



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

[Lord Voldemort](#), an evil and powerful dark wizard, has just been defeated. When he tried to kill a one-year-old boy, [Harry Potter](#), the killing curse rebounded upon him, destroying his body. Harry is left an orphan with a lightning-bolt scar on his forehead, Voldemort having killed his parents [Lily and James Potter](#). Professors [Dumbledore](#) and [McGonagall](#) leave him on the doorstep of his ultra-conventional, insensitive, negligent [Muggle](#) (non-magical) relatives, the [Dursley family](#), who take him in. They decide to conceal his magical heritage from him and make him live in a cupboard under the stairs for eleven years.

Shortly before Harry's eleventh birthday, he receives a letter addressed specifically to him. His uncle, however, reads and burns the letter before Harry has a chance to look at its contents. The letter writer does not give up, and the Dursleys receive successively larger numbers of the same letters. Soon, his uncle becomes so paranoid that the Dursleys, with Harry in tow, hide in a hut on a small island to get away from the letters. That night (which happens to be before Harry's birthday), he is visited by an enormous man named [Hagrid](#) who bursts through the locked door of

the hut. With Hagrid holding the Dursleys at bay, Harry finally reads his letter, in which he learns he has been invited to study magic at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](#). He enters the wizarding world for the first time, learns to his surprise that he is famous, and meets the new Hogwarts [Defence Against the Dark Arts](#) teacher, [Professor Quirrell](#). He takes the train to Hogwarts from [Platform Nine and three-quarters](#), befriending [Ron Weasley](#), and meeting [Hermione Granger](#), a Muggle-born witch.

Upon arrival, the [Sorting Hat](#) places Harry, Ron and Hermione in [Gryffindor House](#). [Draco Malfoy](#), an arrogant and elitist student, gets placed in [Slytherin](#). Harry discovers he has a talent for riding [broomsticks](#), and after an incident with Malfoy, is recruited to join Gryffindor's [Quidditch](#) team as a Seeker. He is the youngest Quidditch player at the school in a century, much to Malfoy's displeasure.

Harry, Ron, Hermione and [Neville Longbottom](#) explore Hogwarts late at night and accidentally stumble across the door to a corridor. A [three-headed dog](#), christened [Fluffy](#) by Hagrid, guards a trapdoor. On Halloween, Quirrell informs everyone that a [troll](#) has entered the castle; it gets locked in the girls' bathroom by Ron and Harry, where Hermione is crying after Ron has insulted her. When they realize their mistake, Harry and Ron fight the troll to save Hermione, and the three become best friends.

At Harry's first [Quidditch](#) match, Harry's broom becomes possessed, nearly knocking him off. Hermione sees Professor [Severus Snape](#), the sinister [Potions](#) master, staring at Harry and mouthing words, making her believe that Snape has caused the broom to misbehave with a dark curse. Hoping to save Harry, Hermione sets Snape's robes on fire, distracting him and others and allowing Harry to survive.

At Christmas, Harry receives an [Invisibility Cloak](#), once belonging to his father, which renders its wearer invisible. Harry uses it to explore the Restricted Section in the library to research information on [Nicolas Flamel](#), a name Hagrid lets slip when confronted about his knowledge of Fluffy. Eventually, Harry learns that "*Nicolas Flamel is the only known maker of the [Philosopher's Stone](#), which produces the [Elixir of Life](#) which will make the drinker immortal*".^[1]

Harry sees Snape trying to get information from Quirrell about getting past Fluffy; Quirrell says he does not know what he's talking about. Harry, Ron, and Hermione are sure that Snape is trying to steal the Philosopher's Stone in order to restore Lord Voldemort to power, but Hagrid denies it.

Harry, Hermione, Neville and Draco are caught out late at night, and forced to serve detention with Hagrid in the [Forbidden Forest](#). Harry sees a hooded figure drink the blood of an injured [unicorn](#), which makes Harry's forehead scar start burning. [Firenze](#), a [centaur](#), tells Harry that it is a monstrous thing to slay a unicorn, let alone drink its blood. He also tells Harry that unicorn blood is like Elixir of Life, and that the hooded figure is in fact Voldemort.

Harry, Hermione and Ron find out that Hagrid, while he was drunk in a pub, has told a hooded stranger how to get past Fluffy, and they believe the theft of the Stone is imminent. That night, they go through the trapdoor to get to it first, believing that Snape is the thief. They navigate the security system set up by the school's staff which is a series of complex magical challenges. The three make it through together until finally, Harry must enter the inner chamber alone. There he finds that meek Professor Quirrell, not Snape, is attempting to steal the Stone. Realizing that Snape was trying to protect him from harm all along, Harry confronts Quirrell and survives a second encounter with Lord Voldemort, who has possessed Quirrell and appears as a ghastly face on the back of Quirrell's head. Quirrell gets blisters when he touches Harry's skin, and Harry suffers because of his close proximity to Lord Voldemort. Dumbledore arrives just in time to rescue Harry. Voldemort then pitilessly abandons Quirrell, who dies in the aftermath of his possession.

Dumbledore reveals to Harry that Harry's mother died to protect Harry as an infant. Her pure, loving sacrifice provided Harry an ancient magical protection from Voldemort's lethal spells and also prevents Voldemort from touching Harry without suffering terribly. Dumbledore also says that the Philosopher's Stone has been destroyed to prevent future attempts by Voldemort to steal it.

Whilst in the Hospital wing Harry asked Dumbledore why Voldemort attempted to kill him when he was a young child. Dumbledore tells Harry when he is old enough he will tell him why.

Finally, at the end-of-year feast, the House Points totals are given: Gryffindor is in last place. However, Dumbledore gives a few "last-minute additions", granting points to Harry, Ron, Hermione, and Neville, so that Gryffindor wins the House Cup.