

# Harry Potter

& The  
Philosopher's  
Stone

## Novel Study



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapters 1, 2 & 3

During this novel study students will learn how to summarise and analyse chapters in order to enhance reading comprehension.

Read Chapters 1-3 together and as a class.

Study summaries of chapters one (The Boy Who Lived) & two (The Vanishing Glass) first to give students context. Then students are expected to write a summary and analysis of chapter three (The Letters from No One).

Chapter Summary and Resources from: <http://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/about/>

### Chapter 1: The Boy Who Lived

#### Summary:

The novel opens with a description of the Dursley family of number four, Privet Drive. [Vernon Dursley](#), an overweight man with a bushy moustache, works as the director of a drill-making firm, while his wife, Petunia, is thin and blonde and has a particular penchant for spying on the neighbours. Their son, Dudley, is grotesquely fat, even as a toddler, and is spoiled rotten by both parents. The Dursley family is perfectly content to live normal and uninteresting lives. In fact, their greatest fear is that someone will find out that one of their relatives is not completely normal and uninteresting: Petunia's sister, [Lily Potter](#), is decidedly "unDursleyish," and, as a result, Petunia has not spoken to her in several years.

One morning, the Dursley family begins the day much as any other: Vernon gets dressed for work, while Petunia feeds Dudley and tells her husband about the latest gossip from the neighbours. Yet, as Vernon leaves for work, he notices something strange: a cat reading a map. When he takes a second look, however, the map has vanished, and the tabby cat is staring back at him. Convinced that he is imagining things, Vernon continues his drive to work. While stopped in traffic though, Vernon notices another strange thing: several people in the street wearing brightly coloured cloaks. Still, he decides to dismiss the odd occurrences and focus on the drill making scheduled for the day.

When Vernon leaves for his lunch break, he is again irritated to notice numerous people wearing brightly coloured cloaks and milling together excitedly. As he passes by, he overhears some of them talking about "the Potters," and, in a moment of terror, he wonders if they might be talking about his bizarre sister-in-law and her family. Although he tries not to worry about it – after all, "Potter" is a very common name – Vernon spends the rest of the day in a state of distraction until 5pm, when he can go home to talk to Petunia about the strange goings-on of the day. When he gets to his house, he is confronted by the same tabby cat as the morning, now sitting on his garden wall.

Petunia's day has been completely normal, and Vernon wonders if he should even bother telling her about the strange whispers about "the Potters." It must

have just been a coincidence. But still, the television news report was full of strange occurrences: showers of shooting stars and hundreds of owls flying during the day. Vernon wonders if the mention of the Potters was a coincidence after all. As he uneasily falls asleep, Vernon concludes that, even if those strange people in the cloaks were talking about his sister-in-law and her family, it would hardly have any effect on his life.

A few minutes before midnight, a tall, thin man named Albus Dumbledore suddenly appears on the street corner of Privet Drive. Using a silver “Put-Outer,” Dumbledore swiftly puts out all of the street lamps until the street is completely dark and then notices the tabby cat, still keeping watch on the corner. The cat transforms into a severe-looking woman with square glasses who Dumbledore refers to as [Professor McGonagall](#). Dumbledore and Professor McGonagall discuss the occurrences of the day and the rumoured disappearance of You-Know-Who, also known as [Voldemort](#), a dark wizard who has been in power in Britain for the past eleven years.

The subject turns to the Potter family, and Dumbledore informs Professor McGonagall that Lily and [James Potter](#) are both dead, murdered by Voldemort. Their infant son, Harry, however, somehow survived Voldemort’s killing curse and broke the dark wizard’s power. Dumbledore plans to leave Harry with the Dursleys; they are his only remaining relatives and will have to raise him until he is old enough to understand about the death of his parents and his magical abilities. Professor McGonagall vehemently protests Dumbledore’s decision, but Dumbledore explains that there is no one else. Moreover, by living with the Dursley’s, Harry will be protected from his own fame as “the boy-who-lived.”

A few moments later, a giant named [Hagrid](#) drives out of the sky on a flying motorcycle and hands Dumbledore the bundle of blankets containing the infant Harry. Dumbledore gently leaves the baby on the Dursleys’ doorstep with a letter of explanation, and Dumbledore, Professor McGonagall, and Hagrid leave the scene.

### **Analysis of Chapter 1:**

Rowling opens the book with a description of Vernon and [Petunia Dursley](#), two characters who are very obviously not the protagonists of the book. Although Rowling does not describe the Dursleys in truly malevolent terms – as she will later with Voldemort – their closed-mindedness and insistence on appearing “normal” are all expressed as negative characteristics. The Dursleys’ view of Lily Potter and her family is also portrayed in particularly negative terms. Because Petunia believes that her sister is a “freak,” she chooses to deny the bonds of family, bonds that should be much stronger than any judgmental disapproval.

With Dumbledore’s entrance onto the scene, it becomes clear that the Dursley family will never be able to be as normal as they wish to be. By leaving Harry on their doorstep, the Dursleys are forced to coexist with the “abnormality” of the Potter family that they have always sought to avoid. Significantly, Dumbledore’s decision to leave Harry with them serves two purposes. Not only does it allow Harry to grow up without being haunted by his fame in the wizarding world, but it actually punishes the Dursleys for their intolerance. If the Dursleys had been more accepting of Lily Potter and her lifestyle,

Dumbledore's decision to leave Harry with them would not have been such a life-changing inconvenience.

Dumbledore's presence in Little Whinging also introduces the readers to the magical world that Rowling describes in greater detail in later chapters. Dumbledore's sudden appearance on the street, his mysterious ability to turn out all of the street lamps, and his references to the evil Voldemort and his killing curse – everything hints at the amazing world in which Harry truly belongs. Similarly, Professor McGonagall's ability to transform into a cat and back reveals that the opportunities in this magical world are truly endless.

Yet, as Dumbledore clarifies, Harry is not yet prepared to deal with the wondrous magic of the wizarding world. Children with less traumatic backgrounds might be able to flourish from their infancy by staying in the wizarding world. Harry, on the other hand, has such a dark experience forming his first memories that he is far safer to himself if he grows up as a Muggle. In a sense, Harry must come of age before he can become a part of the magical world in which he is so important. And for Harry, this coming of age will occur in Chapter 2, with his eleventh birthday and invitation to Hogwarts.



Students sign up to Pottermore to experience the story in an online forum. Here is the link to Pottermore:

<https://www.pottermore.com/>



## Chapters 4, 5 & 6.

Tasks have been uploaded onto our learning platforms: KnowledgeNet & Edmodo.

Reading chapters 4, 5 & 6 as a class:

**Task 1:** View the chapter links below and read the summary and analysis of each chapter.

### Chapter 4:

**The Keeper of Keys:** <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/harrypotter/sec...>

### Chapter 5:

**Diagon Alley:** <http://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/section3/>

Visit Pottermore and go to Diagon Alley. Purchase the things you will need for Hogwarts, including your wands.

You will need to print off your wand descriptions and have them ready for your Technology lesson, as you will be designing and making your wands.

### Chapter 6-

**The Journey from Platform Nine and Three Quarters:**

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/harrypotter/sec...>

**Task 2:** Choose a chapter of your choice (4, 5 or 6) and write a summary and an analysis of that chapter.

**Task 3:** View the clips on KnowledgeNet or Edmodo. How is it similar or different from the novel? Write a comparison.

**Part 1:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0zRvWvBQN8>



**Part 2:** (Ignore the subtitles) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gOMfsWefVA>



**Part 3:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SafKm0tsSOw>



## Chapters 7, 8 & 9



### Chapter 7: The Sorting Hat

JK Rowling uses poetry and rhyme throughout the novel. When introducing the sorting hat, she uses a poem to explain what the sorting hat's role is at Hogwarts.

**Go onto Pottermore and get sorted into your House by the Sorting Hat.**

1. Do some research about the different Hogwarts Houses: Slytherin, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Gryffindor. Write a short overview of each house including who the house was named after and the general characteristics of the people within that house.
2. You were sorted into a house using Pottermore. Do you agree with where you were placed? Why/ why not?
3. Write your own poem/song about the sorting hat and your chosen house.

### Chapter 8: The Potions Master

What are your first impressions of Professor Snape?

Why did Professor Snape ridicule Harry in his first Potions lesson?

What do you think JK Rowling's intentions were for the reader of this chapter?

### Chapter 9: The Midnight Duel

Write a chapter summary and analysis of this chapter.

## Chapters 10, 11 & 12

### Chapter 10: Halloween

Write a summary and analysis of this chapter.

### Chapter 11: Quidditch

Explain the rules of Quidditch to a muggle. Write down the game rules.

#### Quidditch for Muggles:

Visit this website: <http://quidditch.org.au/>

As a year level we will be playing Quidditch using the rules and guidelines from the above website. You have already been sorted into your Houses, this will create the teams. Learn the rules, practise then... Lets Play Quidditch!

## Chapter 12: The Mirror of Erised

What would you see if you looked into the Mirror of Erised?  
Create an image to reflect this.

## Chapters 13 & 14.

Read chapters 13 & 14. Write an analysis of each chapter.

### Chapter 13: Nicholas Flamel

Harry and Ron were discussing what they would do with the Philosopher's Stone if they had it. What would you do if you possessed the Philosopher's Stone?

### Chapter Analysis:

Here are some resources and a template to assist you with writing an analysis.

**Analyse This: Write a Chapter Analysis that Will Amaze Your Teacher:**

<http://goo.gl/W1iWO7>

## Harry Potter & the Philosopher's Stone: Chapter Analysis Template

Year: \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Analysis

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title and Author:

Pages read

from

to

Write a significant passage that left an impression on you. This passage could address a character, a theme, or an incident. Make certain you copy this passage **exactly** as it is in the book **word-for-word**.

Explain why the passage is meaningful to you. (You could answer one or several of the following questions.)

**What connections can you make to your own life?**

**What other places or people could you compare this story to?**

**What other books or stories might you compare to this one?** \_\_\_\_\_



Write one open-ended discussion question based on the pages you read today. Make certain that you do not write a yes-or-no type question. Try to begin the question with **Why do you believe/think/feel...?** Or **How do you think/feel...?** You could also begin the question with **Explain why/how...or In your opinion why....**

--

Write a few questions based on the pages you read today. You could address these questions to the author or just state questions, which you would like to know the meaning behind.

--

Make a prediction. What do you think will happen during the next section/chapter you read?

--

**Chapter 14: Norbert the Norwegian Ridgeback**

What do you think will happen to Hermione and Harry now that they have been caught by Filch? Make a prediction.

**Chapter 15, 16 & 17**

## Chapter 15: The Forbidden Forest

Read the chapter then view this scene from the film. Describe the feelings and moods that were created from each. Were they different or similar? Explain why you think so.

Go to Pottermore and visit the Forbidden Forest:



## Chapter 16: Through the Trapdoor

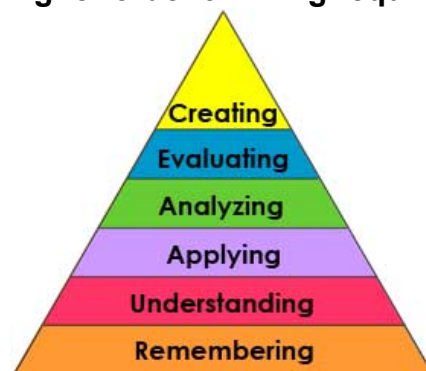
If you were to protect the Philosopher's Stone, what charms and obstacles would you put in place? Present your charms and obstacles in a creative way.

### Suggestions:

- Create a video or role play
- Make a map with illustrations
- Write a poem describing your charms and obstacles.
- Make a 3D model/ diorama
- Create a world in Minecraft with the charms and obstacles
- Use an app to create your charms or obstacles

**Remember we want you to climb the Bloom's Pyramid.**

**Higher order thinking required, create!**



**The final chapter ties all of the pieces together and answers all of the reader's questions from earlier chapters in the novel.**

- 4 Write a book report using the template provided:  
[http://www.abcteach.com/free/b/book\\_report\\_middle\\_mystery.pdf](http://www.abcteach.com/free/b/book_report_middle_mystery.pdf)

Name	Date
------	------

---

---

---

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 30 horizontal lines. The first 10 lines are solid black. The next 10 lines are dashed black. The final 10 lines are solid black.



## Main Character

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Main Character\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

## Main Character

[illegible]

Write a summary of the story, explaining the important events, clues, and action in this mystery.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 horizontal black lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of standard notebook paper. The lines are thin and extend from the left edge to the right edge. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

How did the mystery conclude? Were you surprised by the ending?



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

What is your opinion of this story? Would you recommend it to others? Why, or why not?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Novel Notes:

# Novel Notes: