

# HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

## CHAPTERS EIGHT TO ELEVEN



### CHAPTER EIGHT: THE POTIONS MASTER

#### SUMMARY

Harry tries to settle into life at Hogwarts. Harry studies planetary movements, Herbology, History of Magic, Charms, and Transfiguration. Like other students from Muggle families, Harry struggles to keep up with the workload while Hermione Granger seems to excel in every class. In Potions Class Professor Snape humiliates Harry by picking on him, calling him 'our new celebrity'. Hagrid invites Harry and Ron to tea and the two complain about how hard their classes are. While there, Harry notices a newspaper headline that says Vault 713 at Gringotts had been robbed. Harry realises this is the same vault Hagrid had emptied when they visited Diagon Alley, and Ron and Harry wonder what could have been inside the grubby little package.

#### What happens in this chapter?

1. Why do you think Snape hates Harry so much? Is it fair that he picks on him?
2. What do we think is inside the package Hagrid reviewed? Why might someone want to get their hands on it?
3. How are Harry's first days at Hogwarts? What are some of the things that he learns?
4. What do we think of the caretaker Mr Filch? What do you think his role will be in the following chapters?



#### VOCABULARY

**Stern** – serious or harsh in manner or behaviour.

*'She had a very stern face and Harry's first thought was that this was not someone to cross.'*

~

**Drone** – an unchanging intonation

*'Harry could hear the drone of hundreds of voices from a doorway on the right.'*

~

**Jolt** – an abrupt spasmodic movement

*'Harry's heart gave a horrible jolt.'*

~

**Bewitch** – cast a spell over someone or something

*'It's bewitched to look like the sky outside.'*

~

**Frayed** – worn away or tattered along the edges

*'The hat was patched and frayed and extremely dirty.'*

~

# CHAPTER NINE: THE MIDNIGHT DUEL

## Summary

During Harry's first Quidditch lesson Malfoy steals Neville's Rememberall (a ball that glows red when the owner has forgotten something). Harry tells Malfoy to give it back, but Malfoy instead throws the ball into the air. Harry, a natural at flying, soars into the air and catches it just before it hits the ground. Professor McGonagall witnesses this stunt and takes Harry to meet 'Wood', which Harry thinks is a stick she's going to beat him with. Wood is in fact the Gryffindor Quidditch Captain. Wood immediately puts Harry on the team as a Seeker.

Enraged, Malfoy challenges Harry to a midnight duel in the Trophy Room. When Harry, Ron, Neville and Hermione arrive at the trophy room they find they have been set up, and the four run away from Filch and end up in an unknown corridor that contains a large, three headed dog. The four flee in terror and run back to the safety of the common room.

## What happens in this chapter?

1. What is a Rememberall?
2. What are the qualities that make someone good at flying?
3. What does Harry and Draco's argument over the Rememberall tell us about each of their characters?
4. Do you think Hermione is right to try and stop Harry from engaging in dangerous behaviour?
5. What do the students find in the forbidden corridor? What do we think it is guarding?



## First Impressions

In this chapter we get to know a little bit more about what **Professor McGonagall** is like. How does she defy expectations in this chapter, and what does this tell us about her character? Do we think she



will be important to Harry in the coming chapters and books? Do we think that she is a good teacher?

## CHAPTER TEN: HALLOWEEN



### Summary

Harry receives a new Nimbus-2000 Broomstick from McGonagall, enraging Malfoy with jealousy. Harry is thrown into Quidditch practice and is kept busy by his work. Ron becomes annoyed with Hermione and says to Harry, 'it's no wonder no one can stand her' which she happens to overhear. Hermione then spends the rest of the day crying in the girls' toilets.

That evening during the Halloween feast, Professor Quirrell burst through the hall doors screaming that there is a troll in the dungeon before fainting. Dumbledore instructs the prefects to lead the students back to their dorms. Harry and Ron remember Hermione in the girls' bathroom and run to warn her. They find Hermione confronted by the troll, and Ron and Harry work together to defeat it. McGonagall finds the three and tells them off, but rewards Ron and Harry for their skill and bravery. The three become close friends after this.

### What happens in this chapter?

1. Do we think that Hermione is a good influence? What would happen to Ron and Harry if she wasn't around?
2. Explain the game of Quidditch. What are the rules?
3. What lie does Hermione tell and why does she tell it?
4. Why do we think the troll is loose?
5. What does McGonagall's reaction tell us about her values and her character?





# CHAPTER ELEVEN: QUIDDITCH



## Summary

It's November and Quidditch season is beginning. Hermione helps Harry to keep up with his homework while he trains. Snape confiscates a book from Harry. When Harry goes to retrieve it, he witnesses Filch bandaging a cut on Snape's leg, and overhears him talking about Fluffy. Harry believes Snape had been trying to get to the package the dog was guarding.

During the Quidditch game, Harry's broom is hexed and it tries to throw him off. Hermione thinks Snape is responsible and sets fire to his cape to distract him. Harry falls towards the ground and catches the Snitch with his mouth, winning the game for Gryffindor. When the three tell Hagrid about Snape later in the day, Hagrid accidentally lets loose the name of Nicolas Flamel before realising he's said too much.



## What happens in this chapter?

1. Why does Snape take house points from Harry?
2. What influence do Harry and Ron have on Hermione?
3. Why is Snape's leg hurt? What does Harry overhear?
4. Why is this Quidditch game important and what is Gryffindor's secret weapon?
5. Why does Lee Jordan keep getting told off?
6. What secret does Hagrid accidentally reveal?

# THEMES

## Friendship and Loyalty

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*But from that moment on, Hermione Granger became their friend. There are some things you can't share without ending up liking each other, and knocking out a twelve foot mountain troll is one of them.*

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- There are quite a few examples in these chapters of people sticking up for their friends. Can you think of any examples? Harry, Ron and Hermione's friendship develops in these chapters, how can we tell this?
- What are the benefits of having friends? How does J. K. Rowling show us that it is important to have people that care for you? What happens to people that don't have that?

## Fairness

- There is a lot of debate within the books about what is fair and what isn't. Both Professor McGonagall and Professor Snape are biased in their treatment of Harry but in different ways. Do we think one is fairer than the other? Why?
- When has Harry received unfair treatment in the past?

## Wrong and Right

- Harry's fight with Draco Malfoy seems to be a fight between right and wrong. Like many other moments in the series, Harry is faced with a choice: whether to do the right thing or to be a bystander like everyone else. Harry chooses to fight Malfoy and is rewarded for it.
- Are there times when doing the right thing is not rewarded? Should we still do the right thing even if there is no reward?
- What would you do in that situation? Would you act or standby and watch?
- These choices right now seem small, but Harry will be faced with choices that have bigger and bigger consequences throughout the book. Is it important that he *always* makes the right decision? Or do the small choices not matter as much? Where are some other instances in the book where characters have had to make a choice between right and wrong? Do we think the course of the book would have changed if the choice had been different?

## HOMEWORK

### TASK 1 – CREATIVE

Design a magical creature! This week you can either write a description or draw me a picture of a magical creature that you have created. They can be kind and gentle or mean and scary, they can look like a bird or a dog, swim in the sea or fly in the sky, or they can do all of that at once! I want you to name it too!

### TASK 2 – ANALYSIS

To what extent is friendship important? Pick a moment from the chapters we have just discussed and explore whether friendship is important or not. Use quotes from the text to support your argument!