

# Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

by  
J.K. Rowling

## Book Information

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Harry discovers what fate truly has in store for him as he inevitably makes his way to the final meeting with Voldemort. Book #7

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## Main Characters

Aberforth Dumbledore Albus Dumbledore's younger brother and the barman of the Hog's Head pub in the village of Hogsmeade; a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Alastor Moody a retired Auror, called "Mad-Eye"; he is killed by Death Eaters when he helps in the effort to move Harry from his aunt and uncle's house to safety

Albus Dumbledore the Headmaster of Hogwarts; during his lifetime, he was considered to be the most powerful wizard in the world

Ariana Dumbledore Albus Dumbledore's younger sister; she was injured by Muggles at the age of six and was never the same afterward; she died at about age fourteen during a duel between her brothers and Gellert Grindelwald

Arthur Weasley Ron's father and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Bathilda Bagshot a famous magical historian; she lived in Godric's Hollow and was friends with both the Dumbledore family and the Potter family

Bellatrix Lestrange Voldemort's fiercest supporter and Draco Malfoy's aunt

Bill Weasley Ron's oldest brother and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; he marries Fleur Delacour

Dean Thomas a Muggle-born wizard, a Gryffindor student, a member of Dumbledore's Army and a friend of Harry; he goes on the run from the Death Eaters and is later captured

Dobby a house-elf, freed by Harry, who now works at Hogwarts; he is killed by Bellatrix Lestrange

Dolores Umbridge a former Hogwarts teacher and the former Undersecretary to the Minister of Magic; she is now the head of the Muggle-born Registration Commission in Voldemort's new regime at the Ministry of Magic

Draco Malfoy a student in Slytherin House and Harry's worst enemy from school

Dudley Dursley Harry's Muggle cousin; he changes his attitude toward Harry and makes some amends when Harry leaves his house and the Dursleys go into hiding

Elphias Doge Dumbledore's friend from childhood; he remains loyal to Dumbledore after his death and refuses to believe any ill of him

Fenrir Greyback a notorious werewolf and Snatcher who captures Harry, Ron, and Hermione

Fleur Delacour a student from Beauxbatons Academy in France and a contestant in the Tri-Wizard Tournament; she marries Bill Weasley

Fred Weasley Ron's older brother, twin of George Weasley; he is a member of the Order of the Phoenix and is killed at the Battle of Hogwarts

Gellert Grindelwald the most powerful Dark Wizard in history before the rise of Voldemort; he was defeated by Dumbledore in a duel and lost the Elder Wand to Dumbledore; few realize that Dumbledore and Grindelwald had briefly been friends when they were young men

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George Weasley Ron's older brother, twin of Fred Weasley; he loses an ear in the attack on the Order of the Phoenix by Death Eaters when the Order moves Harry from the Dursleys' house

Ginny Weasley Ron's younger sister; she is Harry's girlfriend and a member of Dumbledore's Army

Grawp a giant and Hagrid's younger half brother; he fights in the Battle of Hogwarts

Gregorovitch a European wandmaker who at one time possessed the Elder Wand; Grindelwald stole it from him and Voldemort tortured Gregorovitch for it, mistakenly believing he still had it

Gregory Goyle a Slytherin student and a friend of Draco Malfoy; he stays behind with Malfoy and Crabbe in order to try to capture Harry for Voldemort

Griphook a goblin rescued by Dobby from the cellar of Malfoy Manor; he helps Ron, Harry, and Hermione break into Gringotts, the wizarding bank

Hagrid a half-giant and Harry's protector; he is groundskeeper and teacher at Hogwarts and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Harry Potter the seventeen-year-old hero of the book; Harry is the subject of a prophecy that states he and Voldemort must one day face each other and do battle

Helena Ravenclaw the ghost of Ravenclaw House, known as the Gray Lady; she was the daughter of Rowena Ravenclaw and stole her mother's magical diadem, which had never been found

Hermione Granger a Muggle-born witch and one of Harry's best friends; she leaves Hogwarts with Harry to search for Voldemort's Horcruxes

Horace Slughorn the Hogwarts Potion Master and the head of Slytherin House; he was afraid to take a stand against Voldemort but in the end fights on the side of the Order of the Phoenix at the Battle of Hogwarts

James Potter Harry's father and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; he returns from death at Harry's summons to accompany him as he faces Voldemort

Kingsley Shacklebolt an Auror and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; he is driven underground by the Death Eaters but fights in the Battle of Hogwarts and is later named Minister of Magic

Kreacher a house-elf belonging to the Black family, whom Harry inherited in Sirius Black's will; once hostile to Harry, Ron, and Hermione, he is now loyal to them

Lee Jordan a Hogwarts student and a member of Gryffindor House; he is Fred and George Weasley's best friend, a member of the Order of the Phoenix, and host of an anti-Voldemort radio show

Lily Evans Potter Harry's dead mother and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; she returns from death at Harry's summons to accompany him as he faces Voldemort

Lord Voldemort the powerful Dark Wizard, once known as Tom Riddle, who killed Harry's parents and tried to kill Harry; he has taken over the Ministry of Magic and has vowed to personally kill Harry

Lucius Malfoy Draco Malfoy's father and a Death Eater; he was once a high-ranking follower of Voldemort but has now fallen out of favor

Luna Lovegood a student in Ravenclaw House and a member of Dumbledore's Army; she is imprisoned by Death Eaters for her father's anti-Voldemort activity

Minerva McGonagall the Transfiguration teacher at Hogwarts, the Head of Gryffindor House, and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Molly Weasley Ron's mother and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Mr. Ollivander an English wandmaker; he made the wands of both Voldemort and Harry and was held prisoner by the Death Eaters to make wands for them

Mundungus Fletcher a petty criminal and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; he stole Slytherin's locket from Kreacher and had it confiscated from him in turn by Dolores Umbridge

Narcissa Malfoy Lucius Malfoy's wife, Draco's mother, and sister to Bellatrix Lestrange; she is a Death Eater in her own right

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Neville Longbottom a student in Gryffindor House who becomes the leader of Dumbledore's Army at Hogwarts when Harry, Ron, and Hermione do not return to school

Nymphadora Tonks a young Auror and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; she is married to Remus Lupin and is killed at the Battle of Hogwarts

Percy Weasley Ron's pompous older brother who had sided with the Ministry against his family but had a change of heart when Voldemort's Death Eaters took over the Ministry; he changes sides and fights with the Order of the Phoenix at the Battle of Hogwarts

Petunia Evans Dursley the sister of Harry's mother, Lily Evans Potter; she was once close to her sister but turned against her when Lily went to Hogwarts to learn witchcraft and she was not allowed to attend

Regulus Black Sirius's younger brother and a Death Eater; he learned from Kreacher of Voldemort's Horcrux and gave his own life to retrieve it

Remus Lupin a werewolf and an old friend of James Potter and Sirius Black; he is a member of the Order of the Phoenix and is married to Nymphadora Tonks; he is killed at the Battle of Hogwarts

Rita Skeeter a tabloid reporter who wrote a highly exaggerated and biased biography of Dumbledore

Rufus Scrimgeour the Minister of Magic who wants Harry to come under the control of the Ministry; despite his animosity toward Harry, he dies under torture by the Death Eaters rather than disclose Harry's whereabouts

Severus Snape the new Headmaster of Hogwarts, who was a school rival of Harry's father, James, and childhood friend of Harry's mother, Lily; a one-time Death Eater, he turned against Voldemort when Voldemort targeted Lily and her son to be killed

Sirius Black Harry's godfather and James Potter's best friend; he returns from death at Harry's summons to accompany Harry as he faces Voldemort

Vernon Dursley Harry's Muggle uncle and Aunt Petunia's husband; he agrees to go into hiding when Harry turns seventeen but is suspicious of the wizards who are offering to protect him

Vincent Crabbe a Slytherin student and a friend of Draco Malfoy; he tries to kill Harry and his friends with Fiendfyre and dies in the Room of Requirement when the Fiendfyre goes out of his control

Xenophilius Lovegood Luna Lovegood's father and the editor of a tabloid magazine; he is a widower and has many strange ideas and fantastical beliefs

## Vocabulary

**buffeted** pushed and struck repeatedly and forcefully

**diadem** a band, or crown, worn on the head to show that one is a ruler

**disembodied** not attached to a physical form

**emaciated** wasted and very thin as a result of hunger

**furtive** marked by an effort to hide or conceal

**inexplicable** not possible to explain

**intervened** stepped in to change a situation

**invincible** unable to be conquered or destroyed

**obituary** a printed notice of death that contains biographical information

**pristine** clean and without flaws or damage

**recounted** told again in detail

**relish** take great pleasure in

**retribution** a judgment or penalty that is given as repayment or revenge

**revulsion** a combination of horror and disgust

**sallow** having an unhealthy, yellowish color in the skin

## Synopsis

Harry Potter is preparing to leave the Dursleys' home for the last time. Because Harry will be turning seventeen soon, the protection his mother's sacrifice has given him will no longer hold. Thirteen members of the Order of the Phoenix arrive to escort Harry to

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safety. Almost as soon as they take to the air, they are attacked by Voldemort and his Death Eaters. Voldemort points his wand, about to curse Harry, when suddenly Harry's wand arm swings around to find Voldemort and destroys Voldemort's wand. Mad-Eye Moody and Harry's owl, Hedwig, are killed in the ambush, and George Weasley loses an ear.

While staying at the Burrow, Harry, Ron, and Hermione discuss their plans to hunt for the Horcruxes--the concealed pieces of Voldemort's soul that protect him against death. The Minister of Magic, Rufus Scrimgeour, arrives and brings them each an object that was left to them by Dumbledore in his will. Dumbledore leaves his Deluminator to Ron, to Hermione an original copy of a children's book *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, and to Harry the Snitch that Harry captured in his first ever Quidditch match, which now bears the mysterious inscription "I open at the close." Dumbledore also left Harry the sword of Gryffindor, but Scrimgeour says the sword is an important historical artifact and refuses to give it to Harry.

During the wedding reception for Ron's brother Bill and Fleur Delacour, Kingsley Shacklebolt's Patronus appears and announces that the Ministry has fallen and Scrimgeour is dead. Death Eaters begin to Apparate into the crowd. Harry, Ron, and Hermione manage to escape and eventually take refuge in Number 12 Grimmauld Place.

While they are there, Harry discovers that the mysterious R.A.B. (who wrote the note found in the fake Horcrux that Harry and Dumbledore found hidden in a cave) is Sirius's dead brother, Regulus. Hermione remembers that they found a locket while cleaning the house and that it was among the items thrown away. They realize this locket might have been the real Horcrux. Their only chance of it not being lost is if Kreacher, the Black family house-elf, saved the locket from the trash. They interrogate Kreacher, and he reveals that he did in fact take the locket. He tells them the story of Regulus's death--how Regulus sent Kreacher to help Voldemort and then come home. After Sirius died, Mundungus Fletcher came into the house and stole

the locket. Harry sends Kreacher to find Mundungus.

From Mundungus, Harry and the others learn that Dolores Umbridge took the locket from him. Harry, Ron, and Hermione decide to infiltrate the Ministry of Magic, where Umbridge now works, and steal the locket back from her. They are successful in retrieving the locket, but their presence is detected, and they are followed back to Number 12 Grimmauld Place by Death Eaters. They are forced to flee to the countryside. From there they begin their hunt for the other Horcruxes.

One night, outside their tent, they overhear a conversation between some wizards and goblins who are in hiding from the Death Eaters. From this conversation, they figure out that Gryffindor's sword can destroy Horcruxes, which is why Dumbledore attempted to leave it to Harry. They also learn that the sword now kept at Gringotts is a fake. Soon after, Ron and Harry argue, and Ron decides to leave. Hermione begs him not to go, but Ron Disapparates. Both Harry and Hermione are devastated by his leaving.

Harry and Hermione continue their quest without Ron. Hermione works on translating the book Dumbledore left her in his will. One night, she asks Harry about a sign that is associated with "The Tale of the Three Brothers," one of the stories in the book *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*. Harry recognizes it as the same sign Xenophilius Lovegood, Luna's father, was wearing at Bill and Fleur's wedding and the same one Viktor Krum said was the dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald's sign.

Harry tells Hermione that he wants to go to Godric's Hollow, the place where he was born, where his parents died, and where Dumbledore's family lived. Harry and Hermione arrive outside Godric's Hollow and go to the graveyard to look for the graves of James and Lily Potter. Hermione is surprised to find the very symbol she had been wondering about carved into the headstone of a very old grave, that of one Ignotus Peverell. As they leave the graveyard, they are approached by an old woman



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who does not speak but motions for them to come with her. They follow her to her home only to discover that the old woman is actually Nagini, Voldemort's snake. Harry and Hermione manage to Disapparate just as Voldemort arrives. Harry loses consciousness and awakes back in the tent with Hermione. On awakening, Hermione tells him the terrible news that in the fight with the snake and her attempts to get them away, Harry's wand was broken.

Late one night, soon after the escape from Voldemort in Godric's Hollow, Harry sees a silver doe that looks like a Patronus. The doe leads Harry to a small frozen pool and then disappears. When Harry looks into the pool, he sees the sword of Gryffindor at the bottom. Harry dives into the pool to retrieve the sword. As he grasps the hilt, however, the chain of the locket Horcrux, which he has been wearing around his neck, begins to tighten and tries to choke him. He is about to lose consciousness and drown when Ron pulls him from the water. Ron, who has returned to the quest, also followed the silver doe. Harry realizes that Ron must be the one to destroy the Horcrux with the sword, which he does.

Ron explains to Harry and an angry Hermione that he tried to come back, but when he tried to return to where Harry and Hermione had camped, they had already gone. He explains that he was eventually able to find them by using Dumbledore's Deluminator. Ron also explains that there has been a Taboo placed on saying Voldemort's name. Anyone who says Voldemort's name can be tracked by Death Eaters.

Soon after Ron's return, the trio visit Luna's father, Xenophilius Lovegood. Hermione has become convinced that the sign she saw in the graveyard at Godric's Hollow, in the book Dumbledore left her, and around Lovegood's neck at Bill's wedding, is somehow important to their quest. Hermione mentions the Peverell grave in Godric's Hollow, and Xenophilius becomes quite excited. He tells them that the sign is the sign of the Deathly Hallows. He instructs Hermione to read "The Tale of the Three

Brothers" from her book. The children's tale (more than likely about the Peverell brothers) mentions the three Deathly Hallows: an unbeatable wand (the Elder Wand), a stone that has the power to bring people back from the dead (the Resurrection Stone), and a cloak that will enable a person to hide from death (the Invisibility Cloak). The wizard who possesses all three would become master of Death.

After a near escape from Death Eaters at the Lovegood house, Harry becomes obsessed with the Deathly Hallows. He is sure his Invisibility Cloak is the one spoken of in the tale. He now believes that Voldemort is seeking the Elder Wand because he cannot defeat Harry with his own wand. He also believes the Snitch that Dumbledore left him in his will must contain the Resurrection Stone, the third Deathly Hallow. Harry gradually loses all interest in the search for the Horcruxes.

One night, as they listen to an underground radio show, they learn Voldemort is abroad, and Harry thinks it's because he's still searching for the Elder Wand, which is buried with Dumbledore at Hogwarts. In his excitement at the news, he forgets Voldemort's name is Tabooed and speaks it aloud. Almost instantly, they are surrounded by Death Eaters, but Hermione manages to do a quick spell on Harry that makes him unrecognizable. The Death Eaters do recognize Hermione though, and she is known to be traveling with Harry. The Death Eaters, including the werewolf Fenrir Greyback, decide to take them all to Malfoy Manor, where Voldemort can be summoned. The Death Eaters have also captured Dean Thomas and a goblin named Griphook.

The Malfoys confirm that Greyback and the others have indeed captured Harry Potter. They are about to summon Voldemort when Bellatrix Lestrange notices the sword of Gryffindor. She becomes terrified and says they cannot call Voldemort yet. She orders Harry and Ron taken down to the cellar. Bellatrix tortures Hermione to find out if she, Ron, and Harry have been inside Bellatrix's vault at Gringotts. In the cellar, Harry and Ron find that Luna and the wandmaker Ollivander are also being kept

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prisoner there. In desperation, Harry calls for help using the shard of a two-way mirror. He sees a blue eye that seems to be Dumbledore's looking out at him. Soon after, Dobby Apparates into the cellar. Harry instructs Dobby to Disapparate with Luna, Dean, and Mr. Ollivander and take them to Bill and Fleur's cottage.

Wormtail is sent down to investigate the noise Dobby made while Disapparating. Ron and Harry tackle him when he comes in. Harry reminds Wormtail that he owes his life to Harry. Wormtail hesitates only a fraction of a second in trying to break free to curse Harry. In that second, his cursed silver hand turns against him, and Wormtail is strangled by his own hand for hesitating in trying to kill Harry. Ron and Harry leave Wormtail's body and run upstairs to rescue Hermione.

They manage to overpower the Malfoys and in the fight, Harry beats Draco and takes his wand. Dobby returns and helps Harry and others Disapparate. When they arrive at Bill and Fleur's cottage, they realize Bellatrix threw a knife at Dobby and managed to stab him with it just before he Disapparated. Before they are able to help him, he dies. As Harry digs Dobby's grave, he finds he has lost his obsession with the Hallows and realizes he must seek the Horcruxes.

Harry speaks to Griphook and asks him to help him break into Gringotts bank, where he thinks Voldemort has hidden another Horcrux, the cup of Hufflepuff. Griphook reluctantly agrees but only in exchange for the sword of Gryffindor. Harry also questions Mr. Ollivander, who tells him that Voldemort is seeking the Elder Wand because he believes it will defeat Harry's wand. After talking with Mr. Ollivander, Harry has a vision of Voldemort going to Hogwarts and stealing the Elder Wand from Dumbledore's tomb.

With the help of Griphook, Harry, Ron, and Hermione break into Gringotts and steal the cup of Hufflepuff from the Lestrage vault. Griphook slips away unnoticed with the sword, and Harry, Ron, and Hermione manage to escape Gringotts on the back

of a dragon. When they reach safety, Harry has another vision of Voldemort and realizes that a Horcrux is hidden at Hogwarts. That particular Horcrux, the cup, and the snake Nagini are the three Horcruxes that remain to be destroyed. Harry, Ron, and Hermione Apparate into Hogsmeade, where they encounter the barman of the Hog's Head. Harry suddenly recognizes him as Dumbledore's brother, Aberforth. Aberforth's is the eye Harry saw in the two-way mirror, and he is the one who sent Dobby to rescue them in Malfoy Manor.

Harry asks for Aberforth's help to get into Hogwarts. Aberforth becomes angry and tries to convince Harry to run away. Harry refuses to leave. Aberforth tells Harry that Dumbledore used people only for his own ends and that Dumbledore had done the same thing with Harry. He tells the three of them the true story of Ariana Dumbledore's death. Ariana was caught in the middle of a duel between Albus, Aberforth, and Grindelwald, and none of the three knew who had cast the curse that killed her. Harry gently says he must do the job Dumbledore set for him to do. Aberforth agrees to help and smuggles them into Hogwarts with the help of Neville Longbottom. Neville has assumed a leadership role in Dumbledore's Army (also called the D.A.) and is now in hiding in the Room of Requirement with other D.A. members. Neville takes Harry, Ron, and Hermione into Hogwarts through a secret passage between the Hog's Head and the Room of Requirement.

Once reunited with the members of the D.A., Harry asks the Ravenclaw students if they know of any powerful object that belonged to Rowena Ravenclaw. They tell him about her diadem, but that it has been lost for centuries. Harry and Luna go to the Ravenclaw common room to see a statue of Ravenclaw wearing the diadem and are confronted by one of the Death Eaters, Alecto Carrow. Luna and Harry manage to stun Alecto but not before she presses the Dark Mark on her arm and calls Voldemort.

On the arrival of Professor McGonagall in the Ravenclaw common room, Harry alerts her that

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Voldemort is coming. She says the teachers will secure the school against Voldemort for as long as possible while Harry searches the castle for the diadem. In the meantime, Snape has fled Hogwarts to join Voldemort. Harry and Luna return to the Room of Requirement, and they find that all the Weasleys (including Percy) and other members of the Order of the Phoenix have arrived and joined the members of the D.A.

While the Order and the D.A. go to prepare for the battle, Harry continues his search for the diadem on his own. From Voldemort's clues, help from the Gray Lady (the Ravenclaw ghost), and his own memories, he finally works out that the diadem is hidden in the Room of Requirement. On his way back there, he runs into Ron and Hermione, who previously disappeared. They went to destroy the Horcrux in Hufflepuff's cup by using a basilisk fang.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione enter the Room of Requirement and find that Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle are there as well. Crabbe uses the spell for Fiendfyre, which is an uncontrollable cursed fire. Before Harry, Ron, and Hermione escape, Harry grabs the diadem Horcrux from its perch. Goyle and Malfoy are also saved, but Crabbe is trapped and dies in the fire. When they get out, the diadem begins to melt, and Hermione recalls that Fiendfyre is one of the few substances that can destroy a Horcrux. They realize if they can get to Nagini, the snake, then all of Voldemort's Horcruxes will be destroyed.

Just then, they hear yelling and banging and the sound of dueling. Hogwarts has finally come under attack, and the Death Eaters are inside. Harry goes into Voldemort's thoughts and discovers that Voldemort is waiting inside the Shrieking Shack. Harry, Ron, and Hermione sneak inside and overhear Voldemort asking Snape why the Elder Wand won't seem to work for him as he thought it would. Because Snape defeated Dumbledore, Voldemort now believes that Snape is the master of the Elder Wand. He thinks he must defeat Snape in order to be the true master of the wand. Voldemort sets Nagini on Snape and then leaves Snape dying

on the floor. Once Voldemort is gone, Harry comes out of hiding and approaches Snape. Just before he dies, Snape tells Harry to take his memories to use in the Pensieve.

Harry learns from the memories that Snape had been in love with Lily ever since they were children together. When Voldemort marked Harry and his family for death because of the prophecy, Snape went over to Dumbledore and became a double agent. Snape did indeed do his best to protect Harry when Harry came to Hogwarts. Snape was also the person who sent the silver doe Patronus. Harry also sees a memory of the year before when Dumbledore's hand was injured after he acquired the ring Horcrux from Marvolo Gaunt's shack. The curse was contained by Snape, but it meant that Dumbledore probably had only about a year left to live. Dumbledore and Snape agreed between them that Snape would kill Dumbledore before the end. Snape would then control the Elder Wand, and Draco would not become Dumbledore's murderer.

Dumbledore also explained to Snape that part of Voldemort's soul is lodged inside Harry. Harry is, in fact, an additional Horcrux, one that Voldemort did not intend to make. He explained that Harry must die in order for Voldemort to be truly defeated and Voldemort must be the one to kill Harry. Harry knows what he must do and heads to the Forbidden Forest to meet his death. Along the way, he sees Neville and tells him that if he gets the chance, he must kill Voldemort's snake. Before he meets Voldemort, Harry suddenly remembers the Snitch that Dumbledore left him. It said, "I open at the close." He puts the Snitch to his lips and says, "I am about to die." The Snitch pops open, and inside is the cracked Resurrection Stone, the last of the Deathly Hallows. Harry turns it in his hand, and his parents, Sirius, and Lupin appear. They accompany him into the forest to give him courage to face Voldemort.

Wearing the Invisibility Cloak, Harry arrives at the place where Voldemort and the Death Eaters are waiting. He walks into the midst of them and then takes it off. Voldemort regards him for a moment

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and then casts the Killing Curse. Harry awakens in a domed room that reminds him of King's Cross train station. He sees Dumbledore walking toward him, smiling. He tells Harry that he (Harry) is not dead. Because Voldemort used Harry's own blood to regenerate his body, Lily's protection is now inside both of them. His body keeps her sacrifice alive--and because Voldemort is still alive, Harry is also still tied to life. But in trying to kill Harry, Voldemort has killed the bit of his own soul that was lodged inside Harry. Harry is now free of Voldemort.

Dumbledore tells Harry that he has a choice whether to stay or go back, but that by going back he has a chance to finish Voldemort once and for all. Harry decides to return to confront Voldemort. Harry comes to but pretends he is dead. Voldemort tells Narcissa Malfoy to check Harry to see if he is dead. Harry is sure he will be discovered, but Narcissa whispers to him, asking if Draco is alive. When Harry whispers back yes, Narcissa announces to the others that Harry is dead.

Harry is taken to the castle, and Voldemort announces that Harry has been killed while trying to sneak away. He then commands all the fighters of Hogwarts to come out and see Harry's dead body. Neville tries to charge at Voldemort but is overpowered. Voldemort summons the school Sorting Hat from within the castle. The hat is forced onto Neville's head and then ignites in flames.

Suddenly, reinforcements in the form of centaurs, Grawp, house-elves, friends, and parents of Hogwarts students arrive to aid the defenders. But most importantly, Neville sweeps the Sorting Hat off his head, pulls the sword of Gryffindor out of it, and before Voldemort can react, he slices off the head of the snake Nagini, Voldemort's final Horcrux. Now Voldemort can be killed.

In the confusion, Harry pulls the Invisibility Cloak over himself and goes with the crowd into the castle as the battle rages. When Voldemort turns to kill Molly Weasley, Harry puts a Shield Charm around Molly and then pulls away the Invisibility Cloak. Harry and Voldemort circle each other, preparing to

duel. Harry reveals the secret that Snape and Dumbledore planned Dumbledore's death between them. He tells Voldemort that Snape did not defeat Dumbledore, so killing Snape was pointless. Because Draco Malfoy disarmed Dumbledore moments before Dumbledore's death, Malfoy was actually the master of the Elder Wand. Harry also tells Voldemort that he beat Malfoy in a duel at Malfoy Manor weeks ago. This meant that Harry is now the master of the Elder Wand. Voldemort does not believe it and sends the Killing Curse at Harry at the same moment Harry shouts the Disarming Spell, Expelliarmus. The spells collide as the Elder Wand flies from Voldemort's hand, seeking its new master. Harry catches it. The Killing Curse rebounds and hits Voldemort, who falls dead on the spot.

Harry goes to speak to Dumbledore's portrait. He tells Dumbledore that he has decided to leave the Resurrection Stone in the forest where he dropped it. He also will put the Elder Wand back into Dumbledore's tomb. If Harry dies undefeated, then the power of the Elder Wand will also be at an end. He says he will keep the Invisibility Cloak. Dumbledore agrees with all these decisions.

When next we see Harry, it is nineteen years later, and he and Ginny, now married, are taking their children to King's Cross to put their sons, James and Albus, on the Hogwarts Express for school. Lily, their daughter, is still too young. They meet Ron and Hermione, also married with two children of their own. Harry feels a bittersweet loss as he watches his children ride away from him on the train. He touches his scar. It has not pained him since Voldemort's death.

## Open-Ended Questions

Use these open-ended questions as the basis for class discussions, student presentations, or extended writing assignments.



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## Initial Understanding

What were Ron's reasons for leaving Harry and Hermione and abandoning the search for the Horcruxes?

*Unlike Harry, Ron was not used to going hungry or suffering with heat or cold. He did not handle it as well as the other two. He was not as disciplined as Hermione and expected the others to come up with plans and results. When they did not, he resented them. The stress of being on the run and worrying about his family caused him to unleash his anger. Wearing the Horcrux locket affected him badly--worse than it affected the other two. It caused all the feelings he was having to be magnified until he lost control and lashed out.*

## Literary Analysis

Author J.K. Rowling tells the story from numerous points of view through several different devices. For example, she tells some of Dumbledore's story from the point of view of Elphias Doge through an article he wrote for *The Daily Prophet*. What are some other points of view and the devices used to express them in the book?

*More of Dumbledore's story is given from Rita Skeeter's point of view in an interview published in the newspaper for wizards and through her book about Albus Dumbledore, which is excerpted in several places in the text. Aberforth tells his version of the Dumbledore family's story in a dialogue with Harry, Ron, and Hermione in a scene in the Hog's Head. Dumbledore himself gives his point of view in the dream scene dialogue between himself and Harry. The story of Kreacher and Regulus Black is also given through dialogue, told from Kreacher's point of view. Voldemort's point of view of a number of events is told through Harry's visions of him, which often happen as another action is happening to Harry himself. The story of Snape and Lily Potter is told through Snape's memories, given to Harry and viewed by Harry in the Pensieve in Dumbledore's office.*

## Inferential Comprehension

Why was Rufus Scrimgeour angry when he came to give Harry and the others the items Dumbledore had left them in his will?

*Scrimgeour wanted Harry to help the Ministry of Magic in the hunt for Voldemort. He was angry that Harry refused to take orders from him as Minister of Magic. He was also angry that Dumbledore, too, had refused to cooperate with the Ministry against Voldemort.*

## Constructing Meaning

Dumbledore's childhood friend Elphias Doge and Dumbledore's brother, Aberforth, hold very different opinions of Dumbledore. What are the differences, and which man's opinion do you think is closer to the facts?

*Elphias Doge loved and admired Dumbledore from the time they first met when they were eleven years old. He seemed to feel that Dumbledore could do almost no wrong. He managed to find excuses for any imperfections in Dumbledore's life. He encouraged Harry never to doubt Dumbledore or let anything he heard tarnish his memories of Dumbledore. Doge himself seemed to have done that as well. Aberforth resented his brother, Albus, and seemed to blame him for the tragedies of his life, most especially the death of their sister, Ariana. He claimed Dumbledore was secretive and deceptive, selfish, and only interested in his own glory. He said Dumbledore used other people only for his own ends. Both men seem to have formed their opinions of Dumbledore when they were young and then never changed them. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle. Dumbledore himself admitted his imperfections to Harry. Like Aberforth, he seemed to blame himself for his sister's death and admitted that his selfishness and desire for fame and glory had blinded him to the true nature of Grindelwald until it was too late. But it was also true that Dumbledore turned away from the path of power and brutality, as Grindelwald did not, and spent his life working to protect the weak and downtrodden.*

# Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

by  
J.K. Rowling

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## Teachable Skills

**Understanding Literary Features** An epigraph is a phrase, quotation, or poem that is set at the beginning of a piece of text. It may serve as a preface or summary of important ideas in the work or to link the work to other literary works for comparison. Unlike the previous Harry Potter books, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* begins with two epigraphs. The first is from ancient Greek literature, the play *The Libation Bearers* by Aeschylus, and the second is from a work by William Penn called *More Fruits of Solitude*. Epigraph 1. Oh, the torment bred in the race, the grinding scream of death and the stroke that hits the vein, the hemorrhage none can staunch, the grief, the curse no man can bear. But there is a cure in the house, and not outside it, no, not from others but from THEM, their bloody strife. We sing to you, dark gods beneath the earth. Now hear, you blissful powers underground--answer the call, send help. Bless the children, give them triumph now. Epigraph 2. Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this divine glass, they see face to face; and their converse is free, as well as pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal. Read the two epigraphs with students and discuss them as a group to make sure that all students understand the vocabulary and the basic meanings of the epigraphs. Ask students why they think the author chose these two epigraphs to begin her final book in the series. Why do they think she choose to put epigraphs in this book and not in previous books? Have students, individually or in groups, choose one of the two epigraphs to study more in depth. Students should research the content of the work they have chosen. Have them write a summary of the plot of *The Libation Bearers* or the basic ideas Penn wrote about in *More Fruits of Solitude*. If there is time, have them research and

explain some of the context around the works--fifth-century Greece for Aeschylus and seventeenth-century England for Penn. Have students make presentations, using the material they've found or the words of the epigraphs themselves, about how the epigraphs are connected to the ideas and themes developed in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. How do those epigraphs summarize, predict, or expand upon the ideas and themes in the book? Some of the themes students might focus on include: dealing with death, grief, and loss; the comforts and strengths of friendship; the importance of struggle in the face of evil, etc.

**Understanding Sequence** The story of Albus Dumbledore and the tragedies that happened in his family are scattered throughout the narrative of the book. Harry did not learn the whole story until the very end, when the spirit of Dumbledore finally told his own version of those events. He variously heard from Elphias Doge, Ron's Auntie Muriel, Rita Skeeter (through her books and the interview with her in *The Daily Prophet*), Aberforth Dumbledore, and finally Dumbledore himself. Have students browse through the text and gather all the bits of information concerning the story of Dumbledore and his family (including his friendship with Grindelwald). Have them then make an outline of the events in chronological order (not the order in which they were recounted). Using the outline they have made, have students write the story of the Dumbledore family and Grindelwald as they think it happened, taking all the various points of view into account.

**Recognizing Feelings** When Ron grew angry and left Harry and Hermione, they felt hurt and lost without him. Ron, we later learn, immediately regretted what he had done and tried to return but was unable to do so. He spent some time with his brother Bill, feeling guilty and lost himself. He finally was able to return, made amends with Harry and Hermione, and rejoined the quest to find the Horcruxes. Discuss with students what it means to let someone else down. Why were Harry and Hermione so devastated when Ron left them? Why was Ron too ashamed to go back to

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his family, and why did he hide at his oldest brother's house instead? Discuss with students what Ron might have been experiencing to drive him to the point of abandoning his friends. Then discuss why he had the courage to return to them later. Why would this have been a difficult thing to do? After the discussion, have students write about a time they feel they either let someone else down or someone let them down. Ask them to explain the reasons why this happened and why and how amends were made in that situation. If they feel amends were not made, have them explain why not. If amends were not made, was it possible to make amends? Is it still possible? Why or why not?

**Drawing Conclusions** In his will, Dumbledore left the book *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* to Hermione. She read one particular story from that book, "The Tale of the Three Brothers," out loud, in its entirety. Because the author has taken the trouble to put the whole story into the book rather than just summarizing it, we can assume that contained within it are important messages and information about both the plot of the story and its themes. As a class, read "The Tale of the Three Brothers" aloud. Then have students, working in small groups or individually, do a closer reading of the tale. What is the information the author is trying to give the reader through the inclusion of this complete story-within-the-story? Students may want to analyze the characters of each of the brothers individually or pick a theme from the story that echoes a theme from the book (dealing with death, the use and abuse of power, etc.). Have students write a short summary of their conclusions about Rowling's message and intentions in writing "The Tale of the Three Brothers" in the larger context of the Harry Potter saga. Then have students do a visual representation of some kind about the story and their conclusions and present it to the larger group: for example, a story map or a drawing and short character sketch of each character in the story.