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Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone / Harry Potter en de steen der wijzen door J.K. Rowling

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

Main characters

Harry Potter is a child of James and Lily Potter. His parents were killed shortly after his birth by Voldemort. Harry was sent to the Dursleys. His room was a cupboard under the stairs. At the age of eleven Harry was to be sent to the unpleasant boarding school that the Mr Dursley had planned for him. But Harry goes to the world's premier school of wizardry, Hogwarts. This book tells you about his first year at Hogwarts. Harry is a member of Gryffindor House. In the first year Harry becomes Gryffindor's Seeker.



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Ronald Weasley is Harry's best friend at school. He is the youngest son of the Weasley family. They live in a house called The Burrow. Ron is a bit clumsy.

Hermione Granger is a close friend of Harry at school. She is top of almost every class and is good at solving puzzles.

Draco Malfoy is a pure blood. He has hated Harry ever since they first met on the train to Hogwarts, because Harry refused his friendship. Draco is a member of Slytherin House.

Rubeus Hagrid is the Keeper of the Keys and Grounds at Hogwarts. He is one of Harry's closest friends. Hagrid is a half giant and almost twice as tall as a normal man. He is very kind and very honest. He takes care of all of Hogwarts outside of its walls, including the lake and the forbidden forest. Hagrid has a liking for dangerous magical beasts. His pet is Fang a hunting dog.

Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, is Headmaster of Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is the only man Voldemort ever feared. He is a figure of great mystery. Dumbledore is possibly the greatest wizard alive. He is extremely wise and full of knowledge concerning all manner of magics.

Dumbledore loves sweets. He tends not to eat Bertie Botts' every flavour beans because he ate a vomit flavoured one once. When he tries one of Harry's in hospital it was earwax and not a toffee.

Professor Severus Snape, the Potions Professor at Hogwarts for 14 years. Severus Snape is Head of Slytherin House. He shows that he likes some students more than other. Draco Malfoy is Snape's favourite and Harry suffers his hatred.

Professor Quirrel is a young, pale, shy and stuttering man. Harry met Quirrel not only at Hogwarts, but he already saw him at the Leaky Cauldron, the door to lead you into the world of magic. He seems to be afraid of the stuff he teaches, Dark Art. Quirrel supports Voldemort. With the face of Voldemort being at the back of his head, he was forced to walk around with a turban all the time so that nobody guessed his secret. Quirrel died at the attempt to obey his master.

Lord Voldemort's name has been feared for many years. He will do anything to master others, including torture and murder. He is the one that killed Harry's

parents.

The Dursleys: Vernon Dursley is Harry Potter's uncle. He locks Harry up any chance he gets. He does not tolerate anything abnormal in his home. He considers Harry's ability to do magic very abnormal. He works at Grunnings, a drilling company, is married to Petunia and has a son named Dudley.

Norbert the dragon is born from an egg Hagrid smuggled to Hogwarts.

Fluffy the three-headed dog guards the Philosopher's Stone. He falls asleep if you play music.

Summary

Harry Potter is eleven years old. He lives in Little Surrey at 4 Privet Drive. He thinks he is a normal boy until he is rescued by Hagrid. Harry finds out he is famous, and has been ever since his parents died, because he survived the evil Lord Voldemort. Harry is given a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and learns to play Quidditch. He also learns wizard chess from Ron. He plunges into the magical world which lies around the world of non-magical people, called muggles by magical people. Hagrid takes him to Diagon Alley a place where the wizard can be themselves because the whole of Diagon Alley is already hidden, invisible to the outside world. Diagon Alley is home to many of the most famous wizard shops, from Gringotts Bank to Ollivander's, the wand maker. Here Harry Potter and his friends buy all of their school books and robes, and his wand. Hagrid buys Harry's owl Hedwig. On the train to Hogwarts Harry meets Hermione and Ron. They become friends. On the same train he makes a bitter enemy, Draco Malfoy. At Hogwarts, Harry meets the teacher's staff and students. Hogwarts was founded by four wizards Godric Gryffindor, Salazar Slytherin, Rowena Ravenclaw and Helga Hufflepuff. They disagreed as to which students the school would accept. In the words of the Sorting Hat that was present at the time:

Slytherin said, 'We'll teach just those whose ancestry is purest.'

Ravenclaw said, 'We'll teach those whose intelligence is surest.'

Gryffindor said, 'We'll teach all those with brave deeds to their name,'

Hufflepuff said, 'I'll teach the lot, and treat them just the same.'

To solve this problem the school was divided into four houses, one for each founder, and each house took those students the house's founder wanted to teach. The Sorting Hat places all new students into the house which suits them best.

Harry, Ron and Hermione are being placed in Gryffindor House.

Harry becomes involved in an adventure around a mysterious object removed to Hogwarts for safe keeping by Albus Dumbledore. The object turns out to be the legendary Philosopher's Stone, an alchemical substance that can give you endless life and can turn anything into gold. Professor Quirrel went to London to try to steal

the Philosopher's stone out of the Gringotts-bank for his master Lord Voldemort. Voldemort wants the stone to gain back his power and human appearance. The theft failed because Hagrid took the stone to Hogwarts. Professor Quirrel with Voldemort on his head passes all the barriers set by Hogwarts' staff, except the last, set by Dumbledore who placed the Stone in the Mirror of Erised. From there it could only be taken by someone who wanted the Stone for itself, not for its powers. Harry, Hermione and Ron follow Quirrel. Professor Sprout, professor of Herbology and Head of Hufflepuff House has put a nasty plant in their way which squeezes its victims harder the more they struggle to be free. They can only pass if they relax. The next barrier is set by Professor Filius Flitwick, the Charms teacher and Head of Ravenclaw House. They have to beat his flying keys with their brooms. Then they meet the barrier set up by Minerva McGonagall, Professor of Transfiguration and Head of Gryffindor House. They have to play wizard chess to reach the final step. Only Harry makes it to the final step set by Dumbledore. He faces Voldemort alone in front of the Mirror of Erised. He keeps the stone and defeats Lord Voldemort. He keeps the world safe from Voldemort's powers and is protected by a mysterious charm.

Your opinion

It's a good book. It is so special you want to read it more than once and you look out for the continuation of Harry's adventures.