

## Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Nearly ten years had passed since the Dursleys had woken up to find their nephew on the front step, but Privet Drive had hardly changed at all. The sun rose on the same tidy front gardens and lit up the brass number four on the Dursleys' front door; it crept into their living room, which was almost exactly the same as it had been on the night when Mr. Dursley had seen that fateful news report about the owls. Only the photographs on the mantelpiece really showed how much time had passed. Ten years ago, there had been lots of pictures of what looked like a large pink beach ball wearing different-colored bonnets - but Dudley Dursley was no longer a baby, and now the photographs showed a large blonde boy riding his first bicycle, on a carousel at the fair, playing a computer game with his father, being hugged and kissed by his mother. The room held no sign at all that another boy lived in the house, too.

Yet Harry Potter was still there, asleep at the moment, but not for long. His Aunt Petunia was awake and it was her shrill voice that made the first noise of the day.

"Up! Get up! Now!"

Harry woke with a start. His aunt rapped on the door again.

"Up!" she screeched. Harry heard her walking toward the kitchen and then the sound of the frying pan being put on the stove. He rolled onto his back and tried to remember the dream he had been having. It had been a good one. There had been a flying motorcycle in it. He had a funny feeling he'd had the same dream before.

His aunt was back outside the door.

"Are you up yet?" she demanded.

"Nearly," said Harry.

"Well, get a move on, I want you to look after the bacon. And don't you dare let it burn, I want everything perfect on Duddy's birthday."

Harry groaned.

"What did you say?" his aunt snapped through the door.

"Nothing, nothing . . ."

Dudley's birthday - how could he have forgotten? Harry got slowly out of bed and started looking for socks. He found a pair under his bed and, after pulling a spider off one of them, put them on. Harry was used to spiders, because the cupboard under the stairs was full of them, and that was where he slept.

When he was dressed he went down the hall into the kitchen. The table was almost hidden beneath all Dudley's birthday presents. It looked as though Dudley had gotten the new computer he wanted, not to mention the second television and the racing bike. Exactly why Dudley wanted a racing bike was a mystery to Harry, as Dudley was very fat and hated exercise - unless of course it involved punching somebody. Dudley's favorite punching bag was Harry, but he couldn't often catch him. Harry didn't look it, but he was very fast.

Perhaps it had something to do with living in a dark cupboard, but Harry had always been small and skinny for his age. He looked even smaller and skinnier than he really was because all he had to wear were old clothes of Dudley's, and Dudley was about four times bigger than he was. Harry had a thin face, knobbly knees, black hair, and bright green eyes. He wore round glasses held together with a lot of Scotch tape because of all the times Dudley had punched him on the nose. The only thing Harry liked about his own appearance was a very thin scar on his forehead that was shaped like a bolt of lightning. He had had it as long as he could remember, and the first question he could ever remember asking his Aunt Petunia was how he had gotten it.

## Resource Sheet One

1. How long has Harry lived with the Dursleys?
2. What street did they live on?
3. How had the photos changed over the years?
4. What was special about that day?
5. Why was Harry used to spiders?
6. Why was it a mystery to Harry that Dudley wanted a bike for his birthday?
7. Why were Harry's glasses broken?
8. What unique feature does Harry have on his head?
9. Why did Harry look skinnier and smaller than he was?
10. What was Harry responsible for doing?
11. What was the first question Harry ever asked Aunt Petunia?

## Resource Sheet Two

1. What time of day was it?
2. How old do you think Dudley might be?
3. How had the photos changed over the years?
4. Why was Dudley unable to punch Harry?
5. What exercise did Dudley enjoy?
6. Find four adjectives that describe Harry's appearance.
7. What do we know about the neighbourhood?
8. What do you think Dudley is like?
9. Why did Harry look skinnier and smaller than he was?
10. Why was the table almost hidden?
11. What was the first question Harry ever asked Aunt Petunia?

### Resource Sheet Three

1. What impression do you get of Aunt Petunia? What makes you think this?
2. Why might Harry feel like he had had the same dream before?
3. Find all the adjectives that describe Harry's appearance.
4. What do you think is meant by the 'fateful news report'?
5. What language feature is used in Dudley's name?
6. How old do you think Dudley might be?
7. Why does the author say Aunt Petunia's voice is shrill? What impact does this have?
8. Why would the author say that the sun 'crept' into the living room?
9. What type of person is Dudley? Justify your response using examples from the text.
10. Why do you think Harry didn't look fast?
11. Find as many examples of alliteration as you can.

## Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

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 fulfill 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 fulfill 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."

## Resource Sheet One

1. What month is it?
2. Who is the school nurse?
3. What effect did the Pepperup potion have?
4. What was the latest broomstick?
5. Who was the ghost of Gryffindor Tower?
6. What is the weather like?
7. How many times did Nick have his head hit by an axe?
8. Who runs the Headless Hunt?
9. Why hadn't it been a happy training session?
10. How far was Nick from being headless?

## Resource Sheet Two

1. What month is it?
2. Who runs the Headless Hunt?
3. Why was it an unhappy training session?
4. Why had Nick's head stayed attached after being hit 45 times?
5. What day did Gryffindor train on?
6. How many players are in a team for Quidditch?
7. Why does the author refer to the Slytherin team as being blurrish green?
8. Who runs the Headless Hunt?
9. Find an example of a simile in the passage.
10. Do you think Nick has been dead for a short period of time or long period of time? Use the text to justify your answer.

### Resource Sheet Three

1. Who runs the Headless Hunt?
2. Why is the axe described as being blunt?
3. Do you think Nick has been dead for a short period of time or long period of time? Use the text to justify your answer.
4. Find three examples that show Nicks mood.
5. Why did Harry squelch down the corridor?
6. Why was there a sudden spate of colds?
7. What name does Nick give the leader of the Headless Hunt? Why does he do this?
8. Why would Nick face ridicule?
9. Explain the impact of the phrase 'Raindrops the size of bullets thundered on the castle windows'.
10. Why would Nick wave his hand in an elegant manner?

## Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

But Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon were both looking at Harry suspiciously, so he decided he'd better skip dessert and escape from the table as soon as he could.

Outside in the hall, he leaned against the wall, breathing deeply. It had been a long time since he'd lost control and made something explode. He couldn't afford to let it happen again. The Hogsmead form wasn't the only thing at stake - if he carried on like that, he'd be in trouble with the Ministry of Magic.

Harry was still an underage wizard, and he was forbidden by wizard law to do magic outside school. His record wasn't exactly clean either. Only last summer he'd gotten an official warning that had stated quite clearly that if the Ministry got wind of any more magic in Privet Drive, Harry would face expulsion from Hogwarts.

He heard the Dursleys leaving the table and hurried upstairs out of the way.

Harry got through the next three days by forcing himself to think about his *Handbook of Do-It-Yourself Broomcare* whenever Aunt Marge started on him. This worked quite well, though it seemed to give him a glazed look, because Aunt Marge started voicing the opinion that he was mentally subnormal.

At last, at long last, the final evening of Marge's stay arrived. Aunt Petunia cooked a fancy dinner and Uncle Vernon uncorked several bottles of wine. They got all the way through the soup and the salmon without a single mention of Harry's faults; during the lemon meringue pie, Uncle Vernon bored them all with a long talk about Grunnings, his drill-making company; then Aunt Petunia made coffee and Uncle Vernon brought out a bottle of brandy

"Can I tempt you, Marge?"

Aunt Marge had already had quite a lot of wine. Her huge face was very red.

"Just a small one, then," she chuckled. "A bit more than that . . . and a bit more . . . that's the ticket."

Dudley was eating his fourth slice of pie. Aunt Petunia was sipping coffee with her little finger sticking out. Harry really wanted to disappear into his bedroom, but

he met Uncle Vernon's angry little eyes and knew he would have to sit it out.

"Aah," said Aunt Marge, smacking her lips and putting the empty brandy glass back down. "Excellent nosh, Petunia. It's normally just a fry-up for me of an evening, with twelve dogs to look after. . . ." She burped richly and patted her great tweed stomach. "Pardon me. But I do like to see a healthy-sized boy," she went on, winking at Dudley. "You'll be a proper-sized man, Dudders, like your father. Yes, I'll have a spot more brandy, Vernon. . . ."

"Now, this one here -"

She jerked her head at Harry, who felt his stomach clench. *The Handbook*, he thought quickly.

"This one's got a mean, runty look about him. You get that with dogs. I had Colonel Fubster drown one last year. Ratty little thing it was. Weak. Underbred."

Harry was trying to remember page twelve of his book: *A Charm to Cure Reluctant Reversers*.

"It all comes down to blood, as I was saying the other day. Bad blood will out. Now, I'm saying nothing against your family, Petunia" - she patted Aunt Petunia's bony hand with her shovel-like one - "but your sister was a bad egg. They turn up in the best families. Then she ran off with a wastrel and here's the result right in front of us."

Harry was staring at his plate, a funny ringing in his ears. *Grasp your broom firmly by the tail*, he thought. But he couldn't remember what came next. Aunt Marge's voice seemed to be boring into him like one of Uncle Vernon's drills.

## Resource Sheet One

1. Why did Harry skip dessert?
2. Why was Harry not allowed to do magic?
3. What had Harry previously done that meant he faced possible expulsion from Hogwarts?
4. What pie were they eating and how many slices did Dudley have?
5. What book was Harry thinking of?
6. Why was Aunt Marge's face red?
7. What did Marge think of Harry's mum?
8. What did Uncle Vernon do for a living?
9. Why did Harry decide not to leave the table?
10. Does Marge like Harry? Use the text to justify your answer.

## Resource Sheet Two

1. Why did Aunt Petunia stick her little finger out when drinking coffee?
2. Why did Harry decide not to leave the table?
3. Why does the author describe Marge's hands as being shovel like?
4. Does Marge like Harry? Use the text to justify your answer.
5. Why does Marge like Dudley?
6. Is Vernon a skinny or fat man? Use examples to justify your answer.
7. Why did Harry have a funny ringing in his ears?
8. Why does the author use the phrase 'smacking her lips together'?
9. Why is Harry compared to a dog?
10. Why does Marge chuckle when she says just a small one?

### Resource Sheet Three

1. Why did Harry have a funny ringing in his ears?
2. Why does Marge chuckle when she says just a small one?
3. Why was Harry breathing deeply?
4. Do the Dursley's have much money? Use the text to justify your answer.
5. Why might Vernon's eyes appear to be small?
6. What is meant by the word wastrel?
7. Why might Aunt Marge be on the larger side?
8. Find examples that show Aunt Marge treats Harry in a hostile manner.
9. Why might the Dursley's be looking at Harry suspiciously?
10. What does the use of the word 'nosh' tell us about Marge's true character?