

BOOK KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

Important Information

Plot

As a baby, Harry Potter finds himself on the doorstep of the Dursleys household and is subsequently raised by his uncle and auntie. He suffers a torrid childhood where he is bullied by Vernon's son Dudley and treated unkindly. Before his eleventh birthday, Harry receives letter after letter but he is unable to open them. When finally he does, he finds out that he can attend Hogwarts - a school for wizards. Thus begins his incredible journey, meeting friends Hagrid, Ron and Hermione along the way.

Themes

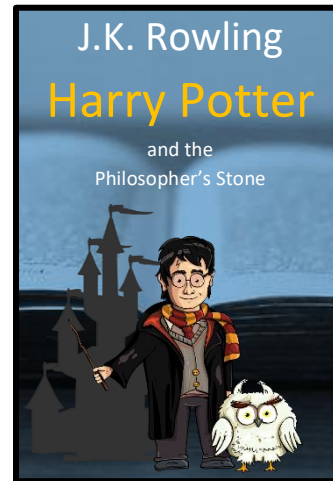
Love, Choice, Rebellion, Humility, Friendship, Life Vs Death and Power.

Setting

The Dursleys live in Little Whinging, Surrey where the story starts but soon Harry travels with Hagrid to Gringotts (a bank), Diagon Alley (to find a wand) and then eventually to King's Cross train station in London where he is able to magically transport himself to Hogwarts. The school is set in the highlands of Scotland, next to a loch called Black Lake and near the Forbidden Forest. The grounds have a huge Quidditch pitch which is featured in some of the chapters, as well as Hagrid's hut and surrounding gardens.

Characters

Harry Potter	Protagonist - An 11-year-old boy with a scar on his head who is already well-known for surviving an attack on him as a baby.
Hermione Granger	An excellent student who follows the rules and can be bossy.
Ron Wesley	Ginger-haired boy from a poorer family than most at Hogwarts.
Professor Dumbledore	Headmaster of Hogwarts, wizard and Voldemort's only feared enemy.
Voldemort	Antagonist - He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named rose to power in the 1970s and 1980s and, during his reign of terror, only Hogwarts was safe. He was torn from power and has been gathering strength ever since ready to steal the Philosopher's Stone.
Hagrid	A giant who helps and befriends Harry.
Draco Malfoy	Antagonist - Member of Slytherin who takes a dislike to Harry.
Professor McGonagall	Head of Gryffindor house and able to turn into a cat.
Professor Snape	Antagonist - Head of Slytherin who shows favouritism to Malfoy.
Professor Quirrell	Quirrell is the Defence Against the Dark Arts professor.
Neville Longbottom	Gryffindor student who is nervous, forgetful and often clumsy.
Vernon Dursley	Antagonist - Harry's uncle who spoils Dudley and is mean to Harry.
Petunia Dursley	Harry's auntie who is also unkind to Harry.
Dudley Dursley	Harry's cousin and son of Vernon who gets special treatment.
Hedwig	A snowy owl that Hagrid gives Harry for his birthday.
Mr Ollivander	Owner of a wand shop in Diagon Alley.
Fred & George Weasley	Third-year students and twin brothers of Ron Weasley.
James Potter	Harry's father who died when he was a baby.
Lily Potter	Harry's mother who died when he was a baby.



Quotes

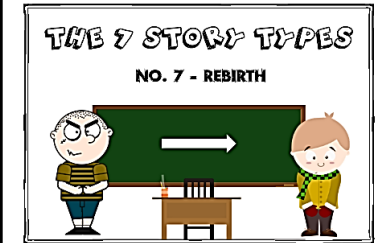
"It is very curious indeed that you should be destined for this wand when its brother--why, its brother gave you that scar...Curious indeed how these things happen. The wand chooses the wizard, remember..."

"Always use the proper name for things. Fear of a name increases fear of the thing itself."

"I wouldn't be surprised if today was known as Harry Potter day in the future--there will be books written about Harry--every child in our world will know his name!"



Name of Book: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
Date Published: 1997
Author: J.K. Rowling
Reading 'Reconsidered'
Spine: Complexity of Plot
Genre: Fantasy / Adventure



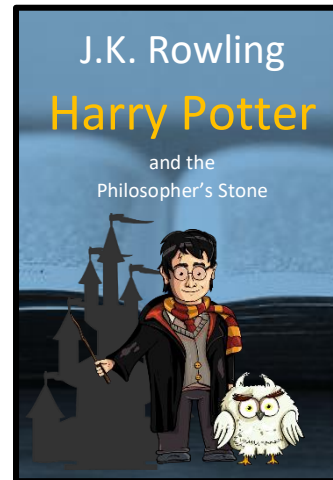
Key Vocabulary

abysmal	extremely bad / terrible / appalling
alchemy	the study of turning materials into gold
amble	a walk at a slow, relaxed pace, especially for pleasure
animagus	witch or wizard who possesses the magical ability to turn him or herself into an animal
askew	not in a straight or level position / crooked
berserk	wild or insane / from 'berserker' - an elite Viking warrior
bewilder	to cause someone or something to become confused
bezoar	a stone taken from the stomach of a goat; a key ingredient in many magical potions and a cure for most poisons
biased	unfairly against something / believing in only one point of view
boater	a stiff, straw hat
centaur	creature with a torso/head of a human and a body/legs of a horse
chipolata	a small, pork sausage
chortle	laugh in a noisy, gleeful way
confiscate	to take something off someone with authority
contrary	opposite in nature, direction, or meaning
crane	stretch out one's body or neck in order to see something
cringe	to feel disgust or embarrassment

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Characters

Sorting Hat	A hat which magically sorts first-year students into houses.
Molly & Percy Weasley	Kind parents of Ron Weasley who help Harry get to Hogwarts.
Mr Filch	Caretaker of Hogwarts on the lookout for students breaking the rules. Can often be found with Mrs Norris (his cat).
Nicolas Flamel	A famous alchemist and friend of Dumbledore.
Oliver Wood	Third-year student / captain of the Gryffindor Quidditch team.
Lee Jordan	Third-year student / commentator for Quidditch matches.
Seamus Finnigan	A 'half-blood' and one of Harry's roommates at Hogwarts.
Charlie Weasley	Ron's second oldest brother who was a prefect at Quidditch captain.
Vincent Crabbe	One of Draco Malfoy's friends from Slytherin.
Gregory Goyle	One of Draco Malfoy's friends from Slytherin.
Madam Hooch	Hogwarts flying instructor and Quidditch referee.
Nearly-Headless Nick	The Gryffindor house ghost.
The Bloody Baron	The Slytherin house ghost who can also control Peeves.
The Fat Lady	A portrait who opens the Gryffindor entrance with a password.
Fang	Hagrid's pet dog.
Fluffy	Giant three-headed dog who protects a trapdoor at Hogwarts.
Griphook	A goblin who works at Gringotts bank.
Madam Malkin	Owner of the shop where Harry buys his robes for Hogwarts.
Cornelius Fudge	Minister of Magic.
Madam Pomfrey	She is the head nurse at Hogwarts who patches up the students.
Norbert	A Norwegian-Ridgeback dragon given to Hagrid.
Firenze	Blond-haired, blue-eyed centaur who lives in the forest.
Ronan	Red-haired centaur who lives in the forest and does not trust humans.
Bane	Black-haired centaur who lives in the forest and does not trust humans.
Arabella Fig	The Dursley's neighbour who often babysits for Harry.
Professor Flitwick	Charms professor and head of Ravenclaw house.
Professor Sprout	Herbology professor and head of Hufflepuff house.
Professor Binns	History of Magic professor whose lessons are very boring.
Piers Polkiss	Dudley Dursley's best friend.
Peeves	A poltergeist who haunts Hogwarts and plays tricks on students.



What Can the Book Teach Us?

You never know what you are capable of until you try. The power of the choices you make can have an impact on our wellbeing, on our lives, and on the lives of others. Stay true to your friends. Stand up for what is right, even if you feel like you are standing up alone.

Key Vocabulary

crumpet	a small round bread, similar to a muffin
disgruntled	to make someone angry or dissatisfied.
diversion	an attempt to distract someone else
engulf	sweep over something so as to surround or cover it
ensnare	catch / trap something
fanatic	person who is overly enthusiasm about something
feeble	lacking physical strength, possibly as a result of age / illness
festoon	chain of flowers, leaves or ribbons hung as a decoration
galoshes	a waterproof overshoe, typically made of rubber
gangling	tall, thin, and awkward in movements
gibber	speaking so quickly (due to fear/shock) so as to not make sense
herbology	the study of magical herbs and plants
hoodlum	a person who engages in crime and violence
hygienic	being clean and so avoiding disease or illness
jostle	push, elbow, or bump against someone (often in a crowd)
ledger	a book/accounts to help with the organisation of money
luminous	giving off light; bright or shining
mangled	destroy or severely damage by tearing or crushing
marmalade	preserve made from citrus fruit, especially bitter oranges
miniscule	extremely small / tiny
monkshood	plant used for magical potions (also known as wolfsbane)
muggle	a non-magical person
mystified	bewildered or confused
ornate	highly decorated to look pleasing
pewter	grey metal partly made from tin and copper
phial	small cylindrical glass bottle used for potions or medicines
phoenix	a mythical creature who consumes itself in fire
pliable	easily bent; flexible
prefect	a student in his or her fifth year at Hogwarts who is given additional authority by the head of each house
riffraff	the lowest class of society; worthless
sickle	wizarding money made of silver; 17 sickles to a galleon
tawny	a yellow-brown colour often used to describe feathers
transfiguration	the magical art of turning one object into another

Context – Rowling has said she was a fan of the works of C. S. Lewis as a child, and mentions the influence of The Chronicles of Narnia on her work: "I found myself thinking about the wardrobe route to Narnia when Harry is told he has to hurl himself at a barrier in King's Cross station - it dissolves and he's on platform Nine and Three-Quarters, and there's the train for Hogwarts." The Sword in the Stone, with Arthur, who is a small scruffy-haired orphan, meets the wizard Merlin (who has an owl and acts, much like Dumbledore, in the manner of an "absent-minded professor) who takes him to a castle to educate him. Other books which have similar themes are J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings series with books filled with dragons, wizards and beasts, Roald Dahl's horrid families like the Dursleys in books such as Matilda, James and the Giant Peach and George's Marvellous Medicine. Before the arrival of J. K. Rowling, Britain's bestselling author was comic fantasy writer Terry Pratchett. His Discworld books, beginning with *The Colour of Magic* in 1983, saw a world of children's books filled with wizards and witches. He wrote 41 novels in total from the Discworld series and sold over 80 million copies worldwide.