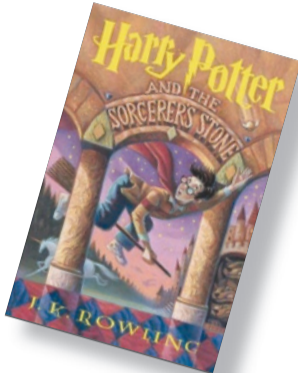


Keeping up with Harry

Here's a guide to the first six books in the *Harry Potter* series

WARNING: If you haven't read the books, it may spoil the endings for you

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone



In the first book of the series we are introduced to Harry, a bespectacled orphan with a thunderbolt scar on his forehead, who has been living with his aunt and uncle since he was a baby. Harry's adoptive family, the Dursleys, treats him with scorn and loathing, while spoiling their obese son, Harry's self-centered cousin Dudley.

On his 11th birthday, Harry learns he is a wizard and has been accepted into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Hagrid, a giant who works at Hogwarts, takes Harry to a mystical part of London and introduces him to the wizarding world.

On the magical train that takes him to Hogwarts, Harry meets other

first-year-students, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, friends who help Harry in his adventures.

Once at the school, Harry finds that he is a celebrity in the wizarding world and the truth about his parents' deaths — that his parents were killed battling Lord Voldemort and when Voldemort tried to kill Harry using a killing curse it rebounded, destroying the evil wizard.

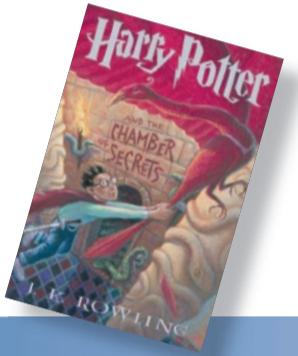
Over the course of the school year, Harry, Ron, and Hermione uncover a secret that is hidden and protected at Hogwarts — the Sorcerer's Stone, which provides eternal life to its owner. Someone is trying to steal it.

While Harry and his friends suspect Severus Snape, a potions teacher and

former follower of Voldemort, of trying to steal the stone, it is discovered after several dangerous adventures that it is Voldemort — working through the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Professor Quirrel — who is trying to take the stone and revive his power. Voldemort is so weak he is forced to live in Quirrel's body to survive.

Harry obtains the stone and has a final battle with Quirrel for it. Quirrel is unable to touch Harry without destroying himself, and Voldemort must flee Quirrel's body to survive.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets



During Harry's miserable summer with the Dursleys, he is visited by Dobby, a house-elf owned by Lucius Malfoy, a suspected follower of Lord Voldemort. Dobby creates havoc in the Dursley household and warns Harry to stay away from Hogwarts if he wants to live.

At first Harry ignores the elf's message — until the caretaker's cat is petrified and a threatening message is left on the wall. Harry, Ron, and Hermione investigate and connect the message to a chamber at Hogwarts that was opened 50 years ago, and a student killed.

Over the course of the school year several students become petrified, including Hermione.

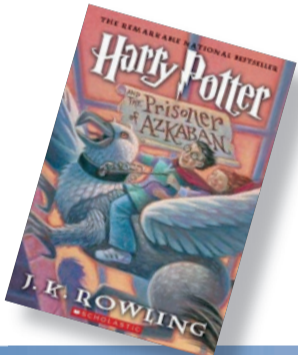
Harry stumbles upon the diary of Tom Riddle, a student during the first attacks 50 years before. The diary claims that Hagrid is the one who opened the chamber of secrets years ago, causing the death of a student.

Ron's sister, Ginny Weasley, is lured into the chamber of secrets where the spirit of Tom Riddle — who is actually Lord Voldemort — plans to use her life to bring himself back. Harry, with the help of Hogwart Head-

master Albus Dumbledore's phoenix (Fawks) and the Griffindor sword, kills a giant basilisk snake under Riddle's control and defeats Riddle by destroying the diary.

While describing the events to Dumbledore, Lucius Malfoy intrudes with Dobby. Dumbledore suspects Malfoy planted Riddle's diary as a ploy to help Voldemort. Harry tricks Lucius into freeing Dobby from the Malfoys forever.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban



Returning to Hogwarts for a new term, Harry learns about escaped killer Sirius Black. Later, the train to Hogwarts is stopped by Dementors — guardians of the wizard jail Azkaban — and Harry faints. Professor Lupin, the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, revives Harry. Lupin's clothes are worn and he looks sickly.

Later in the term, Harry sneaks into the local village and overhears talk about Sirius Black's responsibility for the death of Harry's parents and their friend, Peter Pettigrew.

Hagrid shows a class a hippogriff — an

animal that is half eagle, half horse. It attacks when mishandled by Draco Malfoy and in the course of time is condemned to death.

On the way home from the execution of Hagrid's hippogriff, Ron, and his pet rat Scabbers, are attacked by a great black dog. The dog drags Ron under the whomping willow, with Harry and Hermione giving chase. The dog then turns into Sirius Black.

Lupin appears in the shack and the mystery is explained. Lupin is a werewolf, and his school friends Black, Pettigrew, and Harry's father became animagi — wizards who can transform into animal forms — so

they could run the grounds with him during the full moon. Black became a dog and Pettigrew became a rat. In fact, Scabbers was really Peter Pettigrew.

Harry learns that Sirius Black is his Godfather, and that Peter Pettigrew was the one who helped kill Lily and James Potter.

Going back to the school, Lupin transforms into a werewolf, allowing Pettigrew to escape. Dementors capture Sirius Black forcing Harry and Hermione to go back in time to help Sirius and the hippogriff escape.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire



On the first day of school, Dumbledore announces the Triwizard Tournament will be held at Hogwarts.

Three contestants are chosen from names placed in the Goblet of Fire. Announced at the feast are Cedric Diggory for Hogwarts, Fleur Delacour for the Beauxbatons Academy, and Viktor Krum for the Durmstrang Institute. To the amazement of all, a fourth contestant's name comes out of the goblet — Harry Potter.

Though there are four contenders, the decision is made to continue the tournament. The tournament consists of three contests to be completed throughout the school year.

Harry completes the first two tasks successfully. The third task,

finding the goblet within a vast and dangerous maze, Harry and Cedric decide to win together and grab the cup simultaneously. Unbeknownst to them the cup is actually a trap — a portkey that transports them to a cemetery where Lord Voldemort and several of his Death Eaters are waiting.

Cedric is killed by Peter Pettigrew and Harry is tied up and held captive. Pettigrew uses Harry's blood, an old bone, and his own severed hand to restore Voldemort to his full body.

This ritual negates the magic that once protected Harry from Voldemort — shared blood from the young wizard now flows through the dark lord's veins. Voldemort then challenges Harry to a duel.

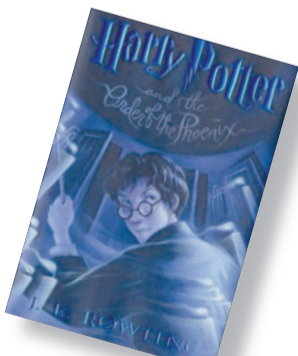
Once Harry and Voldemort's

wands' spells interlock, a Priori Incantation occurs — echoes of murder victims from Voldemort's wand form and protect Harry, allowing him to gain possession of Cedric's body and use the goblet to escape.

Once Harry is back on Hogwarts grounds, this year's Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher — Mad Eye Moody — reveals to Harry how he manipulated the tournament to help Harry win and send him to Voldemort. Moody then tries to kill Harry, but he is saved by Dumbledore, McGonagall, and Snape. They come to find that Moody wasn't Moody at all but a Death Eater who used a potion to impersonate the real Moody.

Harry tells Dumbledore that Voldemort is back.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix



After an attack on Harry by the dementors, Harry is immediately taken by a group of wizards to the home of Sirius Black. Harry is forced to appear in Wizard's court for an unauthorized use of magic and is about to get expelled from Hogwarts when Dumbledore produces a witness who testifies that Harry used magic in self-defense.

Once back to school, Harry, Ron, and Hermione learn that Dolores Umbridge is the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher. But Umbridge seems more concerned with stopping rumors of Lord Voldemort's return than teaching students. Minister Cornelius Fudge appoints Umbridge to be high inquisitor of Hogwarts and gives her

permission to inspect and censure everything.

In defiance, Harry, Ron, and Hermione decide to start the secret "Dumbledore's Army" — where they practice defense spells.

Harry experiences dreams influenced by Voldemort's thoughts and is told by Dumbledore to take occlumency lessons. Occlumency protects Harry's thoughts from Voldemort and Harry's scar burns every time Voldemort experiences a powerful emotion.

Dumbledore is forced to resign as headmaster and Umbridge takes over.

Harry has a dream that Sirius is in trouble at the Department of Mysteries. He assembles Dumb-

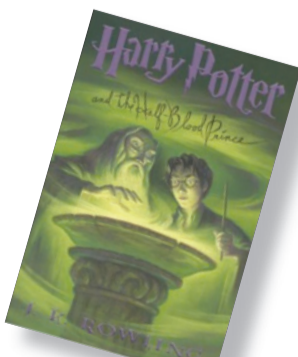
ledore's Army there but they find that it was a ploy by Voldemort.

The room is filled with millions of glass spheres, and Harry sees that one of them has his and Voldemort's name on it. While fighting the Death Eaters, Harry drops the sphere with his prophecy.

In the battle, Sirius Black is killed by his cousin Bellatrix Lestrange.

Dumbledore explains the prophecy to Harry — that neither Harry nor Voldemort both shall live as long as one of the other exists. Harry is safe however as long as he calls his Aunt's house home because of the bond of blood they share. He returns to the Dursleys for the summer.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince



Lord Voldemort has returned to power.

Severus Snape, a member of the Order of the Phoenix, secretly meets with Draco Malfoy's mother and makes an unbreakable vow promising to protect Draco.

Around the same time Dumbledore picks up Harry from the Dursley's to help persuade Horace Slughorn, a former teacher at Hogwarts, to return to the school. Snape is now the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, and Dumbledore hopes Slughorn will teach potions. Slughorn was also a teacher to Tom Riddle, now Lord Voldemort, and Dumbledore hopes to gain information from his old friend.

Later — while Harry, Ron, and Hermione are shopping for school

books — Harry follows Draco and overhears a suspicious conversation convincing Harry that Draco has joined the Death Eaters.

At school, Harry accidentally stumbles upon a used potions textbook that once belonged to the "Half-blood Prince." Harry finds the book useful in his potions class and becomes one of Slughorn's favorites.

Dumbledore fully believes that Harry must learn about Voldemort's past to be ready to face his foe. Dumbledore takes Harry on journeys back into memories collected in the pensieve to learn about the dark wizard.

Voldemort has divided his soul into seven horcruxes, two of which have been destroyed. After Harry and Dumbledore come back from

retrieving what they believe to be a third horcrux, they find the school Hogwarts under attack from Death Eaters.

Quickly racing to the school, Dumbledore comes face to face with Draco. Draco plans on killing Dumbledore but hesitates. Snape bursts in before the Death Eaters arrive and kills Dumbledore after Dumbledore pleads with him.

Finding out the horcrux he and Dumbledore retrieved was a false one and wanting to avenge his headmaster's death, Harry declares he is not returning to Hogwarts next year, but instead will find all the horcruxes and destroy Voldemort.



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