

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - J. K. Rowling

Lesson 1

Before reading...

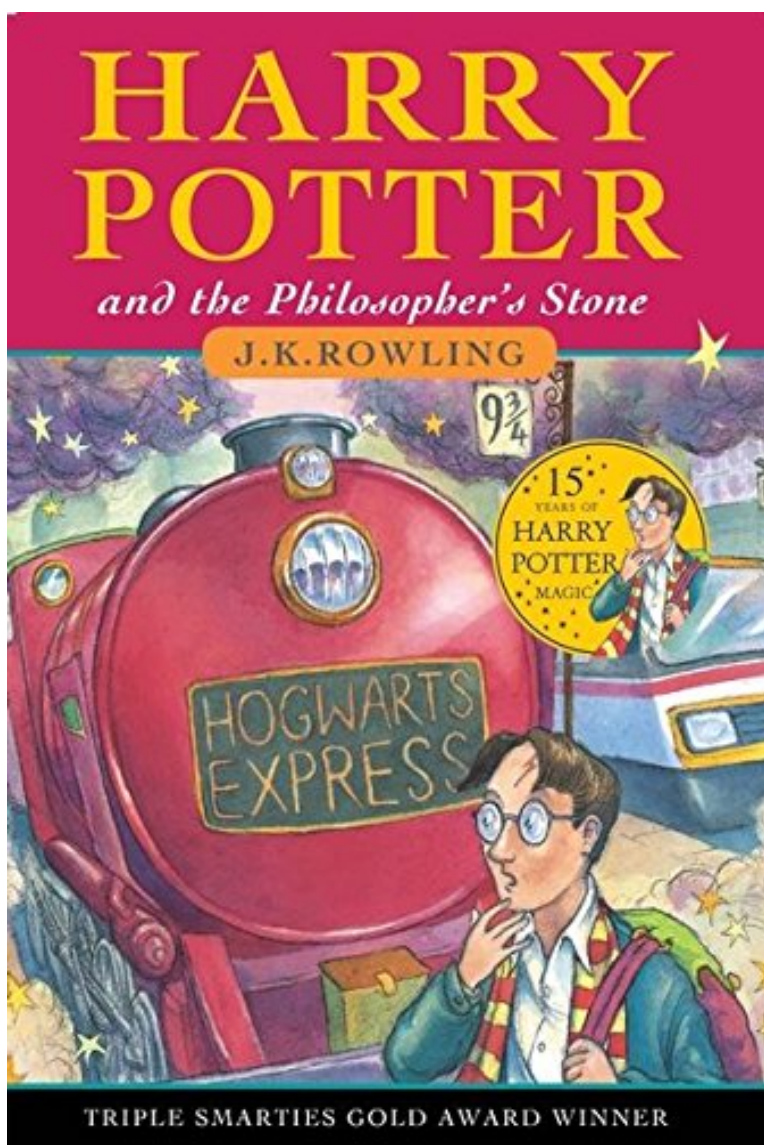
Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb...

- Were any of your predictions correct?

Front Cover



Opening Extract

The Boy Who Lived

Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.

Mr. Dursley was the director of a firm called Grunnings, which made drills. He was a big, beefy man with hardly any neck, although he did have a very large mustache. Mrs. Dursley was thin and blonde and had nearly twice the usual amount of neck, which came in very useful as she spent so much of her time craning over garden fences, spying on the neighbors. The Dursleys had a small son called Dudley and in their opinion there was no finer boy anywhere.

The Dursleys had everything they wanted, but they also had a secret, and their greatest fear was that somebody would discover it. They didn't think they could bear it if anyone found out about the Potters. Mrs. Potter was Mrs. Dursley's sister, but they hadn't met for several years; in fact, Mrs. Dursley pretended she didn't have a sister, because her sister and her good-for-nothing husband were as unDursleyish as it was possible to be. The Dursleys shuddered to think what the neighbors would say if the Potters arrived in the street. The Dursleys knew that the Potters had a small son, too, but they had never even seen him. This boy was another good reason for keeping the Potters away; they didn't want Dudley mixing with a child like that.

When Mr. and Mrs. Dursley woke up on the dull, gray Tuesday our story starts, there was nothing about the cloudy sky outside to suggest that strange and mysterious things would soon be happening all over the country. Mr. Dursley hummed as he picked out his most boring tie for work, and Mrs. Dursley gossiped away happily as she wrestled a screaming Dudley into his high chair.

None of them noticed a large, tawny owl flutter past the window.

Comprehension

1. Why is the chapter called 'The Boy Who Lived'?
2. Why might someone be 'proud to say [they] are perfectly normal'?
3. What first impression do you get of Mr. Dursley?
4. What first impression do you get of Mrs. Dursley?
5. How is Harry related to the Durleys?
6. Why did Mrs. Durley not want anything to do with Mrs. Potter?
7. What does 'good-for-nothing' mean?
8. How does the weather ('dull, grey [...] cloudy sky') make you feel?
9. How do you feel when you read this opening?
10. Why do you think an owl flies by?

Vocabulary

1. Tawny
2. Tyke
3. Peculiar
4. Gossip
5. Emerald
6. Clutch
7. Uneasy
8. Distinct
9. Sensible
10. Flatter
11. Blush
12. Spectacles
13. Muscular
14. Fateful
15. Mantelpiece
16. Bonnet
17. Knobbly
18. Wolfing
19. Dinky
20. Grin

Homework

Imagine you are **Harry**. Write a **diary entry** about **what it is like to live with the Durleys**.

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 words** that we learned today.

Homework