



Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

by J.K. Rowling

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

Chapter 1: Owl Post

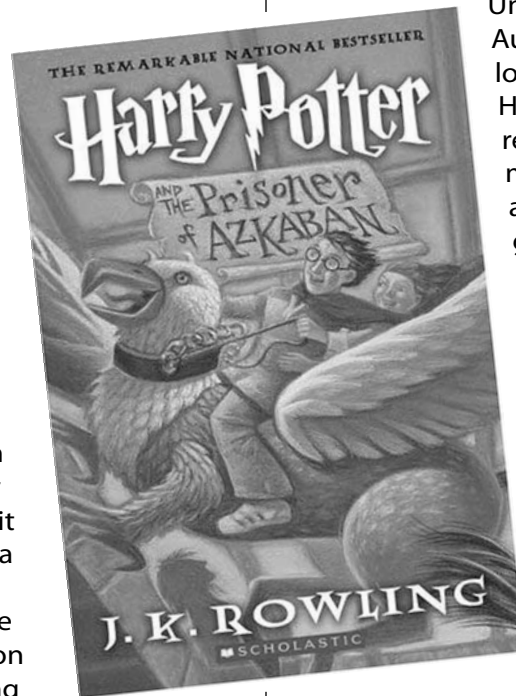
Harry Potter, a wizard-in-training, is spending another wretched summer vacation in southeastern England with his “Muggle” (non-magical) relatives: Uncle Vernon Dursley, Aunt Petunia, and cousin Dudley. They hate and fear Harry because of his magical powers, so Harry has to do his summer-term magical assignments in secret, late at night. At 1 a.m. on the morning of his thirteenth birthday, his owl, Hedwig, arrives with two other messenger owls bearing gifts from his wizarding friends Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger, and Hagrid, the game-keeper at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. The gifts include a Pocket Sneakoscope from Ron (it lights up and spins in the presence of an untrustworthy person), a Broomstick Servicing Kit from Hermione, and from Hagrid a copy of *The Monster Book of Monsters*, which bites Harry before he catches it and straps it shut. Ron also includes a newspaper clipping from the *Daily Prophet*, the wizarding newspaper, with a photo of the Weasleys (including Ron and his pet rat, Scabbers) on a vacation they took after Mr. Weasley won the newspaper's annual grand prize drawing.

Harry also receives a supply list for his third year at Hogwarts, and a permission form to be signed by his legal guardian so that he can make visits during the school year to the magical village of Hogsmeade. Harry's heart sinks, reflecting that his guardians are the loathsome and vindictive Dursleys, who delight in tormenting him and most likely will refuse to sign the form for that reason. Nevertheless, for the first time in his life, Harry is

glad it's his birthday.

Chapter 2: Aunt Marge's Big Mistake

The Dursleys are watching the news on television when Harry goes down to breakfast later that morning. Over toast, they hear reports that a dangerous convict named Sirius Black has escaped; however, as Uncle Vernon notes in outrage, the reports do not say what prison Sirius Black has escaped from. Harry discovers that Uncle Vernon's sister, the sadistic Aunt Marge, is to arrive for a week-long visit. “Aunt” Marge—who is not Harry's blood relative, since he is related to the Dursleys through his mother's sister, Aunt Petunia—has a long history of tormenting Harry, going back to an attack on him by one of her prize bulldogs when he was five. Vernon informs Harry that he is to “behave” during the visit—i.e., do as he's told, stay out of sight, and refrain from hinting at his magical antecedents. To Harry's fury, Uncle Vernon has also told Aunt Marge that Harry attends St. Brutus's Secure Center for Incurably Criminal Boys, and Harry is to stick to the story, “or there'll be trouble.”



Attempting to gain some advantage from a bad situation, Harry extracts from Vernon a grudging promise to sign the Hogsmeade permission form if Harry gives a convincing performance as a delinquent Muggle. As a precaution, Harry reluctantly sends Hedwig to stay the week at Ron's in an effort to forestall any magical mishaps; he doesn't dare use magic, not only because of his deal with Uncle Vernon, but also because doing so is strictly forbidden for underage wizards outside Hogwarts. Harry manages, for the most part, to bear up under Marge's cruelty (which runs to unflattering comparisons between Harry and defective breed stock), but finally loses his temper on the last evening, when Marge embarks on a drunken rant

in which she insults Harry's dead parents. Losing his temper, he also loses control of his magic, and ends up inflating Aunt Marge like a balloon. As she begins to float toward the housetops, Harry, who has reached his limit, hurriedly collects his belongings. He and Uncle Vernon exchange angry words, and Harry runs away from home.

Chapter 3: The Knight Bus

Several blocks from the Dursleys', Harry's rage is slowly giving way to panic. He is alone in the Muggle world, with no owl and no Muggle money. As he's contemplating using magic to escape—after all, his school career is now surely over—he spies a large black creature staring at him from an alley. He uses his wand to illuminate the street, in the process inadvertently summoning the Knight Bus, a magical, purple triple-decker with brass bedsteads instead of seats, which, he discovers, provides emergency transportation (at a stomach-churning speed) to members of the magical community. As he talks to Stan and Ern, the conductor and driver, he learns that the Sirius Black who was featured on the Muggle news is an insane mass murderer who has recently escaped from the wizard prison, Azkaban. When they arrive in London, Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic, meets Harry at the bus. He offers Harry crumpets, reassures him that he won't be expelled for a mere magical "accident," and then gets him a room in the Leaky Cauldron pub. Since Harry knows he should be expelled for his transgression, he correctly suspects he is being protected for a reason.

Chapter 4: The Leaky Cauldron

Harry enjoys his vacation in Diagon Alley, the magical neighborhood of London where the Leaky Cauldron is located. He spends his time watching the people, exploring the shops, eating what he wants, and finishing his summer assignments during the day in open-air cafes rather than under the covers late at night. With wizard gold from his vault at Gringotts Bank (the wizard bank) burning a hole in his pocket, Harry exercises great self-restraint and purchases only what is required for his upcoming school year. Major temptations include a glass ball containing a moving model of the galaxy (ideal for Astronomy class), and a top-of-the-line Firebolt broom; he visits the latter every day to admire it, but doesn't bother asking the price, which he knows will be outrageous. At Flourish and Blotts, the bookstore, he sees a book

about death omens whose cover features a large black dog, and he begins to worry that the creature that was watching him from the alley was some sort of messenger. On the day before they are all to go back to Hogwarts, Harry meets up with Ron and Hermione; Ron has a new wand, and Hermione purchases a large, fierce cat named Crookshanks on a visit to the magical pet shop to get rat tonic for Ron's pet rat, Scabbers. That night, Harry has dinner at the Leaky Cauldron with Ron, Hermione, and the Weasley family. During dinner, Fred and George make fun of their older brother, Percy, who has been elected Gryffindor head boy and is very full of himself. After dinner, Harry accidentally overhears Mr. and Mrs. Weasley arguing about him, and he learns that Sirius Black is looking for him, that Cornelius Fudge was lenient with him because he was relieved to find him alive, that guards from Azkaban will be posted outside Hogwarts, and that the ministry is sending cars tomorrow to provide an escort to the train station to protect Harry from a possible attack. That night, Harry lies in bed, not nearly as scared as Mrs. Weasley would think he should be; he believes he'll be safe under the protection of Albus Dumbledore, the powerful wizard who is headmaster at Hogwarts, and he reflects that after all, he has escaped death at the hands of Lord Voldemort three times already. He goes to sleep with the declaration, "I'm not going to be murdered," on his lips.

Chapter 5: The Dementor

In the morning, Harry, Hermione, and the Weasleys travel via the ministry cars to Kings Cross Station, and make their way to the magical Platform Nine and Three-Quarters, where the Hogwarts Express is waiting. Before the students board the train, Mr. Weasley takes Harry aside; Harry tells him he already knows about Black and attempts to reassure him of his safety. Mr. Weasley surprises Harry by trying to get him to promise not to go looking for Black, "whatever you might hear." Later, on the train, Harry, Ron, and Hermione enter a compartment where their new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, R.J. Lupin, is sleeping. He looks shabby and ill. Harry tells his friends the news about Black, and they're more afraid for him than he is for himself. Professor Lupin sleeps through most of the trip, but his presence is useful; the realization there's a professor nearby shuts down an attempt by Harry's nemesis, Draco Malfoy, to get a

fight going with Ron. During the afternoon, the train grinds to a halt, the lights go out, and a horrible creature, cloaked and hooded, its face hidden—a dementor, one of the feared Azkaban guards—appears on the train, sucking all the joy out of the room and appearing to attack Harry, who passes out. When he comes to, he learns that Professor Lupin used magic to drive the thing away, after first informing it that Sirius Black wasn't hiding in the compartment. Lupin (who, it appears, wasn't sleeping at all, but guarding) offers Harry and the others chocolate to help them recover their spirits. Later, at the Hogwarts opening ceremony, there are surprises: Hagrid is the new Care of Magical Creatures professor, and Professor Snape, the potions master, appears to regard Lupin with a loathing usually only reserved for Harry himself. Finally, after an exhausting day, the friends arrive at Gryffindor tower, and Harry is home at last.

Chapter 6: Talons and Tea Leaves

The next day is the first day of classes. Harry, George, and Hermione go down to breakfast to the spectacle of Draco Malfoy and the other Slytherins doing an impression of Harry's "swooning fit" of the day before. Ron notices that Hermione's schedule seems a bit over-full, but Hermione is oddly unconcerned. In Divination class, Professor Trelawney reads in the tea leaves that Harry has the "Grim"—the spectral black dog—and will soon die. The students are all upset until Professor McGonagall, in Transfiguration class, assures them that Professor Trelawney makes such a prediction at the beginning of each year, and no student has died yet. During Hagrid's Care of Magical Creatures class, Harry tames a hippogriff—a noble flying beast with the body of a horse and the head of an eagle—but Malfoy, ignoring Hagrid's warning never to insult a hippogriff, is badly injured when his hippogriff reacts to his put-downs. After dinner, the friends go to visit Hagrid, who has gotten drunk, convinced he will be fired after only one day of teaching. They assure him they'll back him up to Dumbledore, then help him begin sobering up. Suddenly, he realizes Harry's out after dark, and he angrily berates them for taking such a risk, and hauls them back to the castle.

Chapter 7: The Boggart in the Wardrobe

Later in the week, Malfoy reappears in class with his arm bandaged and in a sling, and pretends to be in great pain. In Potions, where Malfoy is

Snape's pet, Harry and Ron are forced to prepare Malfoy's potion ingredients. Malfoy reveals that his influential father is trying to get Hagrid fired, and he drops mysterious, taunting hints that Harry ought to seek "revenge." Later, in Defense Against the Dark Arts, the gentlemanly Professor Lupin (still shabby, but healthier-looking) gains the students' respect by first disarming the obnoxious poltergeist Peeves (Lupin causes a wad of gum Peeves had been stuffing into a keyhole to shoot up the ghost's nose), then teaching them how to disarm a boggart—a shape-shifting creature that transforms into the beholder's worst fear. The cure is to confuse it by laughing at it, using a spell to transform it from something fearful to something ridiculous; in the process, Lupin helps give the humiliated Neville Longbottom a boost in self-esteem. Lupin also disarms his own worst fear, a glowing white globe hovering in the sky, by causing it to explode like a balloon. Lupin stops the lesson before Harry and Hermione have a chance to confront the boggart, and Harry wonders if Lupin thinks he's a coward because of the fainting incident on the train.

Chapter 8: Flight of the Fat Lady

It's the middle of the semester. Lupin is now the favorite teacher of everyone but the Slytherins, Snape is meaner than ever, the Gryffindor team (Harry is Seeker) is practicing furiously to win the Quidditch Cup, and the first Hogsmeade weekend is coming up on October 31. Uncle Vernon never signed Harry's permission slip, and Cornelius Fudge (who was trying to protect Harry from Sirius Black) wouldn't do it either, so Harry can't go. Attempts to persuade Professor McGonagall, the head of his house, are unsuccessful as well.

While the others are at Hogsmeade, Harry runs into Professor Lupin, who offers him tea and explains that he hadn't let Harry fight the boggart because he assumed Harry's worst fear would be Lord Voldemort, and this would have terrified the other students. Harry tells him his worst fear is dementors, not Voldemort, an answer that impresses Lupin, who says it indicates that Harry's worst fear is fear itself, which is wise. While they are talking, Snape knocks on the door, bearing a medicinal potion he's brewed for Lupin. Lupin, always the gentleman, graciously deflects both Snape's sarcasm and Harry's anxious warnings about Snape's trustworthiness; Lupin drinks the

entire potion at one gulp. Later, at the feast, Ron and Hermione have brought Harry souvenirs from the village, and they all discuss Lupin's bravery in drinking Snape's potion. Toward the end, Percy Weasley rushes in, reporting that someone has viciously slashed the painting of the Fat Lady that guards the door to the Gryffindor tower. Under questioning by Dumbledore, Peeves the ghost drops a bombshell: the culprit is Sirius Black.

Chapter 9: Grim Defeat

Dumbledore locks the students into the Great Hall for the night (enchanted the tables to disappear and sleeping bags to appear in their place), keeping them safe while he and the professors unsuccessfully search the castle for Black. Lupin takes ill and Snape teaches his class, treating the students cruelly while maligning Lupin. Malfoy's continued faking leads to a change in the Quidditch schedule: instead of playing Slytherin, the Gryffindor team will play Hufflepuff, necessitating an entirely different strategy.

During the disastrous Quidditch match, Harry sees the shaggy black dog again; the appearance of the Grim shocks him so much that he loses his grip on his broomstick. At almost the same time, dozens of dementors appear, causing cold despair to descend on the entire stadium. Stunned by the dementors, Harry slips; as he falls, he hears, in his head, the screams of a young woman pleading to spare Harry's life, and the cruel laughter of whoever she is pleading with. Later, he awakens in the hospital wing to learn what happened: he fell about fifty feet off his broom, but Dumbledore saved his life by magically slowing the fall and repelling the dementors. Cedric Diggory, the Hufflepuff Seeker, caught the Snitch to win the game; now it will be nearly impossible for Gryffindor to win the House Cup. Worst of all, Harry's beloved broom has been destroyed.

Chapter 10: The Marauder's Map

Harry stays in the hospital wing a week recovering from his fall. He is depressed for a number of reasons: the loss of the game; the destruction of his broom; the sighting of the Grim; and, worst of all, the fact that he has now identified the voices in his head. They are his memories, brought on by the dementor, of the last moments of his mother's life, as she pleaded with Voldemort to spare Harry. Lupin returns to school, clearly showing signs of

his illness; the students are delighted, especially since Lupin cancels a lengthy punishment assignment Snape has given them. Harry talks to Lupin about the dementors. Lupin explains that dementors feed on negative emotions and cause their victims to remember their worst experiences, and that Harry is affected so strongly because his worst experience—that of watching Voldemort murder his parents—is very, very bad (“enough to make anyone fall off their broom”). Harry asks Lupin to teach him how to fight off the dementors, and Lupin agrees, although he must postpone the lesson until he catches up on his work. Soon, the end of the term approaches; Ravenclaw trounces Hufflepuff in their Quidditch match, putting Gryffindor back in the running. That event, coupled with the hope of never having to hear his mother dying again, boosts Harry's spirits. With the approach of Christmas, the whole school is upbeat, and Harry is grateful that Ron and Hermione have decided to spend the holidays at school; though they give other reasons, he knows it's really to keep him company.

On the day of the third-years' pre-Christmas trip into Hogsmeade, which, again, Harry is supposed to sit out, Fred and George Weasley give him a gift: the magical Marauder's Map, which not only identifies secret passages into Hogsmeade, but also shows where everyone in Hogwarts Castle is at any given time. Using the map and his invisibility cloak, Harry sneaks out via a portal into Honeyduke's candy shop, and thence, with Ron and Hermione, to the Three Broomsticks (a pub) for some butterbeer. There, they eavesdrop as McGonagall, Hagrid, Professor Flitwick, and Cornelius Fudge discuss Sirius Black, revealing the shocking news that Black was James Potter's best friend from their days at Hogwarts, as well as James's best man and Harry's godfather. He was even the Potters' Secret-Keeper—the one person who could reveal their whereabouts after they went into an enchanted hiding. Black, Fudge explains, betrayed James and Lily Potter to Voldemort, and in the process murdered an old school friend, Peter Pettigrew, and about a dozen Muggles. No one could believe it at first—Hagrid even used Black's flying motorcycle to rescue the baby Harry—but the facts were conclusive. Fudge says that, although he believes Black went “mad”—crazy—for a time after these events, he actually seemed very normal when Fudge visited him recently in Azkaban—amazing,

given how closely Black was guarded by the dementors.

Chapter 11: The Firebolt

Harry, Ron, and Hermione return to the castle and eat dinner in silence. Harry goes to bed early, not wanting to talk to anyone about what they've heard. He pulls out a photo album Hagrid has given him and looks at his parents' wedding picture, noting for the first time the laughing, handsome best man—Black before twelve years in Azkaban had aged him. Harry is filled with hatred and a desire for revenge.

The next day is the first day of Christmas holidays, and everyone has gone home but the three friends. At breakfast, Ron and Hermione bring up the subject of Black—they fear Harry will try to go after Black himself, and they try to dissuade him from doing anything dangerous. Ron says his father told him that the only thing left of Pettigrew after Black finished with him was a finger. At Ron's suggestion, the trio visit Hagrid, who is despondent because Malfoy's father, Lucius, has lodged an official complaint against him for the incident with the hippogriff. Although the school's board of governors has exonerated Hagrid, the Committee for the Disposal of Dangerous Creatures is set to have a hearing on Buckbeak's fate in April, and Hagrid is sure they'll decide to execute the creature.

On Christmas Day, a mysterious benefactor sends Harry a new broomstick, a magnificent Firebolt like the one he saw during summer vacation in Diagon Alley. There is no accompanying note. Harry and Ron are elated, and can't think who could possibly like Harry well enough, and simultaneously be rich enough, to have given such a present; but Hermione is worried. Later, after a Christmas dinner with the headmaster and some professors in which it is revealed that Lupin is mysteriously ill again, Professor McGonagall comes to confiscate the broom so it can be checked over for jinxes before Harry flies it—a process that could take "a few weeks." McGonagall has learned of the gift from Hermione. Harry and Ron are both outraged, but McGonagall explains the reason for being so cautious: Hermione suspects—and Professor McGonagall agrees with her—that the broom might be from Sirius Black.

Chapter 12: The Patronus

Harry and Ron are furious with Hermione about the Firebolt, although Harry knows she meant well. They begin avoiding her, although secretly they wonder how she can possibly be taking so many classes, some of which meet at the same time. Lupin procures another boggart with which to teach Harry the Patronus Charm, advanced magic that acts as a shield of positive emotional energy against dementors. The spell only works if the wizard is concentrating on a supremely happy memory while performing it; Lupin warns him that he might not be able to pull it off. As directed, Harry conjures up a happy memory, but fails because the memory—his first broomstick ride—is too weak, and thoughts of his mother's death intrude. He fails a second try, this time hearing his father's voice as he tries to save the lives of his wife and son. The third time, Harry has some success after he remembers the happy moment when he learned he was a wizard and would no longer have to live with the Dursleys.

Also during this lesson, Harry discovers that Lupin was friends with both James Potter and Sirius Black at Hogwarts. Lupin also tells Harry how dementors destroy their victims: through the "Dementor's Kiss," in which they suck out the victim's soul, leaving an empty, but still living, shell. This is worse than being dead, Lupin tells him. As the semester goes on, Hermione begins to look almost as exhausted as Lupin, and Harry is exhausted too, between extra Quidditch practices and frustrating Patronus sessions. Finally, just before the big game with Ravenclaw, McGonagall releases the Firebolt, and Ron discovers that Scabbers is gone, with nothing remaining but bloodstains and some fur left by Hermione's cat.

Chapter 13: Gryffindor Versus Ravenclaw

Ron is furious, sure Crookshanks has eaten Scabbers. At Quidditch practice, Harry and his team bask in the glow of the Firebolt; on game day, they savor the shock of Malfoy and his crew when they see Harry's wonderful broomstick. After boldly fighting off three dementors with a Patronus during the Quidditch match, Harry grabs the Snitch to win the game for Gryffindor. The "dementors," it turns out, were Malfoy and his gang in disguise. They all are severely punished by McGonagall—the cherry on the cake of Harry's triumph. That night, after a Gryffindor party during

which the only dark spot is Ron and Hermione's ongoing feud, Ron's shouts awaken everyone in the boys' dormitory. Ron says he woke up to find Sirius Black standing over him with a knife in his hand. Black has escaped again, but Ron's bed curtains are slashed. Professor McGonagall is called, and she questions the painting of Sir Cadogan (who replaced the Fat Lady as the password-keeper after Black's last break-in). Sir Cadogan tells her that the man he let in had a paper full of recent passwords that he read off until he got the right one. When a furious McGonagall wants to know who left a list of passwords lying around, poor Neville Longbottom confesses to being the culprit.

Chapter 14: Snape's Grudge

Ron is an instant celebrity, and he milks it for all it's worth. Neville is completely disgraced. Hagrid invites Ron and Harry for tea because he's worried about Hermione; their ostracism has made her miserable, and unlike them, she's been able to help him with Buckbeak's defense. The boys are abashed at his suggestion that they should put friends before broomsticks and rats. On the next trip to Hogsmeade, Harry, wearing his Invisibility Cloak, sneaks in with Ron. They encounter Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle near the Shrieking Shack ("the most haunted dwelling in Britain"); Harry, disguised in the Invisibility Cloak, throws mud on the trio, driving them away, but not before his cloak slips, revealing his identity to Malfoy. Harry rushes back to the castle, but Malfoy has beaten him to the punch; Snape finds Harry and confronts him in his office, in the process revealing the depths of his grudge against Harry, and tormenting the boy with examples of James Potter's alleged arrogance. Snape confiscates the map but is unable to open it up; his attempts lead only to the appearance of personal insults, signed by the nicknames of the writers: Wormtail, Moony, Padfoot, and Prongs. Snape summons Lupin, the expert in the Dark Arts, who covers for Harry and confiscates the map, but berates Harry and Ron privately for risking their lives on a whim. When the two boys return, chastened, to Gryffindor tower, they are met by Hermione, holding a tear-stained letter from Hagrid with some terrible news: Buckbeak is to be executed.

Chapter 15: The Quidditch Final

Hagrid is miserable with grief. The Buckbeak incident draws Ron and Hermione together, and they

patch things up. Hermione shocks and impresses Ron and Harry by slapping Malfoy when they overhear him gloating over Hagrid's misery, then further shocks her friends by sleeping through Charms class and storming out of Divination, fed up when Professor Trelawney allegedly sees the Grim in a crystal ball during class. Harry sees the black dog on the lawn again later, but this time it's accompanied by Crookshanks, leading Harry to believe it must be a real black dog and not an omen. As the Quidditch final approaches, Harry and his teammates are under great pressure. Finally, the day arrives, and after a close game in which Slytherin uses every underhanded trick at its disposal, Gryffindor wins the Quidditch Cup, to enormous acclaim and joy.

Chapter 16: Professor Trelawney's Prediction

Hogwarts students force themselves to ignore the beautiful late-spring weather while they prepare for finals. All goes pretty much as expected for the three friends until Divination finals, which are taken individually. During Harry's final, he watches as Professor Trelawney falls into a trance and utters the second real prophecy of her career: that by midnight of that night, a servant of Voldemort's, "chained" for twelve years, will break free and seek to rejoin his master, and that subsequently the Dark Lord will rise again and become "greater and more terrible than ever he was." When Harry rushes to tell his friends, he is greeted with the news that Buckbeak has lost his appeal: he is to be executed at sunset, despite attempts by Dumbledore to argue in his defense. The friends decide to visit Hagrid to offer moral support, and Hermione astonishes Ron again by risking detection to retrieve the Invisibility Cloak from its hiding place so they can defy school rules by taking Harry out of the castle. Ron, Harry, and Hermione visit Hagrid, who tells them to leave: he doesn't want them to witness the execution or to get in trouble. While there, they find Scabbers—he's been hiding in Hagrid's cottage. Scabbers looks ill, and he doesn't want to come with Ron, struggling to get away and creating a racket that nearly draws the attention of the execution committee (including Fudge, Dumbledore, and the executioner McNair). As the friends slip away, they hear the fall of the axe and a dull thud.

Chapter 17: Cat, Rat, and Dog

Suddenly, Crookshanks appears. The rat breaks free

and takes off, chased by Crookshanks and Ron. Harry and Hermione follow too, fearing detection. Suddenly, the gigantic black dog appears, knocking Harry over before he can use his wand on it and dragging Ron toward the Whomping Willow. As the dog stuffs Ron into the entrance at the willow's base, Harry and Hermione dodge attacking branches to follow. They are able to do so because Crookshanks—evidently friends with the dog—has discovered the spot to press on the base of the tree so it will stop “whomping.” Harry and Hermione follow Crookshanks into an underground passage that leads to the Shrieking Shack, where they find Ron (who has a broken leg) and Sirius Black.

Black, it turns out, is an Animagus—a shape-shifter—and it has been Black, in the form of a huge dog, who has been watching Harry all semester. Harry bravely fights Black and disarms him, taking his wand. Harry points his wand at Black's chest but is unable to kill him, blocked by Crookshanks and his own doubts. To the students' shock, Lupin hurtles into the room and embraces Black. Hermione reveals that Lupin is a werewolf, which explains both his mysterious illness and his worst fear as revealed in the class concerning bog-arts—Lupin is afraid of the moon, when he changes. Werewolves, it develops, are almost universally distrusted in the wizarding community. Black and Lupin explain that Scabbers the rat is really Peter Pettigrew, the man who betrayed Harry's parents to Voldemort; Black was attempting to get to the rat in Ron's pocket, not to kidnap Ron. Black had known Scabbers' true identity all along, but had been falsely imprisoned in Azkaban for a dozen years after being framed by Pettigrew, who is the real mass murderer. Lupin realized that Pettigrew was still alive after he confiscated the Marauder's Map and saw Pettigrew's movements on it. Lupin knew how to use the map because he had co-written it as a student at Hogwarts, along with Black, James Potter, and Pettigrew.

Chapter 18: Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot, and Prongs

Hearing this tale, the kids are shocked and disbelieving; they think both Black and Lupin are insane. Black, bent on revenge, tries to wrest Scabbers from Ron, but Lupin stops Black, saying the three students, and especially Harry, have a right to know the full story. Hermione points out that Pettigrew was never listed on the registry of

Animagi kept by the Ministry of Magic; Lupin, applauding her scholarship, informs her that, when he and his friends were in school, there were three unregistered Animagi at Hogwarts: Sirius, who became a dog, James Potter, who became a stag, and Peter Pettigrew, who became a rat. The three learned to become Animagi so they could keep company with their friend, Lupin, who had transformed into a violent werewolf once a month since being bitten as a small boy, and had to avoid humans during his transformations. Back then (before the invention of Wolfsbane, the potion Snape has been making for him that renders him a harmless wolf during the full moon), there was no cure; Lupin was only able to come to Hogwarts because Dumbledore was sympathetic and arranged to have him isolated once a month. The Shrieking Shack was built, and the Whomping Willow was planted at the entrance as guardian, to shelter Lupin safely during his transformations. As an adult, Lupin now feels guilty that he led his three friends to illegally become Animagi and helped betray Dumbledore's trust by devising, and using, the Marauder's Map.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione also learn that Snape has known Lupin's nature since they were all at school; Snape, who was vindictive and jealous even then, had been spying on Lupin and his friends, and had his life put in danger when Sirius, to pay him back, tricked him into trying the entrance of the Whomping Willow before neutralizing the tree. James Potter learned of the prank and risked his own life to save Snape. Snape still believes Lupin was in on the joke, and hates him to this day (he also hated James). As this tale ends, Snape himself appears, pointing his wand at Lupin.

Chapter 19: The Servant of Lord Voldemort

Snape reveals that he knew everyone was in the Shrieking Shack because he had seen the Marauder's Map in Lupin's office while taking him some Wolfsbane, which he'd forgotten to drink. Maddened by hatred, Snape restrains Lupin and attempts to attack Black, but Harry, Ron, and Hermione disarm him, accidentally knocking him unconscious, and Black unties Lupin. Black reveals that he discovered Pettigrew was still alive during the summer, when he saw a picture in the *Daily Prophet* of Pettigrew (as Scabbers) perched on Ron's shoulder. Scabbers is missing a toe—the toe, Black claims, that Peter Pettigrew cut off himself,

leaving it behind as evidence to frame Black after himself murdering the witnesses and disappearing into the sewers.

Black blames himself for James and Lilly's death, because at the last minute, he persuaded James to make Pettigrew, whom they all viewed as a trusted friend, the Secret-Keeper—the one person who knew the family's whereabouts—as a bluff to throw Voldemort off. The knowledge of his innocence, and his ability to transform into a dog periodically, had kept Black sane in Azkaban, and he had also learned, from overhearing other prisoners, that the followers of Voldemort believed Pettigrew had betrayed them, setting Voldemort up to be destroyed by the Potters. Black realized then that Pettigrew/Scabbers, ever the opportunist and always wanting to ally himself with the most powerful, was biding his time, making sure Voldemort would return, then planning to kill Harry as an inside job to prove his loyalty to the Dark Lord. This realization gave Black the strength to slip past the dementors in the guise of a dog (dementors cannot see, only sense emotions), then make his way to Hogwarts to try to get Pettigrew; Crookshanks the cat had been helping Black.

Proof of their story comes when Lupin and Black force Pettigrew to transform, and worm a confession out of him. They prepare to kill Pettigrew, but Harry shows mercy—he doesn't think his father would have wanted his best friends to become killers for the likes of Pettigrew. They accede to his wishes, and everyone—including the still-unconscious Snape, magically transported—leaves the shack to turn Peter over to the dementors.

Chapter 20: The Dementor's Kiss

To Harry's great joy, Black offers him a home during vacations once his name's cleared. The group proceeds back to the castle; however, things go awry when Lupin—who has failed to take his potion—transforms into a werewolf and becomes violent, and Black transforms into a dog to fight him off (the werewolf is no danger to Black in animal form). In the ensuing confusion, Pettigrew grabs Lupin's fallen wand, stuns Ron (to whom he is shackled), transforms into a rat and scurries away, with Black pursuing him. The three kids (still burdened with the unconscious Snape) hear howling in the distance, then the yelping of an injured dog. Harry and Hermione leave Ron momentarily

to help Black, and find him on the edge of the lake in human form, crouching as dementors swarm around him. Harry tries to fight them off, but he can't muster a Patronus, and they attack him too. Just as he is about to receive the Dementor's Kiss, he is saved—along with Black and Hermione—by a Patronus in a familiar form, "bright as a unicorn," which comes galloping across the lake and drives the dementors away. He faints as the bright form gallops away.

Chapter 21: Hermione's Secret

Harry wakes up in the hospital wing to overhear Snape telling Cornelius Fudge a version of events that makes Snape look like a hero and Black look like a villain. Snape claims that Ron, Harry, and Hermione were bewitched by Black—Confunded—to believe he was innocent, and are not responsible for their actions. Still, he subtly presses to have the students punished. Harry and Hermione both jump out of bed (Ron is still unconscious), and desperately attempt to persuade Fudge that Black is innocent, to no avail; Fudge assures them that everything is all right, they are confused and should be in bed eating chocolate, and Black is guilty and will soon receive the Dementor's Kiss. At this moment, Dumbledore sweeps in and insists on speaking to Harry and Hermione alone.

When everyone else has cleared the room, he tells them that he knows Black is telling the truth, but that no one will believe the word of two thirteen-year-old wizards against the available evidence now that Pettigrew has escaped; Lupin is currently unavailable, having changed to werewolf form, and will not be believed because he is a werewolf and Sirius's old friend. The only chance of setting things right is to get more time. He tells the two the precise location of the window of the tower where Sirius is being held, tells them the exact time, and advises Hermione that "three turns should do it"—advising that if they succeed, they will be able to save "more than one innocent life." Then he leaves, shutting the door. Hermione immediately produces a device she explains is a Time-Turner; it's what's enabled her to take extra classes all semester, and it can only be used according to strict rules. Above all, she and Harry must not be seen. Using the Invisibility Cloak, they sneak out, freeing Buckbeak from the executioners and leading him into the forest, where they

observe recent events and interrupt the demen-tors attacking Sirius—and them. Harry drives the dementors off, and discovers that he, himself, was the source of the Patronus, which is in the form of a stag, like his father’s. Then they fly on Buckbeak to the tower window just as Macnair, the execu-tioner, hurries off to get the dementors to punish Sirius. They rescue Sirius, who flies away on Buckbeak after depositing them on the battle-ments. As he leaves, he tells Harry that he is truly his father’s son, and promises he’ll see him again.

Chapter 22: Owl Post Again

Harry and Hermione make it back to the hospital wing in the nick of time. Dumbledore is delighted, but Snape is beside himself with rage, and Fudge is very disappointed that Sirius Black has escaped. Snape insists Harry and Hermione had something to do with it, but Dumbledore points out that this would be impossible unless they could somehow be in two places at once. He is clearly enjoying himself. They leave, and Ron wakes up to hear the whole story. The next day, all three leave the hospi-tal wing, to discover a jubilant Hagrid (who doesn’t know the real story of Buckbeak’s escape). He informs them that Lupin has resigned. When Harry goes to see Lupin, Lupin confirms that Harry’s father turned into a stag—it was why they called him “Prongs.” Lupin also returns the Marauder’s Map to Harry, saying he can do this because he’s no longer officially a teacher.

Dumbledore stops by Lupin’s office as he is leav-ing, and remains to talk to Harry. Harry tells Dumbledore about Professor Trelawney’s prophe-cy, and Dumbledore reassures Harry that it’s not his fault Pettigrew escaped, and that one day he may be glad to have a servant of Voldemort in his debt. He also explains that Harry had conjured up his father inside himself when he performed the Patronus. Later, on the train home, an owl arrives with a letter from Sirius. He is in hiding with Buckbeak. He is also, as Hermione guessed, the one who gave Harry the Firebolt, and he offers the owl bearing the message as a present to Ron, to make up for the loss of Scabbers. Finally, Sirius has included a permission slip that he has signed, with his permission for Harry to go on field trips to Hogsmeade. The friends part, and Ron promises to get tickets for the Quidditch World Cup from his father so they can attend during summer holidays. Back at the Dursleys’, Harry is greeted with hostility

by Uncle Vernon, who is horrified to learn that the permission slip Harry carries is from Harry’s godfa-ther, a convicted murderer and escaped convict currently on the loose. Harry looks forward to a much better summer this year.

Author Sketch

Joanne Rowling was born July 31, 1965, in Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire, England, the elder of two daughters. As a child she wrote stories and told them to her sister, and attended a gram-mar school founded by the famed reformer and abolitionist William Wilberforce. She majored in French and Classics at Exeter University, studied in Paris for a year, and then took a job as a researcher and bilingual secretary for Amnesty International in London, where she was self-described as “the worst secretary ever.” In 1990, while on a train from Manchester to London that was delayed for four hours, she got the idea, “fully formed,” for a young boy studying to be a wizard. At the end of that year, her mother died from complications of multi-ple sclerosis, and the loss, Rowling says, strongly influenced the *Potter* books, prompting her to write much more about Harry’s losses.

After her mother’s death, Rowling moved to Portugal to teach English, and met and married Portuguese journalist Jorge Arantes. Their daugh-ter, Jessica, was born in 1993, and they divorced shortly afterward. Now a single mother, Rowling moved to Edinburgh, Scotland, to be near her sis-ter. She went on public assistance and wrote in cafes when she could get her daughter to fall asleep in her stroller; she was able to finish her novel after receiving a grant from the Scottish Arts Council. After twelve rejections, the novel *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* (eventually pub-lished in the United States as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*), was accepted by Bloomsbury in London for an advance of roughly \$4,000. By this time working as a French teacher, Rowling received enough money to quit that job the fol-lowing year, 1995, when Scholastic Books paid more than \$100,000 for the U.S. publishing rights, a sum the now-wealthy Rowling has said thrilled and astonished her at the time.

Bloomsbury released the novel in England in June 1997 under the name J.K. Rowling (her publisher told her to use initials as the book would sell bet-

ter if readers thought she were male; she used the middle initial "K." in honor of her grandmother, since Rowling herself has no middle name). The book 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 in the U.S. as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* in September 1998, to similar success. Every book of the seven-volume series has topped the *New York Times*' bestseller list (in fact, the *Times* famously created a separate children's best-seller list to accommodate the series), and Rowling has won an Anthony Award, the British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year, a Hugo Award, a Gram Stoker Award, and a Costa Book Award (formerly known as the Whitbread Award) for Best Children's Book, among others.

Now extremely wealthy—with a net worth of between \$700 million and \$1 billion by some estimates—Rowling has become a noted philanthropist, giving to a wide variety of causes, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and many children's charities. Her last four *Harry Potter* books have been consecutively the fastest-selling books in history; *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the last in the series, currently holds the record. The series has sold nearly 400 million copies and has been translated into 65 languages.

Rowling currently lives in Scotland with her family, which includes her second husband, Scottish physician Neil Murray, whom she married in 2001; her daughter, Jessica; and her son and daughter with Murray.

Critic's Corner

The third novel in the *Harry Potter* series garnered prestigious awards and critical praise. *Prisoner of Azkaban* won the 1999 Costa Book Award (formerly the Whitbread Award) and the Bram Stoker Award, and was shortlisted for other awards. It was also made into a 2004 movie that received several Academy Award nominations. As promised by J.K. Rowling, the book was darker than its predecessors, a transitional book leading to the series' climactic battle between good and evil. Critics raved. *School Library Journal* called it "a fabulously entertaining read that will have Harry Potter fans cheering for more." *Kirkus Reviews* noted that the story moved so quickly that "the book seems shorter

than its page count." The *New York Times Book Review* called it "the heartiest and best of children's literature." And *Publisher's Weekly*, while noting the transitional role of the book in the series, concluded, "The Potter spell is holding strong."

Other Books by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (published in Great Britain as *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*), 1998
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, 1999
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Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, 2003
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, 2006
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, 2007
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General Objectives

1. To appreciate the author's use of suspense
2. To understand the novel's title
3. To recognize the importance of setting
4. To assess each character's personality
5. To recognize the novel's theme
6. To appreciate the difficulties Harry faces as a witch among non-magical "Muggles"
7. To explore the ways kindness can be shown
8. To find examples of bravery and courage
9. To sympathize with the main character's plight
10. To describe the novel's mood or atmosphere

Specific Objectives

1. To analyze the importance of magic and friendship in Harry's life
2. To see how Harry's choices determine the kind of person he is
3. To probe the gulf between appearance and reality in the novel
4. To appreciate Harry's heroism
5. To probe the relationship between Harry and his friends, especially Ron and Hermione
6. To see how being different from others affects Harry
7. To understand the plot structure
8. To grasp the extent of Harry's extraordinary powers
9. To understand why the Dursleys mistreat Harry
10. To visualize the story's action.

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of J.K. Rowling's style,

present the following terms and applications to the novel:

Dialect: the way people speak in a certain region or area. In written dialect, regional slang is used, and words are spelled differently to reflect different pronunciation and emphasis. Writers use dialects to describe their characters and setting more fully. Rowling uses British dialect to help her readers get the flavor of Harry's environment. The terms "summer holidays" instead of "summer vacation" (page 1), Harry being "keen" rather than "eager" (page 3), Duddy getting "smart" rather than "neat" (page 19), and the epithet "Brilliant!" to indicate enthusiasm or approval, are all examples of British dialect in the text, as are the various accents portrayed, such as the Cockney (working-class Londoner) accents of Stan Shunpike and Ernie Prang of the Knight Bus, and the thick West-Country accent of Rubeus Hagrid. In Britain, accents also strongly indicate social class, so British readers especially would recognize that Stan and Ernie are working-class urban "blokes," and Hagrid comes from an uneducated country background, while those who speak a more standard English are from the middle or upper class.

Irony: a literary device in which there is a gap or incongruity between what a writer says and what is generally understood; also, a discordance between acts and results. In all cases, irony arises from the difference between what happens and what was expected to happen. In verbal irony, there is a contrast between what is stated and what is suggested. In dramatic irony, there is a contrast between what a character believes and what the readers or characters expect. Rowling uses irony of situation when Harry inflates Aunt Marge (Chapter 2). This is ironic, not only because we do not expect Harry to resort to magic, but also because Aunt Marge is already puffed up with self-importance. Verbal irony also occurs in Chapter 2, when Uncle Vernon reveals he's told Aunt Marge that Harry attends "St. Brutus' Secure Center for Incurably Criminal Boys." This is doubly ironic in that 1) Uncle Vernon is more willing to have an "incurably criminal" nephew than a magical one, and 2) it is his own son, Dudley, who is a hooligan and a bully, while Harry is heroic and decent.

Another example of irony is when Harry receives a coveted Firebolt broom as a present, then has to give it up for weeks so it can be checked for jinxes.

Humor: parts of a story that are funny. Humor can be created through sarcasm, word play, irony, and

exaggeration. Rowling includes a great deal of humor to balance the seriousness of Harry's dangerous position as Voldemort's adversary and intended prey. For instance, it is funny that Aunt Marge looks just like Uncle Vernon: in fact, she even has a mustache, "though not as bushy as his." Professor Trelawney provides humor through her batty behavior and ridiculous death prophecies, so that it is amusing when she actually has a rare genuine prophecy late in the book. The Weasley twins' mocking of Percy's pompousness, and Ron's milking of his supposed near-miss with Black, are other instances of humor. There are many others throughout the text.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Books

Lloyd Alexander, *The Book of Three*
Avi, *Bright Shadow*
L. Frank Baum, *The Wizard of Oz*
John Bellairs, *The House With a Clock in its Walls*
Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Matilda*
Diane Duane, *So You Want to Be a Wizard*
Ian Fleming, *Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang*
Robert Heinlein, *Citizen of the Galaxy; Have Spacesuit, Will Travel; Red Planet; and Starman Jones*
Brian Jacques, *Lord Brocktree*
Diane Wynne Jones, *Witch Week*
Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*
Ursula K. LeGuin, *Wizard of Earthsea*
Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*
Gail Caron Levine, *Ella Enchanted*
C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
Patricia A. McKillip, *The Forgotten Beasts of Eld*
Garth Nix, *Sabriel*
Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass*
Dian Curtis Regan, *Princess Nevermore*
Lemony Snicket, *The Bad Beginning*
J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit* and *The Trilogy of the Ring*
Patricia C. Wrede, *Dealing with Dragons*
Jane Yolen, *Wizard's Hall*

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Allan Zola Kronzek and Elizabeth Kronzek, *The Sorcerer's Companion: A Guide to the Magical World of Harry Potter*

Audiocassettes

- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, Jim Dale (reader), Listening Library
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- “J.K. Rowling—Official Site,” <http://www.jkrowling.com/>
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- “Salon.com Audio: J.K. Rowling,” www.salon.com/audio/2000/10/05/rowling/

Video/DVD

- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (2001)
- Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002)
- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004)
- Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005)
- Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (2007)
- Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (2009)
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (scheduled for 2010-2011)
- The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001)
- The Phantom Menace* (1999)
- Willow* (1989)

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* should include these aspects:

Themes

- Courage
- Death
- Magic
- Fear
- Friendship
- Hardship
- Heroism
- Secrets
- Transformations

Motifs

- Adjusting to magical powers
- Being brave in terrifying situations
- Being special and different from others
- Coping with fame
- Dealing with events out of human control
- Enjoying sports and healthy competition
- Experiencing growth and change
- Getting an unusual education
- Overcoming monsters and evil
- Self-awareness and maturity

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. Harry Potter was a highly unusual boy in many ways. For one thing, he hated the summer holidays more than any other time of year. For another, he really wanted to do his homework. . . . And he also happened to be a wizard. (Chapter 1, p. 1)
(Because he has been orphaned, Harry is forced to live with his Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon, and cousin Dudley. They are examples of blind, unreasoning prejudice. They do not understand his magical abilities and heritage, and they fear and detest Harry because he is different; they also have an unexplained hatred for, or jealousy of, his parents. As a result, they treat him with great cruelty.)
2. “Black is deranged, Molly, and he wants Harry dead. If you ask me, he thinks murdering Harry will bring You-Know-Who back to power. Black lost everything the night Harry stopped You-Know-Who, and he’s had twelve

years alone in Azkaban to brood on that. ...” (Chapter 4, p. 66)

(Mr. Weasley explains Harry’s history and the novel’s central conflict. When Harry was an infant, his parents had been attacked and killed in an encounter with the greatest villain of all, Voldemort, the personification of evil. He is so evil and so frightening that most wizards are afraid even to say his name, instead resorting to euphemisms such as “He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named,” “You-Know-Who,” and “The Dark Lord.” This behavior underscores Voldemort’s literal and figurative association with the devil, since it harks directly to a very old superstition that to speak the devil’s name causes him to appear on the scene. Harry stopped the attack, resulting in the lightning-shaped scar on his forehead. The adult wizards believe Black is in league with Voldemort and wants Harry dead. As we learn later, just the opposite is true: Black is trying to protect Harry against the evil incited by Voldemort and his minions.)

3. Standing in the doorway, illuminated by the shivering flames in Lupin’s hand, was a cloaked figure that towered to the ceiling. (Chapter 5, p. 83)
(The figure is a dementor, one of the terrifying Azkaban guards, fiendish beings that destroy joy and, if they aren’t stopped, can actually suck the souls out of human beings. Like other forms of evil, they prey on fear. Later, Harry learns an important life lesson, both magically and personally, when he learns to drive them off with a magical Patronus that is fueled by joy and love.)
4. “Not Harry, please no, take me, kill me instead—” (Chapter 9, p. 179)
(When dementors attack, they cause their victims to recall their worst moments. As Harry is being attacked by more than one hundred dementors, his worst memory is called forth—the sound of his mother’s voice as she begs that Harry’s life be spared, on the day Voldemort killed Harry’s parents a dozen years ago. It is a sound Harry is desperate never to hear again, yet it reveals Mrs. Potter’s deep love for her son and her eagerness to do anything to save his life—even give up her own in exchange. It is the ultimate sacrifice, and helps to explain Harry’s nobility, courage, and grace under pressure.)

5. “Quite the double act, Sirius Black and James Potter!” (Chapter 10, p. 204)
(Harry overhears the teachers remembering that his father had been best friends with Black; indeed, they were so close they seemed like brothers. Potter trusted Black most of all. This scene foreshadows the truth: Black did not betray the Potters at all.)

5. THE DARK LORD WILL RISE AGAIN WITH HIS SERVANT’S AID, GREATER AND MORE TERRIBLE THAN EVER HE WAS. (Chapter 16, p. 324)
(Harry is shocked when Professor Trelawney—whose claims to be a fortune-teller generally appear to be fraudulent—enters a trance-like state and utters what turns out to be a genuine prophecy: the imminent arrival of a servant of Voldemort’s who will enable the villain to once again come upon the scene. This prophecy not only foreshadows the novel’s climax, as the traitor Peter Pettigrew is revealed, but also greatly pumps up the novel’s tension and suspense.)

6. It was Sirius Black. (Chapter 17, p. 339)
(Harry, Hermione, and Ron are astonished when the shaggy black dog that has been shadowing Harry transforms into Sirius Black. The kids are even more shocked to learn that Sirius is not the arch-villain they had supposed, but a noble and innocent victim who has been terribly betrayed and falsely accused, someone who loved Harry’s parents and feels their loss as much as Harry does.)

7. “Peter betrayed your father and mother—Sirius tracked Peter down—” (Chapter 19, p. 365)
(Lupin explains that Sirius is the savior, not the enemy, but Harry and his friends cannot so easily accept the opposite of what they have been told. Lupin is indeed telling the truth, as the children shortly discover.)

8. “Harry!” gasped Pettigrew, and he flung his arms around Harry’s knees. “You—thank you—it’s more than I deserve—thank you—” (Chapter 19, p. 375)
(Although Pettigrew betrayed Harry’s parents to Lord Voldemort, Harry grants him mercy. Harry decides Peter should be imprisoned in Azkaban rather than being killed. This is both because he is innately merciful, and because he does not want to see two good men, Lupin and Blac, bear

the stain on their souls of a cold-blooded killing. Harry's mercy here shows his great nobility of character, marking him as a true hero.)

9. "Prongs," he whispered. (Chapter 21, p. 412)
(Harry sees a white stag—the form his late father took in animal form—and wonders if it might somehow be his father. Later, after time-traveling, Harry learns that it is actually his own Patronus, which he has conjured to defeat the dementors. The stag, it turns out, both is and isn't James Potter: as Dumbledore explains, Harry found his father inside himself when he performed the Patronus. This scene shows Harry's connection to his father, and the continuation of his heritage.)

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 by referring to passages in the book.

Question 1-5 (Literal Level)

- How is Harry different from his aunt, uncle, and cousin Dudley Dursley?
(Unlike his "Muggle" relatives, Harry is a wizard. He has special powers to shape and change reality. Also unlike them, he is gracious, kind, intelligent, and a non-conformist.)
- Who are the dementors?
(The dementors are the dreaded guards at Azkaban prison. They drive the prisoners mad through fear.)
- How is Hermione able to take so many classes at school?
(She uses a magical device called a Time-Turner that allows her to time-travel. As a result, she can be in two different places at once.)
- Who is Sirius Black, and what is his relationship to Harry?
(Sirius Black was James Potter's best friend and the best man at James and Lilly Potter's wedding, and he is Harry's godfather. He was convicted and sentenced to life in the horrible wizard prison, Azkaban, for a crime he didn't commit: betraying the Potters and killing thirteen

Muggle witnesses. When the book begins, he has served a dozen years of this sentence. Throughout the book, he is trying to protect Harry, but nearly everyone believes that he is in Voldemort's service and is trying to kill Harry.)

- How do Harry and Hermione save Sirius Black and Buckbeak?
(Harry and Hermione save the two prisoners, at Dumbledore's suggestion, using the Time-Turner. With it, they turn back time three hours and free the condemned hippogriff Buckbeak, then fly on him to the tower where Sirius is awaiting the dreaded Dementor's Kiss. He climbs out the window onto Buckbeak's back, and then, after dropping the children on Hogwarts' grounds, flies with the hippogriff to safety in hiding.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

- Why do the Dursleys treat Harry so cruelly?
(They fear his magical powers. Since they are intensely status-conscious and conformist, they are ashamed he is different. Also, they resent having to take care of him and see to his needs, meager though they are. Perhaps on a subconscious level, they realize Harry is far superior to their own son, Dudley.)
- How do animals play both positive and negative roles in the novel?
(Animals that really are animals—Crookshanks the cat, Hedwig and the other owls, Buckbeak the hippogriff—represent positive characteristics such as wisdom, helpfulness, loyalty, and innocence. Animals who are also humans—Sirius/the black dog, James Potter/the white stag, Peter Pettigrew/Scabbers the rat, and Remus Lupin/the werewolf, are more ambiguous, and can be good or bad depending on the choices of their human alter-egos. For instance, the black dog represents loyalty and heroism but also death and despair—death, in the sense of both an omen and a guardian of the dead, and despair or depression, especially in British folklore [Winston Churchill famously referred to his depression as "my black dog"]. Both of these things—death and despair—have "dogged" Sirius, as well as Harry, since Voldemort's attack on the Potters.

The white stag traditionally represents the near-

ness of the Otherworld—the world beyond death. In Celtic tradition, the white stag was a guide to the next world; in Medieval Europe, the white stag spurred knights to begin heroic quests, and was a symbol of Christ. Whatever its antecedents, the white stag connotes heroism, purity, nobility, and otherworldliness—the kind of heroism and pureness of heart demonstrated by James Potter both in risking himself to save a youthful Snape from a potentially dangerous prank, and by dying trying to save his wife and child from Voldemort. Harry shares these same qualities with his father, so it's significant that his Patronus also takes the shape of the white stag. The rat, by contrast, represents sneakiness, deceit, traitorousness, and cleverness—Pettigrew's key characteristics.

Remus Lupin's werewolf is more dualistic. Unlike the other shape-shifters, Lupin did not choose his animal nature, but had it forced upon him by a criminal when he was bitten as a child. He is truly a victim. Further, although the creature lurking within him is murderous and dangerous, Lupin himself is a very good man, and his struggles to quell and contain the werewolf mark him as a tragic hero. The werewolf, then, can be seen as a symbol of both human evil and the effort to overcome it. Lupin's situation can also be seen as analogous to certain types of mental illness, which, if left untreated, can produce irrational and dangerous behavior. This parallel is underscored by the fact that Lupin's werewolf transformations can be controlled by taking medicine.)

3. Why does Harry grant mercy to Peter Pettigrew? (Harry is essentially noble as well as heroic. By granting Pettigrew his life, Harry is showing that he is capable of mercy, one of the hallmarks of true heroism. However, his stated reason is that he does not want Sirius and Lupin to become killers for the sake of a traitor such as Pettigrew—he's not worth defiling the souls of two good men.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

1. Select any three names and explain how they fit their characters.
(“Harry” is a traditional name for British kings, a nickname for “Henry.” This fits Harry because he is well-born—from both Muggle and wizard stock—brave, intelligent, and a leader in the

fight against evil as represented by Voldemort. This “kingliness” is further underscored by other characteristics: e.g., Harry's symbolic significance in the wizarding community; the many assassination attempts he endures; and the care taken by the authorities to keep him safe.

Dudley, on the other hand, is an oaf—an unintelligent, bullying slob. The name “Dudley” itself means “of the country,” implying that he is a bumpkin. The name also incorporates the word “dud,” which means “failure” or “reject.”

“Malfoy” means “bad faith” in medieval French, according to Rowling, and the name exemplifies its owner—not only does he repeatedly show “bad faith” by manipulating and lying to others for revenge and personal gain, but he and his family also live by dark magic, or “bad faith.”

Many other names have meanings as well. “Sirius” means “dog” in Latin; “Remus” refers to Romulus and Remus, the heroic twins who, according to legend, were raised by wolves and founded ancient Rome; “Lupin” is related to “lupine,” which means “wolf-like.” The name “Pettigrew” is another name with hidden significance: “petty” originally meant physically small, and came signify mean-spiritedness as well. Peter, who was once friends with noble men, “grew petty,” or small—physically, by becoming a rat, and spiritually, by betraying his friends and becoming a follower of Voldemort. These are just a few of the many examples of meaningful names in the book.)

2. What do you think Scabbers symbolizes? (Although the rat has a positive reputation in Eastern culture, in the Western tradition—which is the one relevant to Harry Potter—the rat traditionally symbolizes sneakiness, betrayal, and thievery, as well as cleverness. This is shown by Pettigrew/Scabbers' revealed behavior: he cunningly engineered a stunning betrayal, then successfully faked his own death and got another man sent to prison for his crimes. In the process, he engaged in a form of thievery when he “stole” Sirius' freedom and good name from him, and nearly caused him to lose his life as well.

Pettigrew's character is revealed by both his

human name [see previous item] and his animal one. "Scabbers" relates to both "scabrous" and "scabby." One meaning of "scabrous" is "obscene," and Pettigrew's betrayals, murders, and devotion to Voldemort certainly are obscene in a sense. "Scabby" means "covered in scabs," a condition traditionally associated with lepers, who in ancient times were cut off from society—so much so that the word "leper" is still a synonym for "outcast." This fits as well, because his actions have made Pettigrew an outcast among decent people.)

Question 11-12 (Creative Level)

1. Explain the novel's religious symbolism, beginning with the characters' names. Focus on Sirius ("Dog," a traditional Christian symbol of loyalty and other virtues), Peter, and James (names of some of the apostles).
2. Imagine you are Harry Potter. What would you do with your magical abilities?

Across the Curriculum

Art/Music

1. Create a three-dimensional diorama of Hogwarts. Label each part of the display with an appropriate quote from the novel.
2. Select your three favorite scenes and illustrate them.
3. Create a sculpture of one of the monsters described in the novel, such as Hagrid's hippogriff, Buckbeak.
4. Select an especially dramatic scene, such as Pettigrew's escape. Find background music that captures the scene's mood. Then read the scene to the class as you play the background music.

History/Social Studies

1. Compare and contrast the British school system to the American school system. Show how they are the same and different. Comment on the tradition of boarding schools in Britain.
2. Harry was orphaned when his parents were killed by Voldemort. Explain how orphans are sheltered in America.
3. Harry attends a private school. Interview some private school teachers and access some private school web sites to find out how private schools compare to public schools in America.

5. Give a brief history of magic.
6. Hogwarts is located in a castle. Select a castle in England and prepare a chart about its history, construction, and current use. For extra credit, construct a model of the castle.

Language Arts

1. Make a dust jacket for the book. Include a cover picture, reviews, and a brief summary of Rowling's life.
2. Write a letter to J.K. Rowling in which you explain why you enjoyed reading *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.
3. Imagine you are Hermione. Write a diary entry explaining why you study so hard.
4. Create a glossary of at least ten words the author created for the novel.

Math

1. Harry inherits a fortune in gold. Find out how much an ounce of gold is worth today.
2. Imagine Harry and his friends were real and you could visit them. Plan out the cost of the trip, including airfare, lodging, food money, and spending money.

Physical Education

1. Write the rules for Quidditch.
2. Design some exercises to help Harry and his classmates limber up for a Quidditch match.
3. Harry must defend himself against evil monsters. Write some ways students can defend themselves against everyday dangers.

Science

1. What are werewolves? Are they real? Report on these creatures.
2. Harry and his friends prepare potions for various purposes. Select a common remedy, such as aspirin, and find out its ingredients and how it is prepared.
3. Prepare a chart comparing and contrasting the weather in your neighborhood with the weather in London, England. Include temperature, average precipitation, and amount of sunshine.

Student Involvement Activities

1. Create two teams to debate whether or not Harry should be allowed to use witchcraft while he is staying at the Dursleys'.
2. In your own words, state the novel's theme or

message.

3. Create a TV panel discussion explaining why the Harry Potter books have been such a phenomenal success around the world.
4. Explain why Snape does not like Harry.
5. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main events.

Alternate Assessment

1. Debate which creature in the book is the most terrifying and why.
2. Explain how Harry is the ideal hero.
3. Find out about palm reading, handwriting analysis, and other common “magical” pastimes. Are they real or shams?
4. Make a map showing at least six places mentioned in the novel.

Vocabulary Test

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| _____ 1. bizarre | a. odd, strange |
| _____ 2. mutant | b. impertinent |
| _____ 3. luminous | c. foreboding |
| _____ 4. parcel | d. hoist |
| _____ 5. ominous | e. spiteful |
| _____ 6. smirk | f. arrogant |
| _____ 7. reproach | g. outsmart |
| _____ 8. brood | h. take, seize |
| _____ 9. jovial | i. extremely happy |
| _____ 10. heave | j. package |
| _____ 11. insolent | k. smug grin |
| _____ 12. pompous | l. prophecy |
| _____ 13. lenient | m. permissive |
| _____ 14. rigid | n. large pot |
| _____ 15. malicious | o. ponder |
| _____ 16. ecstatic | p. shining |
| _____ 17. cauldron | q. disapproval |
| _____ 18. confiscate | r. cheerful |
| _____ 19. outwit | s. genetically altered |
| _____ 20. prediction | t. firm, inflexible |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You will have names left over.

- a. Harry Potter
- b. Ron Weasley
- c. muggles
- d. Aunt Petunia
- e. Uncle Vernon
- f. Dudley Dursley
- g. Professor Snape
- h. Professor Lupin
- i. Hedwig
- j. Hermione Granger
- k. Lord Voldemort
- l. Peter Pettigrew
- m. Neville Longbottom
- n. Sirius Black
- o. Cornelius Fudge

- _____ 1. Non-magical people; ordinary human beings
- _____ 2. A werewolf
- _____ 3. He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named; the personification of evil
- _____ 4. The professor who nurses a grudge against Harry's father, James Potter
- _____ 5. Harry's owl
- _____ 6. The novel's hero, a brave and heroic thirteen-year-old orphan
- _____ 7. Harry's godfather, who can turn into a large black dog
- _____ 8. The man who betrayed Harry's parents and caused their death
- _____ 9. Harry's closest friend, a loyal, redheaded young man Harry's own age
- _____ 10. The Minister of Magic

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Supply a term to complete each of the following statements. Place your answers in the blanks provided in the sentences.

- 1. The Dursleys hate and fear Harry because of his _____.
- 2. _____ are the creatures used to deliver messages and gifts in the wizard world.
- 3. A " _____ " is a message that screams at its recipient.
- 4. Hermione buys a large, fierce cat named _____.
- 5. Ron has a worn and tired-looking rat named _____.
- 6. When Harry collapses on the train after meeting the dementors for the first time, Professor Lupin gives him _____ to eat to help him recover.
- 7. During the first Quidditch match, hundreds of dementors appear and Harry plummets off his _____ to the ground.
- 8. On Christmas, Fred and George Weasley give Harry the magical _____, enabling him to sneak out to Honeyduke's candy shop.
- 9. A mysterious benefactor gives Harry a new broomstick, a _____, the finest one available.
- 10. To Hagrid's despair, his hippogriff, _____, is sentenced to die.

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. In the beginning of the novel, Harry inflates Aunt Marge and runs away from the Dursleys.

- _____ 2. Professor Trelawney reads in the tea leaves that Harry will soon die.
- _____ 3. In Hagrid's class, everyone but Harry and Professor Snape get to tame the shape-shifting boggart by projecting their worst fears onto it.
- _____ 4. Since his uncle never signed his permission slip, Harry can't fly to Paris with his friends during Christmas vacation.
- _____ 5. Harry overhears his teachers explaining that Black and James Potter, Harry's father, had been best friends; Black had served as his best man at the wedding and as Harry's godfather.
- _____ 6. Ron wakes up to find Voldemort standing over him with a knife.
- _____ 7. Gryffindor wins the Quidditch Cup, to enormous acclaim and joy.
- _____ 8. The werewolf Scabbers grabs Ron and drags him to the Shrieking Shack, a room under the Whomping Willow.
- _____ 9. Sirius Black offers Harry a home with him during vacations.
- _____ 10. Near the end of the novel, dementors appear and surround Black. Harry saves the day by conjuring a Patronus, a beautiful stag.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Explain why Harry rescues Sirius Black and helps him escape.
- 2. Why do so many people like Harry? Describe at least three of his admirable character traits.
- 3. Describe the hardships Harry faces and how he deals with them.
- 4. Explain how Harry came to be living with his aunt, uncle, and cousin.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Underline a word or phrase to complete each of the following statements.

1. Harry is picked up by a magical bus and learns that Sirius Black is an extremely dangerous magician escaped from (**Hogwarts School, Azkaban Fortress**).
2. Harry enjoys his brief vacation before school starts by renting rooms in (**Diagon Alley, Privet Drive**) and exploring the magical area.
3. On the train to Hogwarts, the kids meet Professor Lupin, who helps Harry recover after he collapses during an encounter with a (**dementor, werewolf**), the dreaded Azkaban guards.
4. Professor Trelawney reads in the (**tea leaves, stars**) that Harry will soon die.
5. During Hagrid's lesson with (**hippogriffs, Crookshanks**), Harry tames the beast, but fellow student Draco Malfoy is badly injured in his own encounter with the animal.
6. During the first (**Quidditch, football**) match, hundreds of dementors appear and Harry plummets off his broomstick.
7. Harry overhears his teachers explaining that Black and James Potter, Harry's father, had been best friends; Black had served as his best man at the wedding and is Harry's (**godfather, teacher**).
8. A mysterious person gives Harry a new (**Invisibility Cloak, broomstick**), a Firebolt, the finest available.
9. The House of (**Gryffindor, Ravenclaw**) wins the Quidditch Cup, to their enormous joy.
10. The black dog grabs Ron and drags him to the Shrieking Shack, a room beneath (**the Whomping Willow, Azkaban Fortress**).

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each and explain why it is important in the story.

1. Peter Pettigrew

2. Crookshanks

3. Scabbers

4. Sirius Black

5. The Shrieking Shack

Part III: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left. You will have names left over.

- a. Harry Potter
- b. Ron Weasley
- c. Muggles
- d. Peeves

- e. Uncle Vernon
- f. Dumbledore
- g. Professor Snape
- h. Professor Lupin
- i. Hedwig
- j. Hermione Granger
- k. Draco Malfoy
- l. Peter Pettigrew
- m. Crookshanks
- n. Sirius Black
- o. Cornelius Fudge

- _____ 1. Kindly professor who unfortunately turns into a werewolf every month.
- _____ 2. The headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry
- _____ 3. The wizard who betrayed the Potters
- _____ 4. Scabbers' owner, a member of a large family of witches and wizards
- _____ 5. The former prisoner of Azkaban who sends Harry his new broom
- _____ 6. The school's poltergeist
- _____ 7. The professor who believes Sirius Black betrayed the Potters
- _____ 8. The boy who demands Buckbeak the hippogriff be killed
- _____ 9. The novel's hero, a brave and compassionate thirteen-year-old wizard
- _____ 10. The Minister of Magic

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Professor Lupin, James Potter, Sirius Black, and Peter Pettigrew can all transform into animals. Explain how each animal matches its human counterpart.
- 2. Describe how Harry is heroic.
- 3. Summarize the novel's plot, including all the main events.
- 4. Explain what function Professor Trelawney fulfills in the novel.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

1. a
2. s
3. p
4. j
5. c
6. k
7. q
8. o
9. r
10. d
11. b
12. f
13. m
14. t
15. e
16. i
17. n
18. h
19. g
20. l

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

1. c
2. h
3. k
4. g
5. i
6. a
7. n
8. l
9. b
10. o

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

1. magical powers
2. Owls
3. Howler
4. Crookshanks
5. Scabbers
6. chocolate
7. broomstick
8. Marauder's Map
9. Firebolt
10. Buckbeak

Part III: True/False (20 points)

1. T
2. T

3. F
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. T

Part IV: Essays (40 points)

Answer will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

1. Azkaban Fortress
2. Diagon Alley
3. Dementor
4. tea leaves
5. hippogriffs
6. Quidditch
7. godfather
8. broomstick
9. Gryffindor
10. Whomping Willow

Part II: Identification (20 points)

1. Peter Pettigrew is the warlock who betrayed Harry's parents to their death at Voldemort's hands. A former classmate of Harry's father, James, Pettigrew is a cowardly, sneaky traitor.
2. Crookshanks is Hermione's large orange cat who helps Sirius Black track Peter Pettigrew in his disguise as Scabbers the rat. Black commends Crookshanks for his bravery and intelligence.
3. Scabbers is Peter Pettigrew's disguise. Pettigrew transforms into a rat (Scabbers) and is adopted by the Weasleys, eventually being handed down to Ron. This enables Pettigrew to stay close to Harry and spy on him.
4. Sirius Black is Harry's godfather, his parents' closest friend. At first, everyone assumes that Black is an arch-villain who betrayed the Potters to Voldemort, but by the end of the novel, Harry, Ron, Hermione, Lupin, and Dumbledore—but not the representatives of the Ministry of Magic—understand that Black has in fact been loyal to the Potters and has done his best to protect Harry from evil.
5. The Shrieking Shack is the small hovel built on Dumbledore's orders to shelter Remus Lupin during his monthly transformations into a werewolf when he was a student at

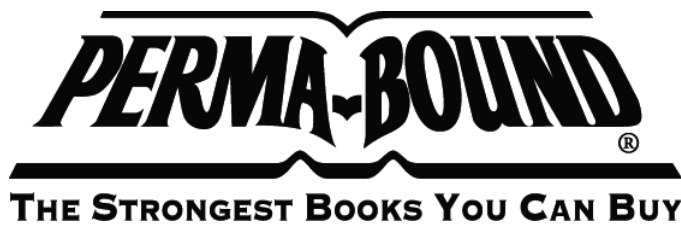
Hogwarts. The truth emerges as Harry, Hermione, Ron, Black, Pettigrew, and Snape confront each other in the Shack.

Part III: Matching (20 points)

1. h
2. f
3. l
4. b
5. n
6. d
7. g
8. k
9. a
10. o

Part IV: Essays (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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