



Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

J.K. Rowling

Teacher's Guide
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LIVING
LITERATURE
SERIES

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Why Teach Harry Potter?

When I began writing this guide, the most common reaction I received from friends and colleagues was, "People actually teach that?" Eventually I formulated two replies to their skepticism. First, any piece of literature can be an effective teaching tool, if used properly. Second, there's actually some good stuff in these books.

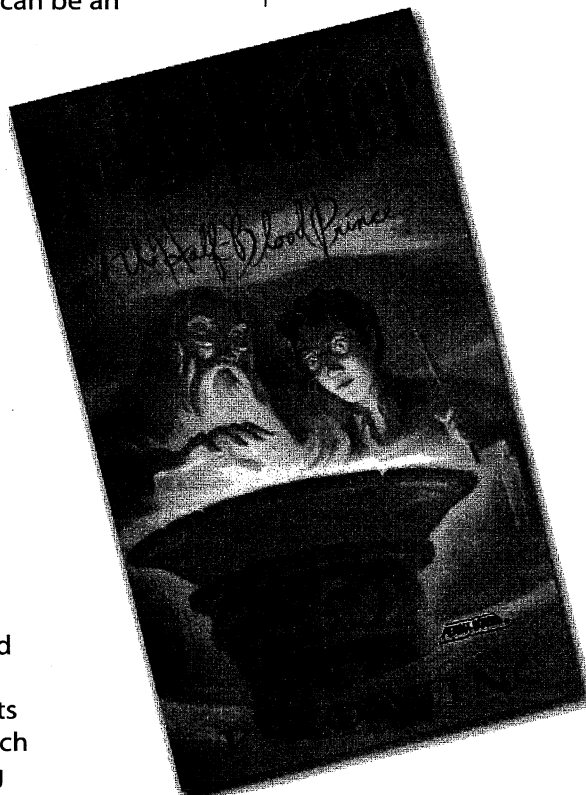
Perhaps the main pedagogical appeal of Harry Potter is its popularity. With casual reading on the decline, it becomes increasingly important to simply get students to read. Since many students will have already read the Harry Potter books, or at least seen the movies, you're guaranteed an uncommon level of student interest. But what do you do with it?

Treat the books as literature. Critical Reading is a skill, acquired through practice. The interest level and familiarity your students bring to the text frees you to teach them good reading and thinking skills without the impediment of wrangling with archaic language, inaccessible characters, or difficult literal levels. The Harry Potter books are broad and deep enough to support a close reading at any level.

At low levels, reading a book of such proportions is in-itself an accomplishment. It opens a sense of possibility. Additionally, the text supports vocabulary acquisition, thematic discussions, and character analysis. At upper levels, the Harry Potter novels are well-suited for most major critical

approaches. A bio-historical reading could focus on Rowling's experiences as a teacher and single parent. A Marxist reading could deal with characters' relative levels of wealth and their effects on personality development. A broad thematic reading would identify and analyze the many thematic threads running throughout the novels. A feminist reading could incorporate the sources of female power, including the lingering protection Harry enjoys from his mother, Professor McGonagall's source of authority, and Hermione Granger's academic prowess.

In essence, the Harry Potter books combine accessibility with possibility. Students generally want to read them, and you can use that interest to your advantage without sacrificing the possibility of developing necessary skills. They're not *Hamlet*, but they're a good stepping stone.



Synopsis

Chapter 1

Cornelius Fudge, the former Minister of Magic, visits the

Muggle Prime Minister to warn him that, despite past assurances, Lord Voldemort has indeed returned and that recent high-profile disasters and murders were actually the work of his Death-Eaters. Fudge has been forced from office in the wake of recent events. He introduces his replacement, Rufus Scrimgeour.

Chapter 2

Bellatrix Lestrange and Narcissa Malfoy, sisters and Death-Eaters, visit Severus Snape, Hogwarts' Potions master. Narcissa's son, Draco, has been

assigned a mysterious and potentially deadly task by Lord Voldemort, evidently as punishment for her husband's failure at the Department of Mysteries in the last book. Bellatrix doesn't trust Snape and intimates that he is not truly loyal to Voldemort and that his promises to aid and protect Draco are hollow. In response, he takes an Unbreakable Oath.

Chapter 3

Harry Potter has received and replied to a letter from Albus Dumbledore, the Headmaster of Hogwarts, informing him that Dumbledore intends to escort him to the Burrow. Not quite allowing himself to believe that Dumbledore actually plans to rescue him from his miserable Aunt and Uncle, Harry has neglected to pack. When he does arrive, Harry notices that his hand is shriveled and blackened, as if they flesh has been burned away, but Dumbledore declines to explain the wound's origin.

He informs Harry that Sirius Black, his Godfather who was killed in the last book, left him everything in his will. Sirius' house at Grimmauld Place is the headquarters of the Order of the Phoenix. Dumbledore is concerned that the house may have been enchanted to not be able to be owned by a half-blood like Harry, in which case ownership would have passed to one of Sirius' full-blooded relatives like Bellatrix Lestrange, who killed Sirius. To ensure that Harry does own the house and that the Order's secrets are safe, Dumbledore summons Kreacher, Sirius' half-crazy malicious house-elf. Harry issues an order, and Kreacher obeys, although unwillingly. That Kreacher must obey Harry's orders signifies that both house and house-elf are now his property. Harry orders Kreacher to join the house-elf staff at Hogwarts.

Chapter 4

On the way to the Burrow, Dumbledore enlists Harry's aid to convince Horace Slughorn to return to Hogwarts as an instructor. Slughorn is a "collector" of promising students and sits at the center of a web of famous and influential former students. Fearing that Voldemort will try to enlist him forcibly, he has been on the run for a year. Initially reluctant, Slughorn eventually agrees to return to Hogwarts. At the Burrow, Dumbledore advises Harry to tell his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger about the Prophecy that predicts that

eventually either Harry or Voldemort will kill the other. He also asks Harry to take private lessons with him this year.

Chapter 5

Harry is enthusiastically greeted by Mrs. Weasley. Everyone else is asleep because of the late hour, except Mr. Weasley, who has recently been promoted. He returns home from work shortly after Harry's arrival.

In the morning, Harry is woken by Hermione and Ron. They avidly press him for details about his night with Dumbledore and his perceptions of Slughorn, whom they assume will fill the vacant Defense Against the Dark Arts post. Fleur Delacour, who competed for Beauxbatons in the Triwizard Tournament in book four, brings Harry breakfast. She is engaged to Bill, Ron's older brother, and is staying with the Weasleys for a few days. Ginny, Ron's younger sister, and Mrs. Weasley dislike her immensely.

After breakfast, Harry reveals the contents of the prophecy. Their discussion is interrupted by the realization that their O.W.L grades are due to arrive that day. Hermione goes into a panic. Harry and Ron both receive seven passing grades. Hermione gets eleven, ten of which are Outstanding, the highest possible grade. Harry is mildly disappointed that he only scored an Exceeds Expectations in Potions, since Professor Snape only allows students who score an Outstanding in his N.E.W.T.-level Potions course, which is a requirement to be an Auror.

Chapter 6

Harry's birthday party is slightly darkened by Remus Lupin's grave tidings about dementor attacks, murders, and disappearances, the most shocking of which is the disappearance of wand-maker Ollivander, who made both Harry and Voldemort's wands. The next day, letters and booklists arrive from Hogwarts. Harry has been made Captain of the Gryffindor Quiddich team. That Saturday, Mrs. Weasley takes Ron, Ginny, Hermione, and Harry shopping for school supplies in Diagon Alley.

In the robe shop, they have a typical altercation with Draco Malfoy, who subsequently storms off with his mother. Neither Harry nor Ron buy

Potions ingredients, since they won't be allowed to continue studying the subject. Once the serious shopping is done, they visit Fred and George's joke shop, which appears to be quite successful. While perusing the various wares, Harry spots Draco going into Knockturn Alley. He, Ron, and Hermione follow Draco under Harry's invisibility cloak. They eavesdrop on Draco in Borgin and Burkes, a shop that specializes in unsavory objects of Dark Magic. Draco apparently wants an item repaired, one of a set, and he threatens Borgin. Unable to see the object in question, Hermione tries unsuccessfully to coax the information from Borgin after Draco leaves.

Chapter 7

During the last week of Holidays, Harry obsesses over Draco and his mysterious and presumably nefarious plan. Hermione and Ron dismiss Harry's concerns. On the last day of break, they are escorted to King's Crossing by a full security contingent. Harry confides his concerns about Draco to Mr. Weasley, who reluctantly agrees to investigate the matter.

On the train, Harry and Neville are invited to Lunch with Slughorn. It quickly becomes apparent that Slughorn is back to his collecting and that the students present at lunch have been invited because of their family connections or, in Harry's case, personal fame, except Ginny, who was extended an impromptu invitation when Slughorn saw her perform an impressive hex.

Afterwards, Harry follows Blaise Zabini, a Slytherin, to Malfoy's compartment. In conversation, Malfoy boasts that he may not return to Hogwarts next year, saying he may have moved on to "bigger and better" things. He intimates that formal education won't be particularly valuable once Voldemort comes into full power. When the train arrives, Malfoy lingers, having deduced Harry's presence. He stuns him, breaks his nose, and leaves him immobilized and hidden beneath his invisibility cloak.

Chapter 8

Unable to see Harry, everyone leaves the train. After an interminable wait, Nymphadora Tonks, an Auror, discovers him. She fixes his nose and walks him to the Hogwarts gate, where Snape arrives to escort him to the castle. In his post-feast speech,

Dumbledore introduces Slughorn as the new Potions instructor and Snape as the new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, much to Harry, Ron, and Hermione's chagrin.

Chapter 9

Harry relates Malfoy's boasts of having a task from Voldemort. Ron and Hermione dismiss the claim as empty boasting. At their scheduling, Ron and Harry are pleasantly surprised to learn that Slughorn allows N.E.W.T.-level students with an Exceeds Expectations O.W.L. or above. Harry schedules Potions, Charms, Defense Against the Dark Arts, Herbology, and Transfigurations: the courses required to become an Auror.

In their first Defense Against the Dark Arts class, Snape begins teaching them nonverbal spellcasting. He remains as snide and biased as ever. Harry earns a detention for cheek. After class, he receives a note from Dumbledore scheduling a private lesson that Saturday night.

In their first Potions session, Harry and Ron are supplied with classroom textbooks until they can order their own. Harry's book is heavily annotated. He follows the handwritten notations and wins extended praise for an excellent potion and a bottle of Felix Felicis, a luck potion. After class, Harry discloses the source of his success. Hermione disapproves, Ron is jealous, and Ginny warns against following handwritten instructions from a book of unknown origin. The textbook is inscribed "This Book is the Property of the Half-Blood Prince."

Chapter 10

Harry continues following the Half-Blood Prince's tailored potions recipes with superlative results. Hermione, used to being the best student in any given class, becomes increasingly frustrated. That Saturday night, Harry has his first session with Dumbledore. Dumbledore has been collecting memories about the young Lord Voldemort, which they examine. In the first, a Ministry of Magic employee investigates an attack on a Muggle. He goes to the Gaunt residence, where he is alternately attacked and berated by Marvolo and Morfin Gaunt. Marvolo is Voldemort's grandfather. Merope, Gaunt's abused daughter, is Voldemort's mother. Morfin and Marvolo taunt Merope for fancying a local Muggle, Tom Riddle, who will eventually become Voldemort's father.

Dumbledore theorizes that after Morfin and Marvolo were imprisoned, Merope used a love potion on Mr. Riddle, and they married. Eventually she stopped using the potion, hoping he would truly love her, but he left her. Harry recognizes a ring in the memory as one that Dumbledore was recently wearing.

Chapter 11

Harry and Ron's Potions textbooks arrive. Harry, loath to relinquish the copy that has brought him so much success, sets the Half-Blood Prince's textblock in the new binding. As team Captain, Harry hosts tryouts for the Gryffindor Quiddich team. Ginny is retained as a Chaser. Cormac McLaggen nearly outperforms Ron for Keeper, but Hermione surreptitiously jinxes McLaggen on one of his saves. Only Harry notices Hermione's intervention, and Ron makes the team.

After tryouts, Harry, Ron, and Hermione visit Hagrid. They've dropped Care for Magical Creatures, and Hagrid is initially bitter. Their explanation of not having room in their schedules mollifies him. Hagrid is worried about Aragon, his giant spider in the forest, who is sick. That evening, they read in the paper that the Malfoy residence was researched on an "anonymous" (i.e. Harry's) tip, but nothing was found.

Chapter 12

Halfway through October, the students have their first Hogsmeade trip. That morning, Harry tests a spell written in the margin of his potions book. It suspends Ron upside down. The boys find the spell amusing, but Hermione warns against testing unknown handwritten spells.

In Hogsmeade, they encounter Slughorn, who invited Harry to another meeting of the "Slug Club," which Harry has been avoiding. Hermione, being the best student in the grade, has been invited to all the meetings as well. Ron is surly at being left out. Outside the pub in Hogsmeade, they run into Mundungus Fletcher, who has a suitcase full of items stolen from Sirius' house. Harry is livid, but Mundungus apparatus away before he can retrieve the items.

Walking back to Hogwarts, Hermione, Ron, and Harry notice Katie Bell behaving strangely. When her friend tried to wrest away a package that she's

carrying, it tears open and an object brushes her hand. She floats into the air, screams, and collapses. Harry, Ron, and Hermione call for help. Upon inspection, the object is a cursed necklace that Harry recognizes from Borgin and Burkes. Katie has evidently been acting under the Imperius Curse. At school, McGonagall questions them about the attack. Harry immediately declares Draco as a suspect, but McGonagall replies that Draco wasn't in Hogsmeade because he was serving detention with her. Neither Hermione nor Ron share Harry's suspicions.

Chapter 13

Katie, in serious condition, is moved to St Mungo's hospital. That Monday evening, Harry has another private lesson with Dumbledore. Once again, they view memories that Dumbledore has collected. The first memory is of Caractacus Burke, of Borgin and Burkes, talking about having bought Slytherin's locket from a desperate and very pregnant Merope for a paltry ten galleons. She died shortly after. The second memory is Dumbledore's own. In it, he visits the orphanage where Tom Riddle, Jr. (Lord Voldemort) was raised to offer Riddle a place at Hogwarts. The woman in charge of the orphanage says that Merope appeared on the doorstep, gave birth, and died within an hour. She recounts several odd stories about Tom, suspecting that he terrorizes the other children but unable to prove it. When Dumbledore is allowed to interview Tom, it quickly becomes apparent that he has been using magic to deliberately dominate and punish other children and that he collects trophies from his victims. He's fiercely independent to the point of being absolutely friendless.

Chapter 14

In Herbology, Ron and Hermione have another spat about the Slug Club. Another party is scheduled, and, once again, Ron hasn't been invited. He is somewhat mollified by Hermione's revelation that she'd intended to invite him as a guest. Harry worries about the obvious attraction between Ron and Hermione.

After Quiddich practice, Harry and Ron, taking a shortcut, walk in on Dean Thomas and Ginny making out in an obscure corridor. Ron, predictably, erupts in righteous indignation. Harry is surprised by his own reaction of intense jealousy. He tries to ignore his feelings for Ginny out of loyalty to Ron.

Over the next few days, Ron's goaltending is abysmal. The day of their match with Slytherin, Hermione catches Harry apparently spiking Ron's juice with Felix Felicis, the use of which is banned in sports. Ron is more than happy to drink the spiked juice. Before the game, the Felix Felicis seems to be working its magic. One of the Slytherin Chasers is injured and can't play and Draco, their Seeker, also is out of the game. Ron plays spectacularly, and Gryffindor wins by a large margin.

After the game, Hermione corners Ron and Harry about the illegal use of a luck potion. Harry reveals that he'd only mimed spiking Ron's juice and that he'd played well because he was confident, not because of a potion. Ron takes her accusation to mean that she thinks he isn't able to play well without a potion. They argue, and Hermione winds up in tears.

At the Gryffindor common-room celebration, Harry enters to find Ron vigorously, though inexpertly, making out with Lavender Brown. Hermione flees to a deserted classroom. When Ron and Lavender come to the same classroom looking for privacy, Hermione attacks Ron with a cloud of summoned canaries.

Chapter 15

Ron and Lavender become an item, precipitating a break between him and Hermione. Harry is trapped in the middle. Hermione warns Harry that Romilda Vane and several other girls are planning to slip him a love potion in order to secure an invitation to Slughorn's Christmas party. As predicted, Romilda offers Harry an obviously tainted gillywater, which he declines, and a box of spiked chocolates, which he discards in his trunk.

Harry invites Luna as his guest, and Hermione invites Cormac McLaggen, Ron's nemesis, in an attempt to exact revenge. At the party, Draco is caught trying to gatecrash. Snape, as head of Slytherin, takes him out of the party to chastise him. Harry dons his invisibility cloak and eavesdrops on their conversation, in which Snape offers Draco assistance in his mission and refers to the Unbreakable Oath he took.

Chapter 16

Harry and Ron go to the Burrow for Christmas

vacation. Harry dissects Malfoy's conversation with Snape with Ron and several members of the Order of the Phoenix, all of whom are convinced that Snape remains loyal to the Order and is continuing in his role as spy, only pretending to aid Malfoy in his service to Voldemort. On Christmas morning, Harry and Ron open their presents, the most notable of which are a gaudy necklace from Lavender and a box of maggots from Kreacher. Percy and Rufus Scrimgeour stop by on the pretense of "being in the neighborhood." Rufus takes Harry outside for a private chat, while Percy reunites with his family, from whom he's been estranged. Neither endeavor goes particularly well. Harry adamantly declines to be a Ministry spokesman, and Percy's siblings assault him with food.

Chapter 17

Harry, Ron, and Ginny return to Hogwarts via the Floo Network. Ron is immediately carted off by Lavender, and Hermione nurses her grudge against the couple. When Harry tells her about Snape and Draco, she voices the same opinion of Snape's loyalty as everyone else, must to Harry's frustration. All three sign up for Apparition lessons, in anticipation of being able to test for an Apparition license on their seventeenth birthdays.

Harry has another private meeting with Dumbledore, who also continues to truth Snape. The first memory they view in the pensieve is Morfin's, which Dumbledore extracted shortly before he died in Azkaban. In it, Voldemort visits the house and learns something of his parentage from his maternal Uncle. Morfin's memory has been altered to include the slaying of the Riddle family. Harry and Dumbledore reason that Voldemort stunned Morfin, murdered the Riddles with Morfin's wand, and then implanted the memory of the killings.

In the second memory, Voldemort is a student at Hogwarts in a meeting of the Slug Club. After the session, he lingers to ask Slughorn about "Horcruxes." The memory has obviously been tampered with to present Slughorn in a better light. The most obviously altered segment is the one in which he vehemently declines to provide information about Horcruxes. Dumbledore assigns Harry the task of procuring the unaltered memory from Slughorn.

Chapter 18

After his next Potions lesson, Harry remains after class to ask Slughorn about the memory. Slughorn adamantly denies having tampered with the memory. Hermione attempts to research Horcruxes in the library, but is unable to even find a rudimentary definition.

On the morning of Ron's birthday, Harry rummages through his trunk looking for his Marauder's Map and ejects the tainted chocolates from Romilda. Ron mistakes the chocolates for a present and eats several, almost immediately confessing his burning love for Romilda Vane. Harry rushes Ron to Slughorn under the pretense of introducing him to her and begs Slughorn to brew an antidote. Once Ron is cured, Slughorn offers them some choice mead that he'd been saving to give to Dumbledore. Ron, the first to drink it, is poisoned. Harry saves his life by stuffing a bezoar in his mouth, while Slughorn panics.

Chapter 19

With Ron in the hospital, McLaggen fills in as Keeper. The match against Hufflepuff is a disaster. McLaggen tends goal poorly, bosses the team around, and eventually hospitalizes Harry with an errant Bludger. The final score is Hufflepuff: 320, Gryffindor: 60. In the hospital wing, while Ron sleeps, Harry summons Kreacher. Dobby comes as well. He orders them to spy on Draco and forbids them to reveal themselves while doing so.

Chapter 20

Harry and Ron are released from the hospital wing Monday morning. Ron resumes his friendship with Hermione and continues to avoid Lavender. Harry has another private lesson with Dumbledore. The first memory that they view is from a house-elf. It implicated Voldemort in the murder of a woman, for which the house-elf was framed, and the subsequent theft of Helga Hufflepuff's goblet and Salazar Slytherin's locket, the same locket that Merope has sold in London. The second memory is Dumbledore's. In it, Voldemort returns to Hogwarts to re-apply for the Defense Against the Dark Arts position, for which he had been rejected several years before. Dumbledore rejects him once again. Hogwarts has not retained a Defense Against the Dark Arts professor for more than a year since.

Chapter 21

Ron and Hermione continue reacquainting themselves with one another. Ron plots various ways to officially part ways with Lavender, but the chore proves difficult, much to Hermione's amusement. Kreacher and Dobby report that Malfoy has been using the Room of Requirement.

Chapter 22

Harry, Ron, and Hermione receive a tear-stained letter from Hagrid reporting that Aragog has died and asking them to come to the funeral. Ron and Hermione both take the Apparition test. Harry must wait until his seventeenth birthday. Hermione, of course, passes. Ron fails by a slim margin.

In a final effort to recover Slughorn's unaltered memory, Harry takes a quaff of Felix Felicis. He follows his intuition and slips out of the castle to see Hagrid and attend Aragog's funeral. On the way, he chances upon Slughorn and asks him to come to the funeral to support Hagrid. Hoping to harvest some of the spider's valuable venom, Slughorn agrees. At the gravesite, Slughorn surreptitiously recovers venom under the guise of admiring the corpse. Afterwards, he produces wine, and they drink a toast to Aragog's memory. Harry refills their glasses, while only pretending to drink himself. Once Slughorn is inebriated, Harry shames him into providing the memory by using his deceased mother, one of Slughorn's favorite pupils, as leverage.

Chapter 23

That night, Harry delivers the memory to Dumbledore. The unedited memory reveals an extended conversation between Tom Riddle and Slughorn after the Slug Club meeting. Riddle asks about Horcruxes. Slughorn warns that the subject is banned at Hogwarts, but explains that a Horcrux is an object in which a wizard hides part of his soul to gain a semblance of immortality. One splits one's soul by murder, then imbues the split fragment in an object. Voldemort asks if seven Horcruxes would be ideal, since seven is a powerful magical number.

Dumbledore and Harry discuss the significance of the memory. They reason that Voldemort must have made six Horcruxes, with the seventh part of his soul residing in his new body. Two have been

destroyed: the cursed diary (book 2) and Marvolo's ring, the destruction of which cost Dumbledore a hand. Dumbledore suspects that the stolen Hufflepuff cup and Slytherin locket account for Horcruxes three and four. The fifth may be a Ravenclaw artifact, and the snake Nagini may be the sixth.

Chapter 24

Ron and Lavender finally split up, as do Ginny and Dean. Harry is split between his crush on Ginny and his loyalty to Ron. On the Marauder's Map, he spots Draco in a bathroom accompanied by Moaning Myrtle, a ghost, and he goes to investigate. Draco is sobbing, lamenting that "unless I do it soon ... he says he'll kill me." He spots Harry and attacks him. In the subsequent duel, Harry uses the Sectumsempra spell, an unidentified spell from the Half-Blood Prince's Potions book. It slashes Draco across the face and chest, as if with a sword. Snape, drawn by Myrtle's cries of murder foul, arrives almost immediately, sends Draco to the hospital wing, and demands to see Harry's textbooks. Desperate to retain the Half-Blood Prince's book, Harry hides it in the Room of Requirement and delivers Ron's Potions book to Snape, who appears dubious. He gives Harry detention on Saturday morning, the day of the next Quiddich match.

For his detention, Harry is set the task of rewriting and organizing disciplinary files, often coming across the exploits of his father, Sirius, and Lupin. When he returns to the Gryffindor common room, the Gryffindor Quiddich team has unexpectedly won. Ginny flies across the room, and they kiss. Ron nods his grudging approval.

Chapter 25

Harry and Ginny become an item. Hermione continues researching the Half-Blood Prince, although she is unable to unearth his/her identity. In light of the Sectumsempra spell, she continues to urge Harry to discontinue his use of the book.

Answering a summons from Dumbledore, Harry chances upon Professor Trelawney, who was trying to hide her sherry bottles in the Room of Requirement. When she entered the room, she heard joyous whooping and was attacked, then ejected. Harry guesses that Malfoy's secret project has succeeded. She also unwittingly reveals that

Snape overheard the prophecy she delivered to Dumbledore about Harry and Voldemort. Harry realizes that it was Snape who informed Voldemort of the prophecy and thus is partially responsible for his parents' deaths.

Harry confronts Dumbledore about Draco's presumed success and Snape's betrayal. Dumbledore dismisses Harry's concerns about Draco and reasserts his trust in Snape. He has located one of Voldemort's Horcruxes, and plans on destroying it. He sends Harry to fetch his invisibility cloak for the journey. While doing so, Harry warns Ron and Hermione about Draco. He gives them the Marauder's Map and his remaining Felix Felicis and tells them to call up the D.A. and watch Snape and Draco closely. Harry and Dumbledore go to Hogsmeade, from where they apparate to the coast.

Chapter 26

Harry and Dumbledore swim into a cave, where Dumbledore opens a door that requires a blood payment. Inside is an underground lake filled with corpses. They traverse to an island in the lake's center on a small boat. On the island, the Horcrux is hidden in a basin filled with cursed water. The only way to access the Horcrux is to drink the basin dry, which Dumbledore does, although it weakens him immensely. After forcing Dumbledore to finish the basin, Harry fetches a cup of water from the lake to save his life, thus awakening the corpses in the water. They grab the locket and fight off the hoard of Inferi.

Chapter 27

Once outside, they apparate back to Hogsmeade. The Dark Mark has been summoned over the castle. Harry dons his invisibility cloak, and they fly to the top of the Astronomy Tower. Dumbledore sends Harry to find Snape, but before he can, someone bursts through the door. Dumbledore immobilizes Harry, still invisible, fractionally before being disarmed by Draco. Malfoy gloats that he's going to kill Dumbledore, who tries to dissuade him by offering compassion and protection from Voldemort. While Draco wavers, a group of Death Eaters arrive. They goad Draco, who seems unable to kill his headmaster. Snape arrives and abruptly uses the Avada Kedavra curse on Dumbledore, whose corpse sails over the battlements.

Chapter 28

The Death-Eaters descend from the tower and begin to flee. Harry, freed now, stuns the last of their number and follows them into the midst of a huge spellfight between the Death-Eaters and member of the Order of the Phoenix and the D.A.. He runs after Snape and Draco, who have abandoned their compatriots. Outside, Harry catches up with them. He tries to duel Snape, but Snape brushes aside Harry's spells. Snape reveals that he is the Half-Blood Prince and that he'd realized that Harry had been using his old textbook when he used Snape's Sectumsempra spell on Malfoy. Buckbeak, Harry's hippogriff, attacks Snape and drive his off. Hagrid helps Harry off the ground, and they put out the fire in Hagrid's cottage, the result of an errant spell. At the base of the Astronomy Tower, a shocked crowd has gathered around Dumbledore's corpse. Nearby in the grass, Harry finds the locket they've just recovered. Inside is a note to Voldemort claiming to have stolen the Horcrux and intending to destroy it. The note is signed R.A.B..

Chapter 29

Ginny leads Harry by the hand to the hospital wing, where Neville, Ron, Hermione, Luna, Tonks, Lupin, and Bill have gathered. Bill was mauled in the fight by the werewolf Greyback. It is unclear what effects the wounds will have, since Greyback wasn't in werewolf form at the time. Harry is the first to inform them of Dumbledore's death. They are profoundly shocked. He explains that Draco had used the vanishing cabinet in the Room of Requirement to smuggle Death-Eaters into Hogwarts through a sister cabinet in Borgin and Burkes.

Mr. and Mrs. Weasley and Fleur, Bill's fiancé, arrive. Mrs. Weasley implies that Fleur will no longer wish to marry Bill now that he's disfigured. Fleur ferociously defends her love for Bill. Tonks uses Fleur as an example to Lupin, who has evidently been fending off her advances because he is a werewolf. McGonagall takes Harry to Dumbledore's office to meet with the heads of the houses, Slughorn filling in for Snape as Slytherin's head. They decide to keep the students at school long enough to attend Dumbledore's funeral and to consult with the governors as to whether the school should reopen in the Fall.

Chapter 30

All classes are suspended, and all exams are postponed. In the library, Hermione is unable to identify R.A.B., but she unearths records of a Prince: Elieen Prince, Snape's mother. She married a Muggle, Tobias Snape, making Severus half a Prince and half-blooded, thus a Half-Blood Prince. Wizards from all over the world flock to Hogwarts for Dumbledore's funeral. At the ceremony, the merpeople from the lake sing a dirge, and Hagrid carries the corpse, wrapped in purple velvet, to a table. After the eulogy, there is a bright flash, a puff of smoke, and a white marble tomb replaces the table and body.

After the ceremony, Harry tells Ginny that they can no longer see one another romantically. Voldemort uses loved ones as leverage, and he fears to place her in greater danger. He tells Ron and Hermione that he doesn't plan to return to Hogwarts in the Fall, even if the school reopens. He plans to hunt the Horcruxes and kill Voldemort.

A Harry Potter Lexicon

Animagus	a wizard or witch who can transform into an animal form
Apparition	the act of magically disappearing from one spot and appearing in another
Arithmancy	the study of the magical properties of numbers
Avada Kedavra	from Aramaic "adhadda kedhabhra," "let this thing be destroyed." One of the Unforgivable Curses, it instantly kills the victim. Only one person, Harry Potter, is known to have survived it.
Azkaban	the wizard prison
Beater	a Quiddich player who directs Bludgers with bats
Bezoar	stone from the stomach of a goat, universal cure for poisons
Bludger	a Quiddich ball used to knock opponents off their broomsticks

Boggart	a shape shifter that transforms into its victim's greatest fear	Hand of Glory	a withered hand that gives light only to its holder
Boomslang Skin	skin of a snake used in Polyjuice Potion	Herbology	the study of care for and uses of magical creatures
The Burrow	the Weasley residence	Hexes	similar to curses but less powerful
Charms	a type of magic that enchants an object or creature to behave in an abnormal manner	Hogsmeade	the village close to Hogwarts where students may visit on weekends
Chaser	a Quiddich player who attempts to score by throwing the Quaffle through goal hoops	Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry	the magic school at which the novels are set
Cruciatius Curse	from Latin "crucio," "torment." Another Unforgivable Curse, it causes unbearable pain in the victim.	Horcrux	an object in which a Dark Wizard/Witch has instilled a piece of his/her soul to attain a semblance of immortality
Curses	offensive spells intended to cause harm to another	Howler	a letter that explodes and screams its message, if not opened by its recipient promptly
Dark Detectors	devices used to detect the proximity of enemies	Inferi	animated corpses
Dementor	Dark Creatures with the ability to devour souls, used as guards at Azkaban	Keeper	Quiddich player who defends his/her team's goal hoops
Diagon Alley	a magically concealed alley in London full of wizarding shops	Knockturn Alley	alley off of Diagon Alley primarily dedicated to Dark Magic shops
Divination	branch of magic concerned with predicting future events	Imperius Curse	from Latin "imperio," "order, govern, or command." One of the Unforgivable Curses, it grants the caster absolute control over the actions of the victim.
Felix Felicis	a potion that grants good luck	Jinx	similar to a curse, but less powerful
Golden Snitch	small, winged Quiddich ball, the capture of which ends the match	Legilimency	branch of magic used to extract emotions and memories from a person
Hand of Glory	a withered hand that gives light only to its holder	Marauder's Map	map of Hogwarts that shows the location of every occupant
Herbology	the study of care for and uses of magical creatures	Mudblood	derogative term for a wizard or witch of mixed magical and Muggle ancestry
Hexes	similar to curses but less powerful	Muggle	a non-magical person
Hogsmeade	the village close to Hogwarts where students may visit on weekends		

Occlumency	a branch of magic that focuses on closing one's mind to external intrusion
Owl	refers to either the birds used to carry messages between wizards/witches or to the messages themselves
Parselmouth	a wizard or witch able to speak with snakes
Patronus	a silvery white creature conjured for protection by the Patronus Charm
Pensieve	a basin that holds memories for perusal
Polyjuice Potion	a potion that transforms one's appearance to resemble the person whose genetic material has been added to the potion.
Potions	refers to either magical potions or the study of their creation
Pureblood	a wizard or witch from an unbroken line of magic users
Quaffle	the ball Chasers use to score by throwing it through defended hoops
Quiddich	a magical game played on broomsticks with flying balls
Seeker	Quiddich player who attempts to end the game by catching the Golden Snitch
Sorting Hat	apparently sentient hat that sorts new students into each of the four school houses
Squib	a person from a wizarding family who has not inherited magical powers
St. Mungo's	

Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries

the wizarding hospital in London

Transfiguration

branch of magic focused on transforming one object or creature into another

Unbreakable Oath

a vow, the breaking of which is lethal

Unplottable

a protective magical effect that renders a location impossible to plot on a map

Veela

magical humanoid females with the ability to irresistibly attract males

Veritaserum

a powerful truth potion

Wand

a thin wand of wood with a magical item at its core used to cast spells

Author Sketch

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born July 31st in Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire, England. She studied French at Exeter University and then, at her parent's advice, took work as a bilingual secretary. She describes herself as "the worst secretary ever." In 1990, at the age of 26, she moved to Portugal to teach English. This year she began the first Harry Potter novel while stuck on a train. While in Portugal, she met and married a Portuguese journalist. Their daughter, Jessica, was born in 1993, and they divorced shortly after.



After the divorce, Rowling moved to Edinburgh to be close to her sister. She decided to finish her "wizard" novel and received a grant from the Scottish Arts Council to do so. After several rejections, she sold the novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, to Bloomsbury for the equivalent of approximately \$4,000. She received enough money to quit her job teaching French when Scholastic bought the American publication rights. Bloomsbury released the novel in June

1997, and it became an instant commercial and critical success, winning a Smarties Prize and The British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year. Scholastic released it as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* in September 1998 to similar success.

Rowling has thus far followed with the next five of what she says will be a seven-book series, each impatiently awaited. Every book of the series has topped the *New York Times's* bestseller list, and she has won a Hugo Award, Gram Stoker Award, and Whitbread Award for Best Children's Book, among others. She currently resides in Scotland with her husband and three children.

Critic's Corner

Like all of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* was eagerly anticipated and became an instant commercial success. The novel continues in the series' trajectory of increasing maturity, delving into darker subjects and painting a relatively frank portrait of teen relationships. Several previously flat characters gain a measure of depth, and the main characters continue to develop more fully.

As usual, at the book's core is a gripping plot-driven narrative. However, as the penultimate volume in the series, Rowling has taken care to begin tying up loose ends. Extended flashbacks provide background on Lord Voldemort, several mysterious objects and occurrences are clarified, and minor plotlines begin to resolve themselves. However, the series itself is not winding down. The clarifications and resolutions read much like a clearing away of distractions to make way for the final volume.

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Selected Other Works by the Author

Novels

- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (1), 1997
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2), 1998
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (3), 1999
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (4), 2000
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (5), 2003

Other

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, 2001
Quiddich Through the Ages, 2001

Media Versions

Audiocassette/CD

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Listening Library, 2005

Large Print

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Thorndike Press, 2005

Braille

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, National Braille Press, 2005

Literary Terms and Applications

Bildungsroman, the novel that traces the personal, intellectual, spiritual, psychological, and/or moral development of a character. Although Harry undergoes no radical changes in any particular volume, the Harry Potter series as a whole comprises a *bildungsroman* as it tracks his progress to maturity.

Flashback, a narrative strategy that breaks from the present action to a past scene to explain present circumstances. Rowling uses the Pensieve in Dumbledore's office to provide the back-story of Tom Riddle's transformation into Lord Voldemort.

Foreshadowing narrative elements that allude to forthcoming events, either directly or indirectly. Professor Trelawney's "Lightning Struck Tower" card foreshadows Dumbledore's death.

General Objectives

1. To read a long novel
2. To expand vocabulary
3. To develop critical reading skills
4. To improve analytical writing skills
5. To discuss gender stereotypes.
6. To list and discuss narrative strategies like foreshadowing and flashbacks.
7. To chart character development.
8. To differentiate between major and minor plot elements
9. To identify and discuss major themes
10. To progress beyond a literal reading

Specific Objectives

1. To place the novel within the context of its series
2. To discuss the novel's emphasis on love, both romantic and platonic.
3. To explain Harry's loyalty to Dumbledore.
4. To account for Snape's apparent betrayal.
5. To list and discuss Voldemort's Horcruxes.
6. To compare/contrast Tom Riddle with Lord Voldemort.
7. To compare/contrast Harry Potter with Draco Malfoy.
8. To evaluate the role of choice in prophecy.
9. To speculate on the identity of R.A.B..
10. To chart the novel's plot structure

Cross-Curricular Sources

Audiocassette/CD

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Listening Library, 1999

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Listening Library, 1999

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Listening Library, 2000

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire Listening Library, 2000

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Listening Library, 2003

DVD/VHS

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Warner Home Video, 2001

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Warner Home Video, 2002

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Warner Home Video, 2004

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Warner Home Video, 2001 (forthcoming)

Internet

Harry Potter Lexicon

<http://www.hp-lexicon.org/index-2.html>

Harry Potter Pronunciation Guide

<http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/books/pronunciation/play.htm>

J.K. Rowling Official Website

<http://www.jkrowling.com>

The Leaky Cauldron

<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/>

Literature

L. Frank Baum, *The Wizard of Oz*
Madeline L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*
Ursula LeGuin, *Wizard of Earthsea*
C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia*
J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings*
T. H. White, *The Sword in the Stone*
Roald Dahl, *The Witches*

Secondary Texts

Fact, Fiction, and Folklore in Harry Potter's World: An Unofficial Guide, George Beahm, et al
Harry Potter and Philosophy: If Aristotle Ran Hogwarts, David Baggett, et al
Harry Potter's World: Multidisciplinary Critical Perspectives, Elizabeth E. Heilman, ed.
The Magical World of Harry Potter: A Treasury of Myths, Legends, and Fascinating Facts, David Colbert
Reading Harry Potter: Critical Essays, Giselle Liza Aratel, ed.
Re-Reading Harry Potter, Suman Gupta
The Science of Harry Potter: How Magic Really Works, Roger Highfield
The Sorcerer's Companion: A Guide to the Magical World of Harry Potter, Allan Zola Kronzek and Elizabeth Kronzek

Themes and Motifs

Themes

- good vs. evil
- discrimination
- community and friendship
- magic
- adolescence
- gender
- subterfuge
- death/loss
- loyalty
- love
- luck
- betrayal

Motifs

- adolescent dating
- parallel developments and characters
- coming of age
- remaining loyal through adversity
- normalization of magic
- the importance of personal history
- verified suspicions

Meaning Study

Below are significant lines from the novel. Explain each in context. Page-numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. Certainly, Narcissa, I shall make the Unbreakable Vow (p. 36)
(Goaded by Bellatrix Lestrange's accusation of disloyalty to the Dark Lord, Severus Snape takes an Unbreakable Vow to aid Draco, Narcissa's son, in the task that Voldemort has assigned him, which is, one discovers eventually, to kill Albus Dumbledore. The taking and fulfilling of the Vow bookend the novel, the vow occurring in the second chapter and being fulfilled in the twenty-seventh. This spacing creates a tension that informs the entire novel's tone. However, in light of Dumbledore's adamant faith in Snape and his lack of surprise on the Astronomy Tower, the issue of Snape's allegiances remains somewhat open.)
2. There he showed his contempt for anything that tied him to other people (p. 277)
(After viewing Dumbledore's first memory of Tom Riddle, who would eventually become Lord Voldemort, Harry and Dumbledore interpret what they've seen. Tom displays contempt for his name because it is common and is eager to believe that he is "special," set apart from most people. Within years, he shed his true name for the title Lord Voldemort. The memories of young Tom Riddle offer explanations for the adult's personality and behavior.)
3. It was as though something large and scaly erupted into life in Harry's stomach, clawing at his insides (p. 286)
(Ron and Harry chance upon Ginny and Dean Thomas, her current boyfriend, making out in a deserted corridor. Harry's reaction, one of

intense jealousy, surprises him. The intense reaction foreshadows his eventual relationship with Ginny. The phrasing also frames Harry's emotional life as something alien and incomprehensible. That his emotions strike him as "something large and scaly" separates them from him. The language frames them as a separate entity, of which Harry is at the mercy.)

4. Well, of course, to you it will matter enormously, but to the Wizarding community at large ... it's all perception, isn't it? (p. 344)
(Trying to recruit Harry as a ministry spokesperson to boost the Wizarding community's morale, Rufus Scrimgeour cavalierly dismisses the significance of the rumors that Harry is The Chosen One who must eventually battle Voldemort to the death. That he says the truth of the matter is only important to Harry belies his true intentions: to callously use Harry with no regard for his well-being. Rufus Scrimgeour is one of a long line of authority figures in the Harry Potter series that are willing to use people for their own ends. Although the theme of Individual vs. Authority is less prominent in this book than in others, it remains an underlying current.)
5. Harry was left to ponder in silence the depths to which girls would sink to get revenge. (p. 314)
(Hermione asks Cormac McLaggen, Ron's nemesis, to Slughorn's Christmas party for the sole purpose of making Ron jealous. Her behavior mystifies Harry, as does most female behavior. Hermione's behavior is important in several ways. First, it continues the series' theme of adolescent development. Second, it foreshadows an eventual relationship between Ron and Hermione. Third, it plays on gender stereotypes.)
6. But nothing I have seen in the world has supported your famous pronouncements that love is more powerful than my kind of magic (p. 444)
(Voldemort, speaking to Dumbledore, sneers at his contention that Love is the most powerful magic. This exchange highlights Voldemort's personality and a potential weakness. In conjunction with this, the penultimate, novel's intense interest in romance, Voldemort's disregard for what Dumbledore considers to be

potent magic appears to predict his eventual downfall. One assumes that Love, in some form, will be the weapon of his undoing, although the exact mechanics of Love-as-magic remain obscure.)

7. Well, you split your soul ... and hide part of it in an object outside the body. Then, even if one's body is attacked or destroyed, one cannot die, for part of the soul remains earth-bound and undamaged. (p. 497)
(Responding to Tom Riddle's questions about Horcruxes, Horace Slughorn describes the magic by which a wizard may attain some semblance of immortality. From this conversation, Harry and Dumbledore deduce that Voldemort has made six Horcruxes, two of which have already been destroyed. This information is pivotal. It explains Voldemort's continued existence before resurrection in the previous novels. It also dictates the content of the next novel: four Horcruxes, which Harry must destroy, remain.)
8. Voldemort himself created his own worst enemy, just as tyrants everywhere do! Have you any idea how much tyrants fear the people they oppress? (p. 510)
(Dumbledore is telling Harry that Voldemort created Harry as his nemesis by choosing to fulfill the prophecy and thus marking Harry as an equal. On the surface, this statement is a continuation of the novel's theme of Choice. However, the political implications are striking and somewhat out of character. In other parts of the novel, Voldemort and the Death-Eaters are framed in the context of terrorists, which would seem to be a more apt comparison. One assumes that Voldemort is as a terrorist to society-in-general, while he is a tyrant within his own group. Thus one assumes that Voldemort will be betrayed from within his organization in the next novel.)
9. I have stolen the real Horcrux and intend to destroy it as soon as I can. I face death in the hope that when you meet your match, you will be mortal once more. R.A.B. (p. 609)
(This mysterious note was left in the locket that Dumbledore and Harry retrieved from the seaside cave, acting on the assumption that it was a Horcrux. The note performs two main functions. First, it increases the sense of loss at Dumbledore's death. The retrieval of the locket

weakened him so much that it was indirectly responsible for his death. Since the locket is not a real Horcrux, Dumbledore's death is a senseless waste. Second, the note presents a mystery that will be solved in the next novel. It is interesting to note that the initials could refer to Regulus Black, Sirius' brother, a Death-Eater who was murdered by Voldemort, which would explain the presence of a heavy locket in a cabinet in Sirius' house in book five.)

10. young and whole men do not necessarily remain so. (p. 624)
(Mr. Weasley is responding to Remus Lupin's claim that Nymphadora Tonks, who loves him, deserves someone younger and whole. To emphasize his point, he indicates his son Bill, who has just been mauled by the same werewolf who infected Lupin as a child. Mr. Weasley's observation underscores the perils faced by young Ron, Harry, and Hermione.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers with quotations from the novel.

Character

1. In what way does Draco Malfoy become multi-dimensional as a character?
(For the first time, Draco becomes something other than a one-dimensional, sneering bad guy. The two pivotal scenes in Draco's shift are the bathroom scene in which Harry sees Draco sobbing in terror at Lord Voldemort's projected wrath and the tower scene in which Draco appears unable to kill Dumbledore, despite his boasts to the contrary. It is unclear whether this is a real change in Draco's personality or simply the portrayal of an already-existing facet.)

Character Development

2. How does Harry change over the course of the novel?
(The most obvious change in Harry centers around his relationship with Ginny. Harry progresses beyond adolescent infatuation into what appears to be genuine love, ending with his noble suspension of their relationship.)

Perhaps more seriously, he begins to understand the full import of Choice and embraces his role in the prophecy voluntarily. He also gains important insight into the character of Lord Voldemort.)

Series

3. How does *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* fit into the Harry Potter series?
(As the penultimate novel in the series, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* resolves several lingering mysteries and sets the stage for the final confrontation between Harry and Voldemort. Several minor plotlines like Fred and George's joke shop, Harry's friendship with Dobby, and the school's inability to retain a Defense Against the Dark Arts professor are continued. The primary lingering questions concern whether Dumbledore is actually dead, Snape's true allegiances, the unidentified Horcruxes, and the nature of the final battle between Harry and Voldemort.)

Motivation

4. Why does Horace Slughorn alter his memory?
(Tom Riddle first learned about Horcruxes from Slughorn, who described the process of ripping one's soul and imparting a fragment in an object. Years later, upon hearing of Voldemort's return, Slughorn would have had to admit that Voldemort had used this process to gain a semblance of immortality. His motivation, judging from stray comments, appears to be twofold. First, he fears Voldemort, who obviously knows that Slughorn could leak information about Voldemort's Horcruxes. Second, he feels shame that he gave the information to Voldemort in the first place. The altering of the memory would ensure that Slughorn could not betray Voldemort's secret and thus become a target for retribution and also banishes a disturbing memory from his own mind.)

Action

5. What chains of events culminate in Dumbledore's death?
(Three narrative strains converge on Dumbledore's death. Harry and Dumbledore's investigation into Voldemort and the Horcruxes leads them to the underground lake, where Dumbledore is weakened considerably. When they return, the plotline surrounding Draco's

presumably nefarious plan blossoms into Draco's confrontation with Dumbledore. He is able to disarm the headmaster because of his lingering weakness. Snape's promise to aid Draco in the second chapter bears fruit in this scene as well and results in Snape's murder of Dumbledore.)

Setting

6. How does the incursion of Death-Eaters on campus change Hogwarts as a setting? *(Although there have been dangerous incidents on Hogwarts' campus every year, the school has remained a comparatively safe place, especially after the return of Voldemort. Many considered the school to be safer than most places because of Dumbledore's protection. With the Death-Eater raid and the death of Dumbledore, the school is no longer an enclave of relative safety.)*

Language

7. What is the relationship between characters' names and personalities? *(In all the Harry Potter novels, characters' names often reveal important information about the person. Obvious examples include Romilda Vane, whose surname recalls "vain;" Horace Slughorn, whose surname is a fairly apt physical description; Remus Lupin, whose surname indicates that he is a werewolf; and Fleur Delacour, whose name is a transliteration of the (grammatically incorrect) French fleur de la coeur, "flower of the heart." Draco Malfoy's name designates him as an enemy. "Draco" is similar to "draconic," and the first syllable of his surname, "mal" is a French adverb meaning "badly.")*

Structure

8. How is/are the novel/s structured around the academic calendar? *(Like other novels in the series, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince is structured around the academic cycle of semesters and breaks. Each novel begins with Harry during Summer break. The Fall semester sets the stage for intrigue and problems, Winter break provides a rest, and the main conflicts unravel over the course of the Spring semester, ending with the beginning of Summer break. Draco's claim that he may not return to school at the beginning of the novel*

and Harry's decision to not return to school at the end of the novel both indicate that this structure may change in book seven.)

Interpretation

9. Evaluate the role of Choice in Tom Riddle's evolution into Lord Voldemort. *(Like Harry, Voldemort's evolution begins with his mother's decisions. Harry's mother chose to sacrifice herself for her son; Merope chose to die in spite of a son who needed her. While some characteristics of Tom Riddle appear pre-determined, such as his penchant for cruelty and his fierce independence, several pivotal choices place him firmly on the path towards evil. The most significant decision of which is the choice to regard the prophecy as valid, resulting in his attack on Harry and his parents and his creation of Harry as a nemesis.)*

Author Method

10. How does Rowling use Dumbledore's pensieve as a plot device? *(The pensieve in Dumbledore's office allows Rowling to provide the back-story on Voldemort in a manner consistent with the narrative. Cleverly disguised as private lessons with Dumbledore, Harry's perusal of the assorted memories are flashbacks that illuminate the history and personality of his arch-enemy. Because they are experienced as immersive scenes, the flashbacks are essentially cinematic in their deployment.)*

How Language Works

1. Harry's loyalty to his friends is displayed in his response to Romilda Vane, who invites him to her compartment by saying "Why don't you join us in our compartment? You don't have to sit with them." He firmly replies, "They're friends of mine."
2. Fleur's response to Mrs. Weasley's assumption that she will no longer wish to marry Bill because he has been disfigured is one of the more emotionally charged scenes in the novel: "What do I care how he looks? I am good-looking enough for both of us, I thenk! All these scars show is zat my husband is brave!" Her accent and the almost vain "I am good-looking enough for both of us" make

the statement peculiar enough to Fleur's character to keep it from being cliché.

3. Harry splits with Ginny for her own safety: "Voldemort uses people his enemies are close to. He's already used you as bait once, and that was just because you're my best-friend's sister. Think how much danger you'll be in if we keep this up." The sentiment underscores Harry's personality. However, the phrasing implies that the split is not necessarily permanent, that the relationship may continue once Voldemort is dead.
4. Harry feels pity for Malfoy: "He despised Malfoy still for his infatuation with the Dark Arts, but now the tiniest drop of pity mingled with his dislike. Where, Harry wondered, was Malfoy now, and what was Voldemort making him do under threat of killing him and his parents?" That the statement begins "He despised Malfoy still" makes the sentiment believable, since Draco and Harry have despised one another for years. Harry's pity for Draco, reminiscent of Dumbledore's near-conversion of Draco on the Astronomy Tower, may prove to be significant.
5. Dumbledore balances humility with an accurate understanding of his own intellect: "I make mistakes like the next man. In fact, being—forgive me—rather cleverer than most men, my mistakes tend to be correspondingly huger." In light of his apparent death, Dumbledore's mistake of trusting Severus Snape seems to exemplify this statement.
6. Although this volume does not dwell on the misdeeds of mass media as other volumes do, Rowling makes it evident that her stance has not changed: "The Prophet is bound to report the truth occasionally, if only accidentally."

Across the Curriculum

Drama

1. A student taking the part of the narrator and each character, read aloud chapter 27 "The Lightning-Struck Tower." Discuss the differences in speech patterns between characters,

how Rowling creates tension in the narrative, and how reading the chapter aloud altered your perceptions of the text.

2. Using what you've learned about the young Tom Riddle, script and act out scenes in the orphanage that display his tendencies toward cruelty and domination. Discuss the relationship between Tom Riddle and Lord Voldemort. Are there direct analogues between his childhood bullying and adult terrorism?
3. Host a talk show with Voldemort's former professors. How did they view him as a student? Were there indications that he might become the Dark Lord? What were his interests? How did he fare academically? Was he gifted or specially motivated?

Art

1. Sketch a storyboard for what you consider to be the most important moment in the novel. Include key characters, objects, dialogue, and setting. Present your storyboard in class and discuss your choices.
2. Draw portraits of the main characters. Explain your artistic decisions with references to the novel. Try to differentiate your imagination from memories of external sources like book covers and movies.
3. Choose what you consider to be the most important ten chapters and design or draw illustrations that serve as title pages for each. Incorporate the chapter's title into the image and justify your drawing with references to the text.
4. Using desktop publishing or other media, design murals or posters that depict important transformations in the novel. ex: Tom Riddle into Lord Voldemort, the transformation of Dumbledore's tomb, the change in perceptions of Snape, Bill's change into a part-werewolf, Tonks' modified appearance and Patronus, the shift between Ron and Hermione, etc.
5. Make a website about Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Use official

University websites as examples. Include: courses of study, faculty, facilities, the academic calendar, and notable alumni.

Gender Studies

1. Choose and list ten male and ten female characters from the novel and create a list of gender stereotypes that each embodies. Are the characters primarily stereotyped? Which characters are most strongly stereotyped?
2. Analyze the difference between the behavior of major and minor characters. Are major characters more full, individual than minor characters? Do the minor characters conform to gender stereotypes? If so, how?

Social Science

1. Both Tom Riddle and Harry Potter are orphans, and Tom was raised in an orphanage. Make an oral report on orphans in America. Do orphanages like the one in which Tom grew up still exist? How does the adoption system work? How do Foster Families work? Is there statistical evidence that American institutions do or do not adequately provide for orphans?
2. The entire Hogwarts community is devastated by the death of Dumbledore. Research and make an oral report on strategies for coping with grief and mourning.
3. Stage a debate in which you argue that Hogwarts should or should not be re-opened next year. Consider the matter in terms of public policy.

Film/Video

1. Watch *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Warner Home Video, 2001; *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, Warner Home Video, 2002; *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Warner Home Video, 2004, and/or *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Warner Home Video, 2005 (forthcoming). Discuss how the novel functions in the series. Which seemingly minor events become important in the overall scheme of the series? How do the characters change over the course of the four plots?
2. List the various plotlines in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Label each one "minor"

or "major" and determine which ones you would retain in the movie version. Which scenes would you definitely keep? Which would you definitely cut?

Journalism

1. Write a review of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Include a short synopsis, brief author biography, comments on the book's influence, and a judgment of its literary merit.
2. Write a newspaper article announcing the death of Albus Dumbledore. Include public reactions to the news, a brief description of the manner and circumstances of his death, and a summary of his major accomplishments.
3. Using the article on page 42 as an example, write a public service announcement on safety tips.

Language

1. Choose a significant paragraph and rewrite it in your own words. Discuss how your writing style differs from Rowling's. What is lost in the conversion? What is gained?
2. Make a list of slang terms from the novel. Which slang terms are British usages, and which are magical terms indigenous to the novel?
3. Choose one character and compile a list of adjectives used to describe him or her. Discuss how Rowling uses language to create a sense of personality. What words are used most often to describe your character? What do the words have in common with one another?
4. Rowling often uses her characters' names to describe the person. List twenty character names and explain what the name tells you about that person. If the name is derived from a foreign language, provide a translation of the reference.

Composition

1. Compose a speculative plot outline for book seven. Will Harry or Draco return to Hogwarts? Is Dumbledore really dead? Is Snape really a traitor? How will the various romantic relationships play out? What are the final two Horcruxes? Will Harry succeed in defeating Voldemort? Will Harry survive?
2. Choose your favorite character from the novel and compose a short story, scene, poem, or journal entry from their perspective.
3. Compose an essay in which you argue that the magical aspects of the novel are or are not central to the novel's main themes. Could the novel "work" just as well in a mundane setting?
4. Write a series of love letters between Ginny and Harry.
5. Compose an essay in which you compare and contrast two characters. Possible pairs include: Voldemort and Harry, Neville and Harry, Harry and Ron, Dobby and Kreacher, Voldemort and Dumbledore, Lavender and Hermione, Snape and Slughorn, Cornelius Fudge and Rufus Scrimgeour, and Harry and Draco.
6. Compose a series of journal entries from a minor character's perspective about Harry. How is Harry perceived by his classmates? Do they think he is The Chosen One? Is he friendly? Is he good-looking? How have recent events made people revise their opinions of him?

Literature

1. Choose what you consider to be the novel's most important line or paragraph and write an essay explaining its significance.
2. Choose what you consider to be the novel's most interesting line or paragraph and write an essay explaining its significance.
3. The world of Harry Potter is essentially an alternate version of the "Real" world, with most magic correlating to existing mundane technology or practice. Compile a list of cor-

respondences and discuss how the correlation affects the novel's accessibility and main themes.

4. Identify and select one major theme and write an essay in which you track its significance throughout the novel. Use references to the text and MLA citations to support your argument.
5. Choose ten literary terms from a literary glossary and apply them in complete sentences to the novel. For example, the scene on top of the Astronomy Tower is the climax, Professor Trelawney's Lightning-Struck Tower card foreshadows Dumbledore's death, and the memories in Dumbledore's pensieve are flashbacks.
6. Write an essay in which you argue that *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* should or should not be considered "literature." Include the criteria by which you are judging, and support your argument with references to the text. You may use outside sources. Document your references with MLA citations.
7. Write an extended character analysis for your favorite character. Include a physical description, personal history, defining characteristics, relationships with other characters, and passages from the novel that exemplify that character.

Alternate Assessment

1. Make a character list, noting distinguishing characteristics of each character and changes in personality and behavior over the course of the novel.
2. Read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, or *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Discuss how the novel relates to *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* in the series. Which events have repercussions in later novels? How do the main characters change/mature over the course of the series? Are there constants like settings and themes?

3. Write a short story about Severus Snape as a student. How did he interact with other students? What were his main interests? Are there clues in his adolescence about what kind of man he will become?

4. Compose a list of five Death-Eater attacks that would affect the Muggle population. Write two news articles describing each event, one from the perspective of the Muggle press and one from the *Daily Prophet*. What would remain the same in the accounts? What would change?

Standardized Assessment Preparation

Vocabulary

1. Keep a vocabulary journal while you read the novel. Note at least five words in each chapter that you do not know, look them up, and write their definitions. Determine whether the word is 1) a commonly accepted word that you did not know 2) British slang or 3) a neologism particular to Rowling.
2. Make a glossary, choosing twenty of these words: mournful, decisive, portly, hoax, chortle, smug, surreptitious, atrocity, infuriating, fortnight, indignation, aggrieved, lope, dilapidated, simper, tedious, hoodwink, reminiscences, apportion, prospect, astound, reinstate, missive, puce, blatant, disembodied, problematic, retort, repugnant, loathing, preposterous, emanate, evoke, appalling, dictate, alight, ingenious, pestilence, vivacious, prudent, tantamount, derision, vivid, peril, mortified, reproach, scrutinize, elope, evasive, agitate, incredulous, flippant, oblivious, wizened, glare, concede, austere, cloister, mesmerize, blight, perplex, succulent, staunch, anecdote, impart, ensure, impose, irksome, miniscule, malicious, glower, pompous, portentous, decipher, tangible, placid, squalid, restive, culminate, stringent, quell, bestial, frantic, astute, enigma, wry, derisive, surly, blithe, quintessence, succinct, desecrate, furtive, curt, onerous, divulge, brusque.
3. The spells in Harry Potter are Latinate. Choose five spells, research their Latin origins, and make a list of English derivatives. example: The Cruciatus Curse is from the Latin crucio, "torment." An English derivative is "excruciating."

Grammar and Mechanics

1. Choose and outline two sentences from each chapter. At least one of each pair should be a compound or complex sentence.
2. Choose five punctuation marks and provide examples of their usage from the novel and an explanation of why the usage is proper.

Critical Thinking

1. Compose a set of ten analogy questions about the novel. Remember to choose only one term of comparison. example: McGonagall is to Transfiguration as Snape is to _____. Answer: Defense Against the Dark Arts. The term of comparison is the subject which each teaches. The more abstract the term of comparison, the better.
2. In one word, summarize the function of each chapter in the novel. Example functions include: climax, mystery, flashback, characterization, comparison, problem, solution, relationship, description, resolution.

Writing

1. Write an essay in which you discuss the significance of Voldemort's Horcruxes. You should have an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, a body with at least three main ideas and a topic sentence in each paragraph, and a conclusion.
2. With a partner, select a chapter from the novel. You should each write a one paragraph synopsis of the chapter. Once you are finished, trade and evaluate your partner's writing. Discuss which events you both chose to include, differences between your synopses, and the structure of your paragraph.

Vocabulary

Mark the definition that best fits the word.

_____ 1. flippant

- a.) upwardly mobile
- b.) top heavy
- c.) inclined towards fast speech
- d.) lacking proper seriousness

_____ 2. pompous

- a.) self-important
- b.) overstuffed, cushy
- c.) having tassels
- d.) resembling a sailor

_____ 3. grim

- a.) crunchy
- b.) expressionless
- c.) dilapidated
- d.) sinister or gloomy

_____ 4. desecrate

- a.) to violate
- b.) to soak up fluid
- c.) to verbally abuse
- d.) to perform magic

_____ 5. succinct

- a.) unpleasantly sweet
- b.) roundabout, scenic
- c.) clear and concise
- d.) short of stature

_____ 6. peril

- a.) importance
- b.) danger
- c.) perception
- d.) severity

_____ 7. detrimental

- a.) damaging, harmful
- b.) reducing in size
- c.) made from wood
- d.) having three parts

_____ 8. solace

- a.) light of the sun
- b.) calm preceding tumult
- c.) light of the moon
- d.) consolation

_____ 9. revere

- a.) to cast in metal
- b.) to color green
- c.) to respect
- d.) to spread information

_____ 10. furtive

- a.) long in distance
- b.) shifty, dishonest
- c.) shaky, unstable
- d.) disagreeable

_____ 11. affable

- a.) humorous
- b.) amiable
- c.) baffled
- d.) strange

_____ 12. remorse

- a.) regret
- b.) repository
- c.) relief
- d.) removal

_____ 13. motley

- a.) grating humor
- b.) brash, bold
- c.) inclined towards self-obsession
- d.) containing much variety

_____ 14. derisive

- a.) gentle, smooth
- b.) harsh, abrasive
- c.) mocking, jeering
- d.) derivative

_____ 15. pretense

- a.) false appearance or excuse
- b.) origin, necessary precondition
- c.) the past, history
- d.) lone voice of truth

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Name the character(s) who fits these descriptions.

- _____ 1. collects famous students
- _____ 2. split his soul
- _____ 3. gives Harry a box of maggots
- _____ 4. steals items from Sirius' house
- _____ 5. the Half-Blood Prince
- _____ 6. jinxes Cormac McLaggen at Quiddich tryouts
- _____ 7. tampered with own memory
- _____ 8. takes Unbreakable Vow
- _____ 9. is poisoned
- _____ 10. sells Slytherin's locket for 10 galleons
- _____ 11. new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor
- _____ 12. attacks Ron with canaries
- _____ 13. engaged to Bill Weasley
- _____ 14. new Minister of Magic
- _____ 15. unwittingly takes a love potion

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Provide an answer to each of these questions:

- _____ 1. Which Horcruxes have definitely been destroyed?
- _____ 2. How do the Death-Eaters sneak into Hogwarts?
- _____ 3. Who nearly kills Ron Weasley and Katie Bell?
- _____ 4. What potion helps procure an important memory?
- _____ 5. What does Voldemort take from his victims?
- _____ 6. Who despises Harry, but is obligated to follow his orders?
- _____ 7. Why is Ron jealous of Hermione and Harry?
- _____ 8. How many O.W.L.s do Harry and Ron earn?
- _____ 9. How did Dumbledore's hand become withered?
- _____ 10. To where does Malfoy often disappear?

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Analogies (30 points)

Fill in the term that best completes the analogy.

1. Harry is to Dumbledore as _____ is to Voldemort.
2. Professor McGonagall is to Transfiguration as _____ is to Potions.
3. Rufus Scrimgeour is to Cornelius Fudge as Severus Snape is to _____.
4. Kreacher is to Dobby as Draco Malfoy is to _____.
5. Ron is to poison as Katie Bell is to _____.
6. Slytherin is to locket as Hufflepuff is to _____.
7. Hermione is to Ron as Ginny is to _____.
8. Fleur is to Bill as Tonks is to _____.
9. Fenrir Greyback is to Lupin as _____ is to Harry.
10. Ollivander is to wands as Fred and George are to _____.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe Voldemort as a young man.
2. Do you think that Dumbledore is actually dead? Why or why not?
3. Why does Dumbledore continue to trust Severus Snape?
4. Discuss the theme of romance in the novel.
5. Compare Harry Potter with Draco Malfoy.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Identification (30 points)

Identify speakers of quotations.

- _____ 1. I've got a good feeling about going to Hagrid's.
- _____ 2. Calamity. Disaster. Coming nearer all the time ...
- _____ 3. Can you only split your soul once?
- _____ 4. Mend it, you pointless lump, mend it!
- _____ 5. I thought I was going to miss that fourth penalty.
- _____ 6. COME BACK, YOU THIEVING—!
- _____ 7. don't you dare blame my husband!
- _____ 8. Aragog I think he's dyin'
- _____ 9. I do love knitting patterns.
- _____ 10. You know Fenrir Greyback? He's a family friend.
- _____ 11. Master wants me to spy
- _____ 12. don't go arresting anyone now, dear, we're in a hurry
- _____ 13. Harry, I think I love her
- _____ 14. Greatness inspires envy, envy engenders spite, spite spawns lies.
- _____ 15. You gave us our start-up loan, we haven't forgotten.

Part II: Magic Definitions (20 points)

Supply definitions for each of the magical terms.

1. Horcrux
2. Felix Felicis
3. Apparate
4. Polyjuice Potion
5. Imperius Curse
6. Inferi
7. Pensieve
8. Avada Kedavra
9. Dark Mark
10. Room of Requirement

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

Fill in the words that complete each statement.

1. _____ appears unable to kill Dumbledore on the _____.
2. Mrs. Weasley intimates that perhaps _____ will no longer wish to marry _____
_____ now that he is disfigured.
3. Horace Slughorn agrees to go to _____'s funeral because _____ is valuable.
4. Hermione invites _____ to Slughorn's Christmas party to make _____ jealous.
5. _____ breaks _____'s nose and leaves him immobilized.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Discuss the importance of individual choices in the novel.
2. List Voldemort's Horcruxes, both definite and speculative.
3. Describe Dumbledore's funeral.
4. Compare Tom Riddle with Harry Potter.
5. Analyze Harry's final conversation with Ginny.

Answer Key

Vocabulary Test

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 2. B | 3. D | 4. A | 5. C |
| 6. B | 7. A | 8. D | 9. C | 10. B |
| 11. B | 12. A | 13. D | 14. C | 15. A |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Horace Slughorn | 9. Ron Weasley |
| 2. Voldemort | 10. Merope Gaunt |
| 3. Kreacher | 11. Severus Snape |
| 4. Mundungus Fletcher | 12. Hermione Granger |
| 5. Severus Snape | 13. Fleur Delacour |
| 6. Hermione Granger | 14. Rufus Scrimgeour |
| 7. Horace Slughorn | 15. Ron Weasley |
| 8. Severus Snape | |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

1. book, ring
2. Vanishing Cabinet
3. Draco Malfoy
4. Felix Felicis
5. trophies
6. Kreacher
7. because they are invited to Slug Club meetings
8. seven
9. destroying Marvolo's ring
10. Room of Requirement

Part III: Analogies (30 points)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Draco Malfoy | 6. cup |
| 2. Horace Slughorn | 7. Harry Potter |
| 3. Dolores Umbridge | 8. Remus Lupin |
| 4. Harry Potter | 9. Voldemort |
| 5. cursed necklace | 10. joke items |

Part IV: Essay (20 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Identification (30 points)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Harry Potter | 9. Albus Dumbledore |
| 2. Professor Trelawney | 10. Draco Malfoy |
| 3. Tom Riddle/Voldemort | 11. Kreacher |
| 4. Marvolo Gaunt | 12. Molly Weasley |
| 5. Ron Weasley | 13. Ron Weasley |
| 6. Harry Potter | 14. Voldemort |
| 7. Narcissa Malfoy | 15. George |
| 8. Rubeus Hagrid | |

Part II: Magic Definitions (20 points)

1. an item in which a wizard has hidden a piece of his soul
2. a potion of luck
3. to magically teleport oneself
4. a transfiguration potion
5. a curse that gives one complete control of another person
6. animated corpses
7. an object for viewing memories
8. the killing curse
9. the mark of Voldemort, set in the sky
10. a secret room in Hogwarts that conforms to the user's necessity

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

1. Draco Malfoy, Astronomy Tower
2. Fleur Delacour, Bill Weasley
3. Aragog, his venom
4. Cormac McLaggen, Ron Weasley
5. Draco Malfoy, Harry Potter

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

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