

# HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

## CHAPTERS FIFTEEN TO SEVENTEEN

### VOCABULARY

**Sallow** – unhealthy looking

*'Professor Quirrell, in his absurd turban, was talking to a teacher with greasy black hair, a hooked nose, and sallow skin.'*

~

**Topple** – fall down, as if collapsing

*'When he reached Harry's name he gave an excited squeak and toppled out of sight.'*

~

**Rummage** – a thorough search for something

*'There was a sudden rummaging for quills and parchment.'*

~

**Prod** – poke or thrust abruptly

*'Harry had caught Ron prodding Dean's poster of West Ham soccer team, trying to make the players move.'*

~

**Wrench** – twist or pull violently or suddenly

*'She wrenched open doors and marched along corridors.'*

~



### CHAPTER FIFTEEN: THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

#### SUMMARY

HARRY, HERMIONE, NEVILLE AND MALFOY EACH RECEIVE DETENTION FOR BEING OUT OF BED ON THE NIGHT OF NORBERT'S ESCAPE. THEY ARE TAKEN TO HAGRID'S HUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND LED INTO THE FORBIDDEN FOREST. HAGRID TELLS THE GROUP THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR AN INJURED UNICORN. HARRY WITNESSES A HOODED FIGURE DRINKING BLOOD FROM A DEAD UNICORN. THE FIGURE STARTS TO COME TOWARDS HIM, BEFORE HE IS SAVED BY FIRENZE THE CENTAUR.

FIRENZE EXPLAINS THAT WHOEVER DRINKS UNICORN BLOOD BECOMES IMMORTAL, BUT THEY ARE CURSED WITH A 'HALF-LIFE'. FIRENZE IMPLIES THAT THE HOODED FIGURE IS VOLDEMORT.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why does Neville get a detention too?
2. What are some of the creatures that Hagrid says live in the forest?
3. Why does Neville send up a distress signal?
4. Why is it bad to slay a unicorn, and what is the blood used for?

# CHAPTER SIXTEEN: THOUGHT THE TRAPDOOR

## Summary

While the three take their exams, Harry is frustrated that Ron and Hermione don't seem as worried about the Stone as he is. Harry suddenly realises that it's odd that Hagrid should be given a dragon egg just when he wanted one. When they question Hagrid, he reveals that the stranger who gave him the egg wanted to know about Fluffy and how to get past him. The three run to tell Dumbledore but discover that he is away on business. Harry resolves to reach the stone before Snape or Voldemort do.

Once they reach the trapdoor, they discover that Fluffy has already been charmed. They jump through the door and find themselves in a snakelike plant. Hermione sets them free and they move into another chamber. Each chamber requires the trio to work together to move through, solving various problems. Ron and Hermione remain in the previous chambers while Harry continues forward.

## What happens in this chapter?

1. Why does Harry find it hard to study for his exams?
2. What does Harry's scar hurting mean? When has this happened before?
3. How do you get past Fluffy?
4. Who tries to stop the three from leaving for the stone?
5. What is the spell Hermione uses on Neville and what does it do?
6. What are each of the tasks and how does the trio overcome them?

## VOCABULARY

**Burly** – muscular and heavy built

*'But Wood turned out to be a person, a burly fifth-year boy who came out of Flitwick's class looking confused.'*

~

**Smarmy** – unpleasantly and excessively suave or ingratiating

*'Gregory the Smarmy'*

~

**Ember** – a hot, smouldering fragment of wood left from a fire

*'A few embers were still glowing in the fireplace, turning all the armchairs into hunched black shadows.'*

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# CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: THE MAN WITH TWO FACES



## Summary

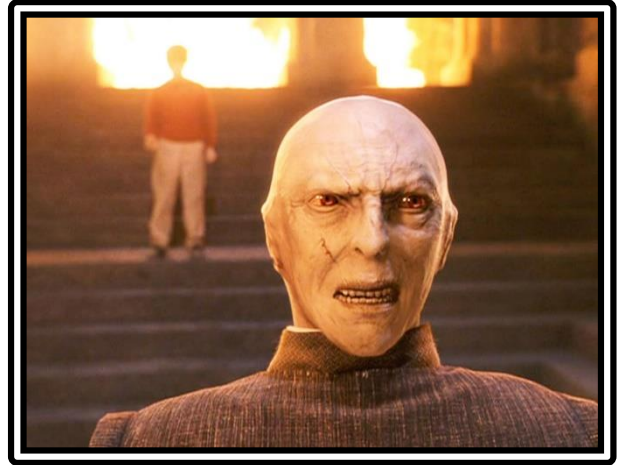
Harry comes face to face with Professor Quirrell. He explains that he was the one who hexed Harry's broom, and that Snape was trying to save him with a countercurse. He also reveals he was the one who let the troll loose on Halloween. Harry realises the Mirror of Erised is behind Quirrell and he looks into it, the reflection smiling and dropping the stone into his pocket. Quirrell takes off his turban to reveal Voldemort on the back of his head, who begins to speak to Harry, asking him to hand over the stone. Quirrell tries to grab Harry but finds that touching him makes his skin blister. Harry grabs Quirrell by the arm to stop him performing a curse and then passes out from the pain in his scar.

When he wakes up, Harry is in the hospital wing with Dumbledore, who explains that he has been out cold for three days. He says that Quirrell is dead but Voldemort is not, and that the stone will be destroyed. Hagrid visits Harry and gives him a photo album of his parents.

At the end of year feast, Slytherin is set to win the house cup. However, with some last minute awards, Gryffindor wins thanks to Harry, Ron and Hermione. Harry packs up his belongings and prepares to head home with Uncle Vernon.

What happens in this chapter?

- Who do we find out was behind everything all along? Is there any evidence in the book so far to suggest that they were responsible? Do we view past events differently now we have this knowledge?
- Why isn't Quirrell able to kill Harry?
- What happened to the Stone? What will happen to Flamel and his wife?
- Why does Snape hate Harry's father so much? Do we think this is fair?
- Who wins the house cup and why?
- Why does Harry think the summer is going to be fun?



## THEMES

### Power

*“There is no good and evil, there is only power, and those too weak to see it.” – Voldemort*

*‘As much money and life as you could want! The two things most human beings would choose above all -- the trouble is, humans do have a knack of choosing precisely those things that are worst for them.’ – Dumbledore*

The fight between good and evil is set up as central in the books, and one major part of distinguishing between good and evil characters is the way they treat power. Harry is set up in direct opposition to Voldemort because he does not wish to achieve power, even though he is capable of it. Remember how Olivander said that he would be capable of ‘great things’, just as Voldemort also did ‘great things’? Harry’s desires (as represented by the Mirror of Erised) are to have a family and to be loved. His modest and humble nature means that he only ever wishes to use his power to save and protect others. Voldemort on the other hand repeatedly sacrifices others in order to achieve total power

for himself. Harry is able to find the Sorcerer’s Stone because he does not wish to use it. ‘You see, only one who wanted to *find* the Stone — find it, but not use it — would be able to get it.’

Looking at Dumbledore’s quote above, do we think that having power is a good thing? Or does it corrupt us? Think about Dumbledore himself. He is described as being the only wizard Voldemort is afraid of. Unlike Voldemort, Dumbledore uses his power for good, protecting muggles and wizards alike from the powers of Voldemort.

### Love, Friendship and Family

*‘He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark. Not a scar, no visible sign... to have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever. It is in your very skin. Quirrell, full of hatred, greed, and ambition, sharing his soul with Voldemort, could not touch you for this reason. It was agony to touch a person marked by something so good.’ – Dumbledore*

J.K. Rowling shows us in this novel that the most powerful form of magic is love. Quirrell is unable to hurt Harry because of the love that runs through him thanks to his mother, Lily’s sacrifice. The friendship between Harry, Ron and Hermione is also shown as instrumental. Each one of the trio uses their own special skills to get through the chambers that protect the Stone. This teaches us that we cannot ever work alone, that in order to succeed we need to have friends and love around us. Voldemort, on the other hand, repeatedly sacrifices those around him in order to seize power. He has no friends, family or love, and this is what makes Harry so impervious to his power.

Hermione says to Harry "How do you think you'd get to the Stone without us?", showing the importance of friendship. Are there any other moments within the book that show us this? Can you think of a moment in your life where you have been grateful for the presence of friends?

## Death

Accepting death is something else that distinguishes Voldemort from the other characters within the play. Faced with the death of his parents at an early age, Harry understands that people that love you live on long after they are dead through the impact they have had on you. Although she is dead, Lily's love for Harry stays with him, protecting him from harm. Voldemort's fear of death is what drives his evil actions.

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*'To the well organised mind, death is but the next great adventure.'* -  
*Dumbledore*

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## HOMEWORK

PICK ONE OF THE THEMES THAT WE HAVE LOOKED AT THROUGHOUT THE BOOK AND TELL ME WHY YOU THINK THAT IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THEME. THINK ABOUT EXAMPLES FROM THE BOOKS THAT YOU CAN USE TO DISCUSS THE THEMES. THINK ABOUT HOW THAT THEME INFLUENCES THE PLOT, THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHARACTERS AND THE TONE OF THE NOVEL.