

# Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

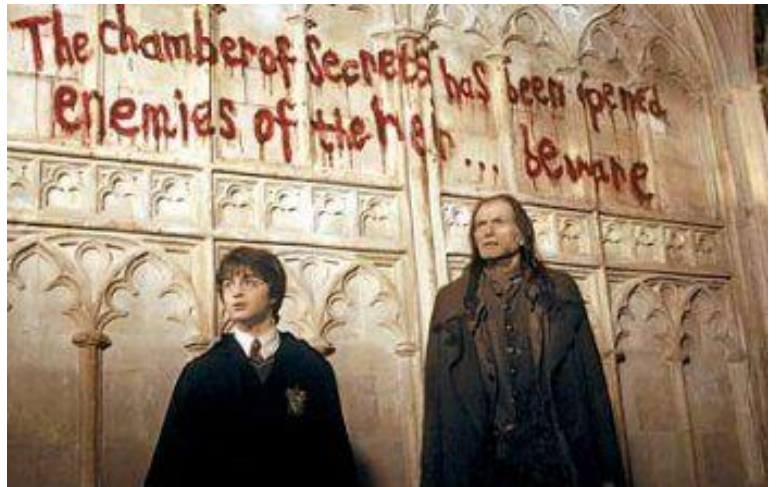
## Lesson Three

### Chapters Nine to Eleven

#### Chapter Nine – The Writing on the Wall

##### Summary

Dumbledore immediately escorts Harry, Ron, Hermione and Filch to Lockhart's office where he determines that Filch's cat is not dead, but petrified. Filch demands Harry is punished but there is no evidence that Harry did anything wrong. The three are released from the office and head back to their dorm room.



In the following days, Filch is in a terrible mood and the culprit behind the writing is not found. During History of Magic, the dullest subject at Hogwarts (due partly to the fact that it is taught by a ghost), Hermione asks the teacher, Professor Binns, about the Chamber of Secrets. Binns, taken aback by the intense interest the class is showing, begins explaining the origin of the Chamber's myth. He tells of a time when the school was built thousands of years ago. Salazaar Slytherin fell out with the other three founders, and left the school, but not before building a secret chamber that would only open when his one true heir arrived at the school. The heir would be able to open the chamber and the school would be 'purged' of those who were not 'pureblood'.

After class, the three decide to take a look back at the scene of the crime. The three decide to enter the nearby girl's bathroom to look for clues, and to ask the ghostly inhabitant Moaning Myrtle if she has seen anything. After Myrtle proves unhelpful, the three leave the bathroom and are caught by Ron's brother, Percy, who takes 5 points from Gryffindor for their lurking. Later that evening, the three discuss possible suspects and land on Malfoy as an obvious choice. They decide that they need to get into the Slytherin common room to ask Malfoy questions, and Hermione suggests creating a Polyjuice potion, a potion that will make them look like someone else.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why is Filch in a terrible mood? How do we feel about his character now?
2. Do we believe the story Binns tells in History of Magic?
3. How do we feel about Moaning Myrtle?
4. Do we suspect Draco Malfoy? Who else could it have been?
5. What do we think is going to happen next?



#### Chapter Ten – The Rogue Bludger



## Summary

The three manage to convince Gilderoy Lockhart to sign a permission slip to retrieve the relevant book for Polyjuice Potion from the Restricted Section. They take the book back to Moaning Myrtle's bathroom and look at the list of ingredients. The three are immediately overwhelmed by the amount of ingredients needed, but Hermione convinces them to persevere. According to Hermione, the potion will take a month to make.

The next day dawns and with it comes the Gryffindor/Slytherin Quidditch match, the first one they will play against Slytherin's new super-fast broom sticks. As the game begins, Harry realises one of the Bludgers has gone rogue, and seems determined to unseat him. Fred and George ask Wood to suspend the game, but Harry insists he can handle it. Shortly after, however, Harry is hit and his arm is broken. Spotting the Snitch next to Malfoy's ear, Harry makes one last ditch attempt and manages to catch it, falling to the ground straight after. Gryffindor wins, and Harry is rushed to the hospital wing. That night, Harry is rudely awoken by Dobby, who admits that it was he who closed the barrier at Kings Cross, and who charmed the Bludger. Dobby once again begs Harry to leave Hogwarts. Dobby flees when he hears the approach of Dumbledore, who is carrying in a 'petrified' Colin Creevey. Dumbledore states that 'the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open again'.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why does the trio decide to ask Lockhart to sign the permission slip?
2. Why do we think Dobby is trying to protect Harry? What might his motivations be?
3. Do we think that Harry will leave Hogwarts?
4. Are the three right to be interfering again, do we think this is dangerous?
5. What do we think is attacking the students?

# Chapter Eleven – The Dueling Club



## Summary

After being discharged from the hospital wing, Harry heads straight to Moaning Myrtle's bathroom to find Hermione and Ron and tell them about what happened the previous night. The three decide to double down on their efforts with the Polyjuice potion. In order to secure the final ingredients, the three create a diversion in order to pillage Snape's store cupboard. Later on, a notice is pinned up advertising a Duelling Club. The trio think it might be useful, and so decide to go along, but are disappointed when they find out it is being led by Gilderoy Lockhart. Harry and Malfoy are paired up as duelling partners, much to their mutual discomfort, and are pulled up to demonstrate in front of the class. Draco performs a spell that conjurs a large black snake, and Harry, acting on instinct, tells the snake to lie down, which it does. The whole room goes silent and Ron leads Harry out of the hall. Ron informs Harry that his is a Parselmouth, someone who can talk to snakes, and that this was what Salazar Slytherin was famous for.

The next morning, while attempting to find Justin Finch-Fletchley to explain his actions with the snake the night before, Harry stumbles upon Justin and Nearly Headless Nick, both petrified. Found at the scene of the crime by McGonagall and half the school, Harry is escorted to Dumbledore's office.

What happens in this chapter?

1. What diversion does Harry create in Snape's potion class?
2. In what way is the Duelling Club a failure?
3. What do we think of Lockhart by the end of this chapter?
4. How do we feel about the way the school reacts to Harry's Parselmouth?
5. What do we think is going to happen in Dumbledore's office?





## Vocabulary

- Forboding
- Irritable
- Centuries
- Forgery
- Rogue
- Heed
- Petrified
- Combative
- Descendant

## Themes

### Prejudice

- In the last lesson we explored some forms of prejudice and how they effect different characters. What about prejudice against Harry in these chapters, and his ability to speak Parseltongue? Do we think that this is a valid form of prejudice?

### Fear and Isolation

- How does fear effect people in these chapters, and how does it influence their behaviour? In these chapters we begin to see people turn on one another and isolate each other, letting fear get in the way of their better judgement – why does this benefit the enemy?
- "Harry Potter risks his own life for his friends!" moaned Dobby in a kind of miserable ecstasy. "So noble! So valiant!"
  - o Why is this ironic considering how people turn on Harry in these chapters?

## Homework

Pick either Gilderoy Lockhart or Fergus Filch and write a character study about them. Tell me your impression of them, information about their history and their character, and what role you think they will play in the rest of the book. Use quotes to support your answer.