

# Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

## Lesson Two

### Chapters Five - Eight



## Chapter Five - The Whomping Willow

### Summary

The happiest month of Harry's life spent at the Burrow comes to an end, and the whole family prepares to head back to Hogwarts. After running incredibly late, Harry and Ron end up trapped on the wrong side of the barrier at platform 9 and three quarters. Desperate to get to Hogwarts, the two decide to hijack their father's car and fly it to school. Just as Hogwarts comes into sight, the car begins to fail. Losing control of the plummeting car, Harry and Ron fall into the vicious branches of the Whomping Willow, a tree that seems intent on killing them. The car, having had enough, tips the boys out onto the ground and drives away into the forest.

Ron and Harry arrive just in time for the sorting, but are waylaid by Snape who takes them to his office in the dungeon to question them. It turns out that their escapade had made it into the newspaper as muggles had witnessed it. Snape brings McGonagall and Dumbledore to his office to question the two boys. Thinking that they're going to be expelled, Harry and Ron are relieved when they are instead both given a detention. When they return to the Gryffindor common room, they are greeted with applause and congratulations, with assurances from the other boys that their entrance will go down in Hogwarts history.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why do you think the barrier was closed?
2. Do you think Harry and Ron made the right choice to fly the car? What else could they have done?
3. How would you feel in Snape's dungeon if you were Harry and Ron?
4. What would you think if you saw a flying car in the sky?
5. What rule do the boys break when they fly the car?



## Chapter Six – Gilderoy Lockhart



### Summary

The next morning, things go from bad to worse. At breakfast, Ron receives a Howler from his mother, which screams at him in front of the whole school. Harry, Ron and Hermione then receive their schedules for the term and head off to double Herbology. Just before the lesson begins, Harry has a rather uncomfortable conversation with Gilderoy Lockhart. During the lesson, the students learn how to repot a Mandrake.

During Transfiguration with McGonagall, Ron experiences difficulties with his broken wand and Harry can't seem to remember anything he learnt last year. During lunch, the trio are approached by a first year Colin Creevey who asks to take a photo of Harry. They are interrupted by Lockhart, who once again assumes Harry is pandering to his fans, and is escorted to his first Defence Against the Dark Arts class. Lockhart gives the students a quiz about himself, before proceeding to unleash a hoard of Cornish Pixies on the class, fleeing the room when he is unable to stop them from terrorising the students and destroying the classroom.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why do we think Professor Sprout was angry with Lockhart?
2. Why is Harry's conversation with Lockhart uncomfortable?
3. What is a Mandrake and what are its properties?
4. What kind of teacher is Gilderoy Lockhart?



## Chapter Seven – Mudbloods and Murmurs



### Summary

Harry is rudely awakened at the crack of dawn by Gryffindor Quidditch captain Oliver Wood for early morning practice. On his way to the field, Harry is ambushed by Colin Creevey who hits Harry with a barrage of questions. Once on the field, Wood bores the team with an hour of strategy talk, before the team heads out onto the field. Once there, the Slytherin team makes an unexpected entrance and reveals their new seeker, Draco Malfoy, and the generous gift his father had made to the team – a whole set of brand new Nimbus Two Thousand and Ones. Malfoy calls Hermione a ‘filthy little mudblood’, causing a fight to break out, resulting in Ron getting hit with some kind of spell. After a moment of tense silence, Ron begins to vomit slugs out of his mouth and onto his lap.

Harry and Hermione take Ron to Hagrid’s in order to get help. After sitting down with Ron, Hagrid shows them three large pumpkins he’s been growing for the school Halloween Feast. Once back at school, McGonagall informs Ron that his detention will be with Mr Filch, polishing the silverware. Harry’s, however, will be with Lockhart, answering his fan mail. While serving detention with Lockhart, Harry hears a chilling and threatening voice which Lockhart doesn’t seem to notice.

What happens in this chapter?

1. What is so bad about the insult that Malfoy uses against Hermione?
2. What spell does Hagrid use on the pumpkins in his garden?
3. Why does McGonagall pick those specific detentions for Ron and Harry?
4. What does the voice say to Harry in Lockhart’s office? Who do we think the voice belongs to?
5. How would we feel if we were Harry and we heard the voice?



# Chapter Eight - The Deathday Party



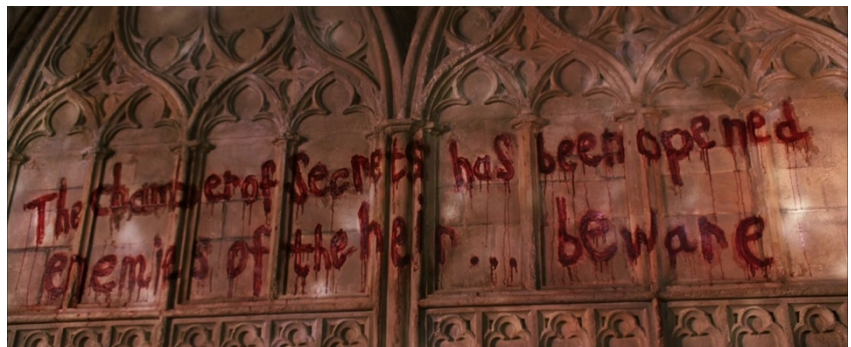
## Summary

October is in full swing when Harry, on his way back from a particularly damp and depressing round of Quidditch practice, bumps into Nearly Headless Nick. Nick informs Harry that he has just been rejected from the Headless Hunt as his head is not quite detached from his body. Filch stumbles upon Harry who, having played Quidditch in the rain, is dripping considerable amounts of mud on the floor. Filch drags Harry to his office in order to make an example of him. While Filch leaves the office to tend to Peeves, Harry notices an envelope on Filch's desk filled with parchment purporting to teach bad wizards how to be better at magic.

On the way out of Filch's office, Nearly Headless Nick invites Harry, Ron and Hermione to his 500<sup>th</sup> Deathday Party. Feeling awkward, Harry agrees. Once there, Harry immediately regrets accepting the invitation. The atmosphere is cold, mournful and uncomfortable, and Harry can't stop thinking about the Halloween feast taking place upstairs. While at the 'party', Harry once again hears the icy voice he heard in Lockhart's office. Following the voice, Harry, Ron and Hermione are led to a wall on which large letters are written, spelling 'The chamber of secrets has been opened. Enemies of the heir, beware.' Underneath the message is Filch's cat, frozen and suspended by her tail.

What happens in this chapter?

1. How do we feel about Filch after this chapter? Is our impression of him altered at all?
2. How is suspense built in this chapter?
3. What is funny about Headless Nick's deathday party?
4. What do we think of Draco's comment at the end of this chapter?
5. What do we think will happen next?



# Themes

## Principals

- A lot of the characters in *Chamber of Secrets* have principles: Dobby has total faith in Harry, Harry believes in loyalty and protecting his friends. What about characters like Professor Lockhart? Does Lockhart have principles? In what does he hold real faith? How does he show that faith?
- What about Draco Malfoy and his father, Lucius? What are their principals?

## Prejudice

- In this book we are introduced to the existence of prejudice in the wizarding world. What kind of people are victims of prejudice, and how does this manifest in the book?
- Think about characters like Hagrid, Dobby, Harry and Hermione. What kind of different prejudices do they all face? The Weasley's too?

*I mean, the rest of us know it doesn't make any difference at all. Look at Neville Longbottom - he's pure-blood and he can hardly stand a cauldron the right way up."*

*"An' they haven't invented a spell our Hermione can't do," said Hagrid proudly, making Hermione go a brilliant shade of magenta.*

## Vocabulary

- Splutter
- Innumerable
- Timid
- Salamander
- Podium
- Lamented

## Homework

Imagine that you are an investigative writer for the Hogwarts School Newspaper. Write a report on the appearance of the message in the hallway at Hogwarts. Speculate about who you think might be involved, what the message might mean, and what will happen next. Conduct interviews with students and staff, and see what you can find out about the incident.