

Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

by
J.K. Rowling

Book Information

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
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Fifteen-year-old wizard Harry Potter struggles with a threatening teacher, a problematic house-elf, the dread of upcoming final exams, and haunting dreams that hint toward his mysterious past. Book #5

Award: ALA Best Book for Young Adults; ALA Notable/Best Books; Bilby Award; Booklist Editors' Choice; Bram Stoker Award/Nominee; Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature; VOYA: The Perfect Tens

Topics: Adventure, Misc./Other; Community Life, School; Countries/Regions, England; Fantasy/Imagination, Dreams; Fantasy/Imagination, Magic; Mysteries, Secrets; People, Friends; Popular Groupings, Middle Grades Popular Authors/Starred Reviews; Series, Harry Potter

Main Characters

Alastor Moody a retired Auror, called "Mad-Eye," and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Albus Dumbledore the Headmaster of Hogwarts and the leader of the Order of the Phoenix; considered to be the most powerful wizard in the world

Arabella Figg Harry's Squib neighbor in the Muggle world and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

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

Bellatrix Lestrange Sirius Black's cousin and Draco Malfoy's aunt; a Death Eater who escaped from Azkaban after being imprisoned there for torturing Neville's parents

Bill Weasley Ron's oldest brother and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Cho Chang a student in Ravenclaw House, Harry's crush, and a member of Dumbledore's Army

Cornelius Fudge the Minister of Magic and now an enemy of Harry and Dumbledore

Dobby a house-elf, freed by Harry, who now works at Hogwarts

Dolores Umbridge the Undersecretary to the Minister of Magic and the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher; she is determined to discredit Harry and is gradually taking control at Hogwarts

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

Firenze a centaur from the Forbidden Forest; he replaces Professor Trelawney as Divination teacher when she is fired by Umbridge

Fred and George Weasley Ron's twin brothers; they run a mail-order joke business out of Hogwarts and are members of Dumbledore's Army

Ginny Weasley a student in Gryffindor House and Ron's younger sister; she used to have a crush on Harry and is a member of Dumbledore's Army

Grawp a giant and Hagrid's younger half-brother

Harry Potter the 15-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 battle

Hermione Granger a Muggle-born witch and one of Harry's best friends; she is a top student at Hogwarts, in Gryffindor House, and the founder of Dumbledore's Army

Kingsley Shacklebolt an Auror and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Kreacher a house-elf belonging to the Black family; he is loyal to those members of the Black family who still follow Voldemort

Lord Voldemort the powerful Dark Wizard who killed Harry's parents and tried to kill Harry; he has now returned and is building an army of creatures to take over the wizarding world

Lucius Malfoy Draco Malfoy's father and a Death Eater

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Luna Lovegood a student in Ravenclaw House and a member of Dumbledore's Army; she is often mocked for her strange ideas and behaviors but is a good-hearted person

Marietta Edgecomb a student in Ravenclaw House, a friend of Cho Chang, and a member of Dumbledore's Army; she betrays the D.A. to Professor Umbridge

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

Mundungus Fletcher a petty criminal who carelessly leaves Harry unguarded to face dementors; he is nonetheless loyal to Dumbledore and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Neville Longbottom a student in Gryffindor House whose parents had been tortured into insanity by the Death Eaters; he is a member of Dumbledore's Army

Nymphadora Tonks a young Auror and a cousin of Sirius; she is a Metamorphmagus, or shape-shifter, and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Percy Weasley Ron's pompous older brother who sides with the Ministry and against his family in the conflict over Voldemort's return

Remus Lupin a werewolf; he is a former Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, an old friend of Sirius Black and James Potter, and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Rita Skeeter a tabloid reporter whom Hermione is blackmailing and who interviews Harry for the real story of Voldemort's return

Ron Weasley Harry's best friend and the youngest son of the Weasley family; he is a student in Gryffindor House and a member of Dumbledore's Army

Rubeus Hagrid a half-giant; he is the groundskeeper and a teacher at Hogwarts and a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Severus Snape Hogwarts's Potions Master and the Head of Slytherin House; he was a school rival of Harry's dead father and is a member of the Order of the Phoenix

Sibyll Trelawney a Divination teacher at Hogwarts; she claims to be a Seer, but her predictions are generally ridiculous; she made the prophecy about Harry and Voldemort

Sirius Black Harry's godfather, James Potter's best friend, and a member of the Order of the Phoenix; he escaped from Azkaban prison and is in hiding at number twelve, Grimmauld Place in London

the Dursleys Harry's Muggle Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon, and cousin Dudley, who resent and fear his magical powers and maltreat and bully Harry when he is in their home

Winky a freed house-elf who now works at Hogwarts

Vocabulary

abysmal having a shocking degree of awfulness

antidote a remedy that stops the effects of a poison

apprehensive fearful of possible evil or harm

avidly showing active and urgent interest

contemptuously acting in a haughty way that shows scorn and a lack of respect

disgruntled angry due to perceived bad treatment or a frustrating situation

disheveled rumpled, messed up, and loosely out of order

flagon a drinking vessel that has a handle and a spout

inquiry a careful search for answers and clues; an official investigation

muster to call up or summon forth

pallid having a whitish hue

relevant connected to the case or topic at hand

relinquished released a hold upon

stealth the act of moving in a quiet, cautious, secretive manner

tactless lacking a sense of what to do or say to avoid offending others

Synopsis

It is the summer before Harry Potter's fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry

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is once again back at the home of his odious relatives, the Dursleys. Since the night in the graveyard when he witnessed Lord Voldemort's return, Harry has had almost no news of the wizarding world. His only comfort comes from occasional letters from Ron, Hermione, and his godfather, Sirius Black.

While Harry and his cousin, Dudley, are out walking, the two are suddenly attacked by a pair of Dementors. Harry manages to drive the Dementors away with a Patronus charm. His elderly neighbor Arabella Figg arrives on the scene, and Harry is stunned to learn she is a Squib (a non-magical person born to a wizarding family) and has been watching him on Albus Dumbledore's orders.

On arriving home with Dudley, Harry receives an owl from the Ministry of Magic telling him he has been expelled from Hogwarts for using magic outside of school. He quickly receives more owls telling him that Dumbledore has worked to have this decision temporarily reversed but there will be a hearing to determine if he is to be permanently expelled. Soon after, he joins his friends Ron and Hermione and Ron's family at number twelve, Grimmauld Place, the family home of Sirius Black and now the headquarters of the Order of the Phoenix.

Harry learns that the Order of the Phoenix is a secret organization created by Dumbledore to resist Voldemort. Sirius, Lupin, Moody, all the adult Weasleys (except for Percy, who has sided with the Ministry), several Hogwarts teachers, and about twenty others, including a Metamorphmagus named Tonks, are all members of the Order. From them, Harry learns that Voldemort is building an army and is attempting to obtain a weapon that will increase his power.

Harry wants to join the Order and fight but is not allowed to because he is not of age. While at Sirius's ancestral home, he meets Kreacher, a house-elf who is a servant to the Black family. Kreacher hates Sirius for rejecting the family and is angry and disdainful of all the Order members who are not pure-blood wizards or who are friends with

Muggles.

The day of Harry's expulsion hearing arrives, and Harry is tried before the full court of the wizarding world, the Wizengamot. Dumbledore arrives and convinces the court to acquit Harry since he acted only in self-defense.

Overjoyed to be reinstated at Hogwarts, Harry returns to Grimmauld Place to get ready for school. On the train back to school, Harry makes a new friend, Luna Lovegood, a strange girl who believes that fantastical beings and legends are real. At the welcome feast that night, the Hogwarts students are also introduced to the latest Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Dolores Umbridge. She was Fudge's assistant who had done all she could to see Harry expelled.

Umbridge forces the students to study Defense Against the Dark Arts from books only and will not allow them to practice defensive spells. Umbridge is deeply prejudiced against any non-wizard, and she punishes Harry because he speaks openly about Voldemort's return. Harry, Ron, and Hermione complain about this to Sirius. Sirius and the Order believe the Minister of Magic, Cornelius Fudge, is afraid that Dumbledore is raising an army against him and wants to be sure the students are not trained in combat.

Fudge ultimately appoints Umbridge as the Hogwarts High Inquisitor. In this post, she has the power to make rules for students, impose punishment, and inspect, evaluate, and even fire other teachers.

Among these worries, Harry also has to prepare for the O.W.L. examinations that all fifth-year students must take, and he is troubled at night by dreams of a locked door at the end of a dark corridor. He always wakes from these dreams shaken, with his scar prickling. He also must deal with the mysterious absence of Hagrid and wonders why Dumbledore seems to be ignoring Harry.

After the students have yet another bad encounter

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with Umbridge, Hermione suggests they form a group to learn Defense Against the Dark Arts on their own. She wants Harry to be the teacher. At first he resists the idea but then agrees to talk to those students who are interested. Harry, Ron, and Hermione meet at the Hog's Head with a couple dozen other students who want to learn from Harry. They vote to call the group Dumbledore's Army (the D.A.), and Hermione has them all sign a pledge to keep the group a secret. With Dobby's help, Harry finds the Room of Requirement--a place in the castle where the group can practice secretly. Throughout the year, Harry teaches his fellow students how to perform defensive spells. Umbridge's handpicked group of students, the Inquisitorial Squad, tries to discover what the D.A. is up to.

Just before Christmas, Harry has a dream that Arthur Weasley is being attacked by a giant snake. The dream turns out to be a true vision, seen from within the mind of Voldemort. Harry briefly believes he himself is Voldemort's secret weapon, but Ginny, Ron, Hermione, and Sirius help him to understand that the dream is merely evidence of his deepening access to Voldemort's thoughts and feelings. Arthur Weasley's life is saved as a result of Harry's vision.

Dumbledore, however, is concerned about this connection between Harry and Voldemort and decides that Harry must take lessons in Occlumency, the magical art of blocking access to one's thoughts and memories. He chooses Snape to give these lessons to Harry. In the course of their lessons, Harry is unable to keep Snape from invading his thoughts. Bellatrix Lestrange, who is Sirius's cousin, and other Death Eaters make a mass escape from Azkaban during this time.

Harry's relationship with Cho Chang develops, and they go out on a date on a school trip to the village of Hogsmeade. Hagrid, meanwhile, has returned to Hogwarts with his half-brother, Grawp. Hagrid is sporting mysterious injuries and obviously keeping a secret. He does tell Ron, Hermione, and Harry that he had been on a mission to the giants for Dumbledore. His mission was unsuccessful, and the

Death Eaters have recruited the giants to Voldemort's cause.

Umbridge continues to inspect the other teachers and succeeds in getting both Trelawney and, eventually, Hagrid, dismissed from the school. The centaur Firenze becomes the new Divination teacher. Snape's lessons with Harry end abruptly, however, when he discovers that Harry has gained access to Snape's own memories of James Potter humiliating him when they were students at Hogwarts.

Soon after, Harry and the D.A. are betrayed by a friend of Cho Chang's, Marietta, who turns them in to Umbridge. To protect Harry, Dumbledore takes the blame for starting the group and, when Fudge threatens to arrest him, he goes into hiding. Fudge appoints Umbridge as Headmistress of Hogwarts. Fred and George Weasley rebel against this change and leave Hogwarts for good.

Harry and the other fifth-year students continue on in school and finally reach the time for their O.W.L. examinations. In the middle of his last exam, Harry is overcome by a vision of Voldemort torturing Sirius somewhere in the Ministry of Magic. He is desperate to go to Sirius's rescue, but Hermione suspects it may be a trap. He attempts to contact Sirius at Grimmauld Place by using Floo Powder in Umbridge's fireplace while Hermione, Neville, Ron, Luna, and Ginny keep a lookout for him.

He is interrupted in this communication by Umbridge and her Inquisitorial Squad. She thinks Harry and the others were trying to contact the fugitive Dumbledore. She summons Snape to give them Veritaserum so they will tell her Dumbledore's whereabouts. He claims not to have any more, but before Snape leaves, Harry manages to communicate to him about Sirius's kidnapping.

At this point, Umbridge decides to use the Cruciatus Curse to torture the information out of Harry. In order to keep her from torturing him, Hermione pretends she will give Umbridge the information she wants. She claims Harry and his friends were

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making a weapon for Dumbledore, hiding it deep in the Forbidden Forest. Umbridge, Harry, and Hermione go into the forest together. They encounter the herd of centaurs that live there. Umbridge insults the centaurs, and they attack, carrying her off screaming into the forest. Returning to the school, Harry and Hermione encounter Ron, Ginny, Luna, and Neville. They decide to go to London to rescue Sirius themselves.

On reaching the Ministry of Magic, they go to the spot where Sirius had been in Harry's vision, and Harry finds a glass ball with his and Voldemort's names written on it. As soon as he takes hold of it, Death Eaters, led by Lucius Malfoy, appear and demand the glass ball, saying it contains the record of a prophecy. They tell Harry that the vision he saw of Sirius was false, planted by Voldemort in his mind in order to lure him to the Ministry of Magic to retrieve the prophecy. Harry realizes that the prophecy is the "weapon" Voldemort has been seeking.

Harry and his friends fight and manage to escape into the halls of the Ministry of Magic. Ron, Ginny, Luna, and Hermione end up injured and unable to fight. Only Neville and Harry are left. The Death Eaters torture Neville with the Cruciatus Curse in order to get Harry to give them the prophecy. Just as he is about to turn it over to Lucius Malfoy, the members of the Order of the Phoenix arrive. In attempting to escape, Harry and Neville drop and shatter the glass prophecy, but no one notices in the heat of the battle. Sirius, who is fighting with his cousin Bellatrix LeStrange, is hit by a curse from her wand and dies.

Enraged at Sirius's death, Harry chases Bellatrix into the upper levels of the Ministry. He attempts to fight her, but she is far more powerful than he. He then taunts her that the prophecy is lost and she has failed her master, Voldemort.

Voldemort himself arrives then and realizes the prophecy has been destroyed. He is about to kill Harry when Dumbledore arrives, and Voldemort and Dumbledore duel. When he finds he cannot defeat

Dumbledore, Voldemort possesses and tortures Harry, hoping that Dumbledore will kill Harry in an attempt to kill Voldemort himself. Harry feels a surge of grief and love for his lost godfather, Sirius, and Voldemort is expelled from his body by the emotion. Voldemort disappears, taking Bellatrix with him. Fudge and the Ministry Aurors arrive in time to see Voldemort and Bellatrix disappearing, proving at last that Voldemort has returned.

Speaking alone to Harry in his office, Dumbledore reveals the contents of the prophecy. He reveals why he placed Harry with the Dursleys when he was a baby and insisted that Harry return to their home every summer. Because his mother died to protect him, Harry was protected by that sacrifice as long as he remained with someone who shared his mother's blood. Dumbledore had arranged it so even Voldemort could not touch him there.

The prophecy, made by Professor Trelawney, said that:

"The one with the power to vanquish the Dark Lord approaches ... born to those who have thrice defied him, born as the seventh month dies ... and the Dark Lord will mark him as his equal, but he will have power the Dark Lord knows not ... and either must die at the hand of the other for neither can live while the other survives ... the one with the power to vanquish the Dark Lord will be born as the seventh month dies...."

One of Voldemort's followers had overheard part, but not all, of the prophecy and reported incomplete information to Voldemort. Voldemort's subsequent, unsuccessful attempts to kill Harry were based on this incomplete information. Dumbledore confirms that either Harry or Voldemort must destroy the other one day.

As the school year ends, Dumbledore is reinstated as Headmaster. He rescues Umbridge from the centaurs, but she soon leaves Hogwarts for good. Professor Trelawney and Hagrid are both reinstated as teachers.

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As Harry and the others arrive at King's Cross station the next day, they are surprised to find all the Weasleys and several members of the Order there, along with the Dursleys. Alastor Moody warns Uncle Vernon that if the Dursleys continue to mistreat Harry, the Order will intervene. This show of love and support buoys Harry up and gives him courage as he leaves to go back to the Dursleys' and face whatever is to come.

Open-Ended Questions

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

Initial Understanding

Why do Harry, Ron, and Hermione try to convince Hagrid to give "normal" lessons in Care of Magical Creatures class while Umbridge is there?

They realize Umbridge is prejudiced against Hagrid and will try to get him fired from his job. They know Hagrid likes dangerous creatures and Umbridge will use this against him in her evaluations if he puts students at risk.

Literary Analysis

Why do you think Fudge is so afraid to admit Voldemort has returned?

He is afraid of war with Voldemort. He feels his position as Minister of Magic might be at risk. He is comfortable as he is and doesn't want things to change. He perhaps feels threatened because Dumbledore is more competent than he is and feels that if Voldemort has returned, people will want Dumbledore for Minister of Magic.

Inferential Comprehension

Why do Hermione and Sirius have such different attitudes about house-elves?

Sirius was raised to think of elves as lesser creatures. He was raised in a privileged environment and thinks of them as mere servants. Hermione was not raised with wizarding attitudes about elves. She is able to see clearly that wizard treatment of elves is wrong and unfair.

Constructing Meaning

Often in the Harry Potter books, people are compared to animals. Animagi in particular seem to have the characteristics of the animals they transform into. For example, Sirius Black transforms into a large, black dog. In what way is Sirius's personality like that of a large, black dog?

Sirius is very loyal, like a dog. The blackness of the dog is significant. Sirius's name is Black, and sometimes he is a dark, moody character. He is often reckless, bounding into action without thinking much first. He is excitable like dogs sometimes are. He is described as having a laugh like a bark. He is fiercely protective of Harry, like a watchdog would be.

Teachable Skills

Understanding Hist./Cultural Factors J.K.

Rowling populates her fictional world with many creatures, characters, and motifs drawn from mythology, folklore, and history from around the world. Some of these creatures include goblins, boggarts, giants, elves, hippogriffs, and dragons. Characters whose names have some of these associations include Minerva McGonagall, Dolores Umbridge, Severus Snape, Sirius Black, Remus Lupin, Rubeus Hagrid, Sibyll Trelawney, Firenze, Draco Malfoy, Parvati Patil, Alastor Moody, and Argus Filch. Other possible motifs include the wizarding court, the Wizengamot, the mention of wand woods, and the Latin language of different spells taught at Hogwarts. Have the students, alone or in groups, choose a creature, character, or motif from the book. Direct them in

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researching possible mythological, folkloric, or historic background for what they choose. Have students present their findings. Discuss how Rowling may or may not have altered the mythology or history in using the tropes from history, mythology, or literature. Explore with students how this background might symbolize something about the character, creature, or motif. For example, Sibyl in Greek mythology was a woman who went into a trance to prophesy--just as Professor Trelawney does in her only two accurate predictions.

Understanding the Main Idea Sirius tells Harry, Ron, and Hermione that "the world isn't divided into good people and Death Eaters." People exhibit complex behaviors and have complex motivations for those behaviors. In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Responding to Literature Harry has mixed reactions to Ron becoming a prefect. On one hand, he is happy for Ron that he's received the honor. On the other hand, he is surprised and a little bit jealous that Ron was chosen and he wasn't. He feels a sense of loss and loneliness when Ron and Hermione go with the prefects on the Hogwarts Express. School friendships often alter, renew, or fade away as young people change, grow, and gain new experiences. Have students write an essay in which they describe a friendship that changed significantly because of different life experiences. It could be a friendship that faded as interests diverged, or it could be a friendship that developed with someone who had not previously seemed interesting or was in fact antagonistic. Encourage students to explore the dynamics of these changes and how their feelings about their friends changed as interests and activities either diverged or converged.

Extending Meaning When Harry, Ron, and Hermione form Dumbledore's Army, Harry realizes he is very talented at Defense Against the Dark Arts and finds he enjoys teaching others these skills. It gives him new confidence in himself and a sense of pride when his students perform well under his guidance. Have students reflect on something they feel they are very good

at. This could be anything from painting to snowboarding to playing an instrument. Then have them design and present a lesson on this skill. Encourage students to somehow demonstrate their skills themselves and allow others to participate to the extent practically possible.