**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo!**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

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| 1. Antique
2. Chaos
3. Artful
4. Coy
5. Derelict
6. Flawless
7. Rigid
8. Linger
9. Puncture
10. Quench
 | 1. Pretending to be shy or modest in order to attract
2. Without any imperfections or defects; perfect
3. Satisfy one’s thirst by drinking
4. A collectable object that has a high value because of age and quality
5. Unable to bend; not flexible
6. Complete disorder and confusion
7. In very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect
8. To make a small hole in something; a small hole in something through which air escapes
9. Clever or skilful, especially in a crafty or cunning way
10. Stay in a place longer than necessary because of a reluctance to leave
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Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secretes by J.K. Rowling

October arrived, spreading a damp chill over the grounds and into the castle. Madam Pomfrey, the nurse, was kept busy by a sudden **spate** of colds among the staff and students. Her Pepperup potion worked instantly, though it left the drinker smoking at the ears for several hours afterward. Ginny Weasley, who had been looking pale, was bullied into taking some by Percy. The steam pouring from under her **vivid** hair gave the impression that her whole head was on fire.

Raindrops the size of bullets thundered on the castle windows for days on end; the lake rose, the flower beds turned into muddy streams, and Hagrid's pumpkins swelled to the size of garden sheds. Oliver Wood's **enthusiasm** for regular training sessions, however, was not dampened, which was why Harry was to be found, late one stormy Saturday afternoon a few days before Halloween, returning to Gryffindor Tower, **drenched** to the skin and splattered with mud.

Even aside from the rain and wind it hadn't been a happy practice session. Fred and George, who had been spying on the Slytherin team, had seen for themselves the speed of those new Nimbus Two Thousand and Ones. They reported that the Slytherin team was no more than seven greenish blurs, shooting through the air like missiles.

As Harry **squelched** along the deserted corridor he came across somebody who looked just as **preoccupied** as he was. Nearly Headless Nick, the ghost of Gryffindor Tower, was staring **morosely** out of a window, muttering under his breath, ". . . don't fulfil their requirements . . . half an inch, if that . . ."

"Hello, Nick," said Harry.

"Hello, hello," said Nearly Headless Nick, starting and looking round. He wore a **dashing**, **plumed** hat on his long curly hair, and a tunic with a ruff, which concealed the fact that his neck was almost completely severed. He was pale as smoke, and Harry could see right through him to the dark sky and **torrential** rain outside.

"You look troubled, young Potter," said Nick, folding a **transparent** letter as he spoke and tucking it inside his doublet.

"So do you," said Harry.

"Ah," Nearly Headless Nick waved an **elegant** hand, "a matter of no importance. . . . It's not as though I really wanted to join. . . . Thought I'd apply, but apparently I 'don't fulfil requirements' -"

In spite of his **airy** tone, there was a look of great bitterness on his face.

"But you would think, wouldn't you," he **erupted** suddenly, pulling the letter back out of his pocket, "that getting hit forty-five times in the neck with a blunt axe would qualify you to join the Headless Hunt?"

"Oh - yes," said Harry, who was obviously supposed to agree.

"I mean, nobody wishes more than I do that it had all been quick and clean, and my head had come off properly, I mean, it would have saved me a great deal of pain and **ridicule**. However -" Nearly Headless Nick shook his letter open and read furiously: "'We can only accept huntsmen whose heads have parted company with their bodies. You will appreciate that it would be impossible otherwise for members to participate in hunt activities such as Horseback Head-Juggling and Head Polo. It is with the greatest regret, therefore, that I must inform you that you do not fulfill our requirements. With very best wishes, Sir Patrick Delaney-Podmore.'"

**Fuming**, Nearly Headless Nick stuffed the letter away.

"Half an inch of skin and **sinew** holding my neck on, Harry! Most people would think that's good and beheaded, but oh, no, it's not enough for Sir Properly Decapitated-Podmore."

Nearly Headless Nick took several deep breaths and then said, in a far calmer tone, "So - what's bothering you? Anything I can do?"

"No," said Harry. "Not unless you know where we can get seven free Nimbus Two Thousand and Ones for our match against Sly -"

The rest of Harry's sentence was drowned out by a high-pitched **mewling** from somewhere near his ankles. He looked down and found himself gazing into a pair of lamp-like yellow eyes. It was Mrs. Norris, the **skeletal** gray cat who was used by the caretaker, Argus Filch, as a sort of **deputy** in his endless battle against students.

"You'd better get out of here, Harry," said Nick quickly. "Filch isn't in a good mood - he's got the flu and some third years accidentally **plastered** frog brains all over the ceiling in dungeon five. He's been cleaning all morning, and if he sees you dripping mud all over the place -"

"Right," said Harry, backing away from the accusing stare of Mrs. Norris, but not quickly enough. Drawn to the spot by the mysterious power that seemed to connect him with his **foul** cat, Argus Filch burst suddenly through a **tapestry** to Harry's right, wheezing and looking wildly about for the rule-breaker. There was a thick tartan scarf bound around his head, and his nose was unusually purple.

"Filth!" he shouted, his **jowls** **aquiver**, his eyes popping alarmingly as he pointed at the muddy puddle that had dripped from Harry's Quidditch robes. "Mess and muck everywhere! I've had enough of it, I tell you! Follow me, Potter!"

So Harry waved a gloomy good-bye to Nearly Headless Nick and followed Filch back downstairs, doubling the number of muddy footprints on the floor.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. Why is Nearly-Headless Nick upset? Why is Harry upset?
3. What does Harry need in order to solve his problems?
4. Why is Filch said to be in a particularly bad mood?
5. What is our impression of Filch as a character?
6. Describe the relationship between Nearly-Headless Nick and Harry in your own words.

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*
1. Spate – a large number of things coming in quick succession
2. Vivid
3. Enthusiasm – intense and eager enjoyment, interest or approval
4. Drench – to wet thoroughly; soak
5. Squelched – make a soft sucking sound when pressure is applied to mud or liquid
6. Preoccupied
7. Morose – sullen and ill-tempered
8. Dashing
9. Plumed – decorated with feathers
10. Torrential – falling rapidly and in very large quantities
11. Transparent
12. Elegant – graceful and stylish in appearance or manner
13. Airy – spacious, well lit and well ventilated; or not treating something as serious
14. Erupt
15. Fuming
16. Sinew – a piece of tough tissue uniting muscle to bone
17. Mewling – cry feebly; whimper
18. Skeletal
19. Deputy
20. Plastered – cover something, especially to an extent considered excessive or too much
21. Foul – offensive to the senses
22. Tapestry – a piece of thick fabric with pictures or designs weaved into it
23. Jowls – the lower part of the cheek, especially when it is fleshy or drooping
24. Aquiver

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today and fill in the blanks.
* What happens next? Continue the story in your own words, thinking in particular about the conversation that will take place between Harry and Filch. You can either write this from third or first person perspective. Use 10 words from the vocab list above.