imagination enthrall all who are lured by her descriptions into a very real fantasy world. Joanne Rowling has the talent to mix fantasy, comedy, mystery, adventure, romance, and tragedy all into enthralling and spellbinding reading. The parodies of our own society make interesting and entertaining reading.

The book is structured in a way that enhances the mystery. Every chapter builds up to the climax. The reader is left in suspense during most of the book, expecting that the final battle between Harry Potter and Voldemort is about to happen at any moment.



Each of the challenges that Harry faces seems to end in an anti-climax. In fact, the reader is taken by surprise when and how it happens. The plot goes building up to a crescendo, which happens in Chapters 32, 33, and 34. The last three chapters of the book bring the excitement down and serve as an explanation of the intricacies of the plot. At the same time, the reader is left with the distinct impression that there is more to come. The reader's appetite is wetted for the next book of the series.

Quotes

"It's people like you, Ron, who prop up rotten and unjust systems, just because they are too lazy□" Chapter 9, pg. 112.

"□he felt the excitement drain out of him as though someone had just pulled a plug in his stomach." Chapter 25, pg. 403

"Curiosity is not a sin. But we should exercise caution with our curiosity." Chapter 30, pg. 520.

"Understanding is the first step to acceptance and only with acceptance can there be recovery."

"□it matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be." Chapter 36, pg. 615

"We are only as strong as we are united and as weak as we are divided." Chapter 37, pg. 627

"There was no point in worrying yet. □ What would come, would come □ and he would have to meet it when it did." Chapter 37, pg. 636.



Topics for Discussion

Why does peoples' behavior change when they are in a crowd? What are the dangers of these changes?

Harry Potter had to make several important choices in this story. What choices did he make? How difficult were they to make? What led him to make the choices he did?

Why do Wormtail and the other Death Eaters accept the way they are treated by Voldemort? What is it about Voldemort that attracts his followers?

What leadership qualities does Harry possess?

Why are adolescents so quick to criticize and ostracize each other?

Why did not the elves become enthusiastic about Hermione's campaign to set them free?

Fudge preferred to turn a blind eye to the fact of certain very influential wizards were Death Eaters. What made him have this attitude? Do you think this type of attitude exists in our everyday world?

1. Who do you think won the Triwizard Tournament? Harry? Credric? Both?

Neither? Why?

2. If the other two champions, Fleur Delacouer and Viktor Krum, were students at Hogwarts, to which house would they belong (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin)? Why?

3. In every one of the Harry Potter books, J. K. Rowling introduces us to interesting magical objects. In Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, one such object is the Pensieve. If you could "forget" (at least temporarily!) any one of your memories by putting it in a pensieve, which one memory would it be and why?

4. In Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, some house elves, like Dobby, want to be free; other house elves, like Winky, do not want to be free. How might Hermione help Dobby without hurting Winky? What more should—or could— be done? What should be less emphasized? What might Hermione do instead?

5. To date, four of the seven Harry Potter books have been written and/or published. Can you predict what might happen in the next three books that have not been written? Are there any clues in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire?



Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. The Harry Potter books are set in England, but the author, J. K. Rowling, lives in Scotland. What has the relationship between England and Scotland been throughout history?
2. The Quidditch World Cup tournament resembles the World Cup tournament in soccer. Research the (soccer) World Cup and explain it in your report.
3. Research the idea of school tournaments. Does your school have one? Why or why not? Which schools do have one and how do they resemble the Triwizard Tournament in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire?
4. Hogwarts students take the train to school from London. Research the London Underground and the British railway system (especially King's Cross railway station). Which came first, the Underground or the railway? What is the connection between the Underground and the railway? What routes do they follow? Can you find any maps and timetables using the Internet?
5. J. K. Rowling had been a school teacher and was a single mother when she started writing the first Harry Potter book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Research the author in order to find out more about her. What kinds of insights has she given in interviews? Are there any parallels between the author's life and her books?
6. So far, there are four Harry Potter books: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, and Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Read one (or more!) of the Harry Potter books and compare it/them to the latest book, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. What has changed? How have characters and story lines changed?
7. The Ministry of Magic functions like the British Ministry. The Ministry is part of the British parliamentary system. Research the governmental systems of Britain (the Ministry and Parliament) and compare and contrast them to the Ministry of Magic in the Harry Potter books. Just how similar (and/or different) are they?



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*, (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 *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." Parravano also states "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 1 and 2 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: 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 websites, about Rowling and the Harry Potter series.



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