

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Lesson Five

Chapters Sixteen to Eighteen

Chapter Sixteen – The Chamber of Secrets



Summary

Professor McGonagall informs the students that there will still be exams, starting one week from today, causing a mass panic. Harry and Ron decide they must get to talk to Moaning Myrtle, but find it difficult with all of the new security measures. On their way to see Myrtle, the two are caught by McGonagall and Harry pretends that they are on their way to see Hermione. McGonagall lets them go without detention. Once they are with Hermione, they find a piece of paper in her hand which turns out to be a page from a book on monsters. This particular page is about a Basilisk, and Harry realises that that is the monster that has been unleashed. The two run to the staff room to tell McGonagall, but end up hiding in a closet when all of the teachers file in. They overhear that a student has been taken into the Chamber, and that student is Ginny Weasley. McGonagall also says the school will have to be closed.

Harry and Ron head to see Lockhart to tell him how to get into the Chamber, but find that he is preparing to leave. They drag him instead to Moaning Myrtle's bathroom to ask her how she died. Myrtle informs them that she died in that very room after looking at something that came from the sink. Harry speaks Parseltongue and the sink opens up. Ron, Harry and Lockhart slide down the tunnel and end up deep beneath the school, in a damp dungeon littered with animal bones and huge snake skins. Lockhart tries to escape by stealing Ron's wand and performing a memory charm, but Ron's broken wand backfires, destroying the tunnel and erasing Lockhart's own memory. Ron and Harry are now separated from one another, and Harry must go on alone.

What happens in this chapter?

1. What is a Basilisk and what does it do?
2. What does Lockhart try to do in this chapter? What do we think of him now?
3. What will happen if Hogwarts is closed permanently?
4. What do we find out about Lockhart and his career?
5. How do you think Harry feels, going into the chamber alone?

Chapter Seventeen – The Heir to Slytherin

Summary



Harry finds Ginny unconscious at the base of a huge, large statue. Tom Riddle appears, and Harry doesn't immediately realise that Riddle is behind everything. Riddle begins explaining how he manipulated Ginny through the diary into opening the Chamber. Riddle reveals that he framed Hagrid fifty years ago, and that he was the one who opened the Chamber. He also tells Harry that killing mudbloods is no longer his goal. It is now to kill Harry.

Tom Riddle reveals that he is, in fact, Voldemort. Harry is astonished that a boy that looks so normal could have become Voldemort. Just at that moment, Dumbledore's Phoenix, Fawkes, arrives, carrying the Sorting Hat. Tom, laughing at what Dumbledore has sent him, orders the Basilisk to kill Harry. Fawkes swoops in and gouges the snake's eyes so it can no longer kill Harry with its gaze. Harry places the Sorting Hat on his head and asks for help. The Hat produces a sword which Harry uses to kill the snake, but not without getting caught by one of the snake's venomous fangs. Riddle gloats over Harry, believing him to be dying, but Fawkes's healing tears revive Harry, and he kills Riddle by piercing his diary with a Basilisk fang. Harry retrieves Ginny and they walk back to the entrance of the tunnel together and towards McGonagall's office.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why does it take Harry so long to suspect Tom?
2. How does Harry know to use the Basilisk fang?
3. Why does Tom Riddle want Harry dead?
4. Why did Tom Riddle have to use Ginny Weasley?
5. What do we think will happen to Voldemort now?



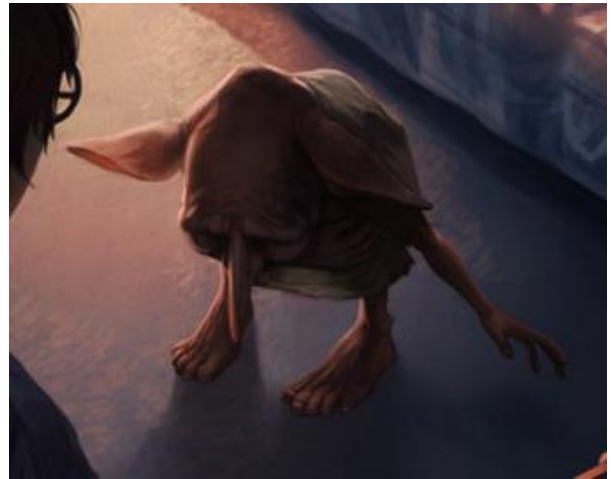
Chapter Eighteen – Dobby's Reward

Summary



Ginny is reunited with her mother, Mrs Weasley, who then embraces Harry, thanking him for saving her. Harry then tells McGonagall, Mrs Weasley and Dumbledore (who has now returned) how he managed to save her.

Dumbledore asks for a moment alone with Harry. Harry asks Dumbledore why Tom Riddle said that he and Harry are similar. Dumbledore explains that Harry has a lot of qualities Salazar Slytherin admired, but that it was his choice to be put into Gryffindor that defines him. As he goes to leave, Lucius Malfoy and Dobby storm into Dumbledore's office demanding to know why he has returned. Dumbledore informs



Malfoy that the other eleven members of the school board had been threatened and coerced into sending Dumbledore away. Harry reveals that it was Malfoy that gave Ginny the diary, slipping it into her Transfiguration book in Flourish and Blotts. Lucius Malfoy leaves, fuming. Harry stops Malfoy and hands him the diary with his dirty sock in it. Malfoy discards the sock, and Dobby catches it. Malfoy has inadvertently freed his slave. The term ends with a huge feast that lasts all night, and soon it is time for the students to return home on the Hogwarts Express. Harry leaves Ron and Hermione with his telephone number, and bids them farewell for another year.

What happens in this chapter?

1. Why does Harry feel nervous telling everyone about Ginny's involvement?
2. Why does Harry feel anxious when Dumbledore asks him for a word alone?
3. What does Lucius do that is so bad?
4. How does Harry free Dobby and what does this mean?
5. How do we think Harry's summer will be?

Themes

Fear

- Tom Riddle tells Harry that he changed his name into something that ‘wizards everywhere would one day fear to speak’. What is the importance of names and what they signify in the books?
- Think about the Basilisk and how Aragog and the other spiders are too afraid to say it. Why do we think this is, and how do Harry and Dumbledore combat this with the way they treat names?

Choices

- *‘There are strange likenesses between us, after all. Even you must have noticed. Both half-bloods, orphans, raised by Muggles. Probably the only two Parselmouths to come to Hogwarts since the great Slytherin himself We even look something alike.’* – Tom Riddle
- We have noted in previous lessons the similarities between Voldemort and Harry, and how they are both capable of ‘great things’. But what is it that differentiates the two and sets them against one another?
- *‘It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.’* – Dumbledore
 - o What do we think of this quote? Do we agree? How is this demonstrated in the books?
- *‘If this is dying, thought Harry, it's not so bad. Even the pain was leaving him.’*
 - o Harry’s acceptance of death here is incredibly mature. How does this set him apart from Voldemort?

Vocabulary

- Mutinous
- Serpentine
- Rapt
- Keenly
- Flabbergasted

Homework

To what extent are Harry and Voldemort similar? Looking at the Chamber of Secrets, write a report on the similarities and differences between Harry and Voldemort. What do they have in common, how do they differ? Are they different as people or is it just their situations that differ? If Tom Riddle had been placed in Harry’s position do you think he would have turned out the way he has?