



Unit 4 Lesson 6

Harry Potter and Latin Crib Sheet

Slide 1: Introduce the lesson objective, to look at how Latin is used in the Harry Potter books.

Slides 2 and 3: Ask pupils to work in their workbooks to match the language to the title. The languages of the titles are as follows in this order:

Dutch

Irish

Hindi

Italian

Norwegian

Russian

Turkish

Thai

They are all “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”. How did pupils work out the title, which cognates did the notice? How did they guess the languages? Clues from cognates, words they understand, recognising the script?

Slide 4: Read the slide aloud and ask for pupil answers. It is, of course, Latin although Greek mythology features heavily.

Slides 5,6,7, 8 and 9: Read the information to the pupils and ask them to answer questions 2 and 3 in their workbooks. Can pupils think of other aspects of the books which focus on Latin? They will hopefully mention spells and names. We discuss these next.

Latin is used because:

- 1: Latin adds a magisterial tone to spells, names, places etc.
2. It suits the traditional character of wizards
3. It is a Romance Language so many people will pick up on Latin references.
4. It is the language of mystery and magic.

Latin is used in the areas of:

1. Character names
2. Spells
3. Place Names
4. Mottos
5. Beasts and creatures in the books
6. Myths and legends linking to character and story.



Slide 10: Pupils work in their workbooks to match the Latin name to the translation and therefore the character traits.

Slides 11: provides the answers and shows how the name suits the character.

Slides 12 and 13 go through spells and how Latin words and roots are used, what they mean and how they link to the spell. Before looking at these slides, ask pupils to work together to see how many they already know or can work out. They should write their thoughts in their workbooks.

Slide 14: Plenary slide with a link to a quick, 10-question quiz about Greek and Latin mythology and its use within the Harry Potter books.