***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone***

***Chapter 11***

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

It is now November, and Quidditch season has started. The weather has turned bitterly cold. Harry is to play his first match after intensive training, and if Gryffindor wins, they will be in second place for the school championship. They are to playSlytherin House.

Hermione has become Harry and Ron's close companion since the troll incident. She has warmed up considerably and helps the two with their homework. Professor Snape has acquired a mysterious limp and is giving them as hard a time as ever. Harry discovers that it is the three-headed dog that caused the limp, but what Snape has been doing near the dog is still not clear.

The day of the big game arrives, and it is a clear, but cold, afternoon. It is a fierce game featuring considerable cheating by the Slytherin side. Suddenly, Harry's broom starts behaving oddly, nearly throwing him off by jerking from side to side. All attempts he makes to steady the broom make it worse, and it begins to roll and knock him off. As he hangs on to the handle for dear life, Hermione scans the crowd with Hagrid's binoculars. She sees Snape mumbling under his breath and jumps from her seat and heads towards the professor.

Hermione knocks Professor Quirrell out of the way as she rushes to hide behind Snape and produce a spell from her wand that sets Snape's robes on fire. Suddenly Harry gets control of his broom back. As soon as he is able to maneuver, he speeds towards the ground at top speed. Instead of grabbing the Snitch as he intended, it flies into his mouth. He spits it out into his hand and holds it up to the screaming crowd.

This unusual catch does not break any Quidditch rules, however, and Gryffindor wins the game by 170 points to 60. Harry, Ron, and Hermione head to Hagrid's hut after the game, and Hermione tells them it was Snape who put a jinx on his broom. Harry then tells Hagrid about the injury on Snape's leg from the dog. Hagrid drops his tea pot at his shock that the three know about "Fluffy." The group is equally surprised that not only does Hagrid know about the three-headed dog, but that its name is Fluffy.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione seem convinced that Snape is trying to steal what is being guarded by Fluffy and that he is trying to kill Harry. Hagrid vehemently disagrees with them and lets slip that the matter is between Professor Dumbledore and Nicolas Flamel. This is the biggest and most substantial bit of information they have gotten so far.

***Brief Analysis:***

Someone is trying to kill or at the very least sabotage Harry, but it really isn't clear that it is Snape. A lot of incriminating evidence seems to suggest that he is a dark wizard. Harry, Ron, and Hermione have become a trio, and this is very good for the boys because she is an excellent witch and can help them out of trouble. Hagrid "slips" and gives the reader, via the characters, a new clue to the mysterious object in the forbidden wing.

***Summary in Detail(10 and 11):***

Over breakfast the next morning, Harry and Ron try to figure out what could be inside the mysterious package and why it would need such heavy protection. During their discussion, the mail arrives, along with a large package for Harry. It is Harry’s new broomstick, a Nimbus Two Thousand, along with a note from [Professor McGonagall](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#professor-mcgonagall) that urges him to keep the news quiet, since first-year students are not typically allowed to have broomsticks. Malfoy sees the package and, realizing what it is, tries to turn Harry in to [Professor Flitwick](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#professor-flitwick) to be punished. Much to Malfoy’s dismay, Professor Flitwick merely praises Harry’s flying skill and congratulates him on being appointed to the Gryffindor team. Harry thanks Malfoy; if it had not been for his attempt to steal Neville’s Remembrall, Harry would never have gotten on the Gryffindor team.

Later that day, Harry has his first Quidditch practice with Wood and the rest of the Gryffindor team. Wood explains the rules to him: each team has three Chasers, one Keeper, two Beaters, and one Seeker. The Chasers score points by throwing the Quaffle through one of three rings on the opposing team’s side, while the Keeper prevents the other team from scoring in the Gryffindor rings. The Seeker’s job is to catch the Golden Snitch, a tiny winged ball that gives an additional one hundred and fifty points to whichever team catches it. During the practice, Harry catches every ball that Wood throws at him. The rest of the team is extremely impressed, and Harry is thrilled that his first few days at Hogwarts are going so well.

After two months, Harry finally feels comfortable as a student at Hogwarts. He spends all of his time in classes, at Quidditch practice, or studying magic. During one particularly interesting Charms class, the first-year students practice a levitating spell by trying to make feathers fly. Ron struggles with his spell pronunciation and is irritated by Hermione’s success: she is the only student who is able to make her feather fly. He makes a nasty comment about her to Harry, and, overhearing him, Hermione runs off crying.

At the Halloween banquet, [Professor Quirrell](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#professor-quirrell) frantically interrupts the feast and informs Dumbledore that a troll is loose in the dungeons. All of the students are ushered out of the dining hall to stay in their houses while the teachers locate the troll. Realizing that Hermione missed the warning about the troll, Harry and Ron decide to leave the group and find her. On their way down the corridor, Harry and Ron inadvertently come across the troll and decide to lock it in the girl’s bathroom. As they leave the corridor, congratulating themselves on their quick thinking, they hear a loud scream and discover that they have accidentally locked Hermione in the bathroom with the troll.

Harry and Ron run back into the bathroom and attack the troll: Harry jumps on top of it and sticks his wand up its nose, while Ron tries to distract it by throwing metal pipes at it. In a final desperate attempt to disable the troll, Ron uses the levitation spell from Charms class and manages to knock out the troll with its own club. A few minutes later, Professors McGonagall, Snape, and Quirrell find the three students in the destroyed bathroom, and Professor McGonagall scolds Harry and Ron ferociously. Hermione lies and tells her that she left the group so that she could fight the troll on her own and Harry and Ron came to save her. Professor McGonagall docks Hermione five points and then gives Harry and Ron five points for their bravery. At this point, Harry, Ron, and Hermione become good friends.

Quidditch season begins in November, and Harry is even more swamped with classes and Quidditch practices. His position on the Gryffindor team is still officially a secret, but Harry discovers that secrets” do not mean much at Hogwarts: nearly everyone already knows that he is playing Seeker. Harry’s friendship with Hermione is particularly beneficial during this busy time as she helps him complete his school assignments. She also lends him a book entitled “Quidditch through the Ages” in order to prepare for the first Quidditch match against Slytherin.

Unfortunately, [Professor Snape](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#professor-snape) confiscates the book from Harry the night before the match. Harry decides to go to Snape’s office to get the book back and sees Snape lifting his robes above his knees and examining his bloody leg. When Snape sees Harry, he screams at him to leave and Harry runs out. As Harry runs back to Ron and Hermione in the Gryffindor common room, he concludes that Snape must have injured his leg in a run-in with the three-headed dog.

It is the day of the first big Quidditch match, and Harry is overcome with both excitement and anxiety. As the game begins, the Gryffindor team is leading and Harry has already almost caught the Snitch. Suddenly, Harry’s Nimbus Two Thousand begins to fly out of control, jerking and nearly throwing him off. Hermione and Ron are terrified for Harry’s safety, and Hermione realizes that Harry’s broom is being jinxed by powerful dark magic. She sees Snape staring at Harry while muttering under his breath and suspects that he is the one jinxing the broom. Hermione sneaks over to Snape and sets his robes on fire. Suddenly, the jinx is broken, and Harry is able to regain control of his broom. Seconds later, he sees the Snitch and catches it in his mouth, winning the match for Gryffindor.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione go to [Hagrid](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#hagrid)’s cottage after the match for some tea. Ron and Hermione tell Hagrid about Snape jinxing Harry’s broom, but Hagrid is unconvinced. He asks them why they think Snape would try to kill Harry, and Harry tells Hagrid about Snape’s leg and the three-headed dog in the third-floor corridor. Hagrid lets slip that he is the owner of the three-legged dog, [Fluffy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#fluffy), and that Fluffy is guarding a secret known only to Dumbledore and [Nicolas Flamel](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#nicolas-flamel).

The Quidditch season begins, and Harry is about to play in his first match against Slytherin. To prepare, Harry borrows a book entitled Quidditch Through the Ages from Hermione. Professor Snape discovers Ron, Harry, and Hermione out with the book one evening and confiscates it from Harry on the feeble pretext that library books may not be taken outside. Harry’s suspicions of Snape continue to grow. Harry notices that Snape is limping. Going off to retrieve the book from Snape, Harry overhears Snape talking to Argus Filch about the three-headed dog, which makes Harry even more suspicious.

The next morning, the Quidditch match begins. Harry plays the position of Seeker, which means he must capture a little object called the Golden Snitch. He spots it and is flying toward it when the Slytherin Seeker pushes him out of the way and is penalized. Later in the game, Harry’s broom begins moving uncontrollably. Hagrid comments that only dark magic could make a broomstick so hard to manage. Hermione notices that Snape is staring at Harry and muttering to himself. As the Weasley twins try to rescue their teammate Harry, Hermione rushes over to Snape, sneaks behind him, and sets his robe on fire. Suddenly, the spell on Harry’s broom is broken and Harry is once again in control. He starts speeding toward the ground and lands, catching the Snitch.

Hagrid takes Harry back to his hut with Hermione and Ron, who tells Harry that Snape was putting a curse on his broomstick. Hagrid does not believe this charge, asking why Snape would try to kill Harry. Harry tells Hagrid about Snape getting injured by the dog in the third-floor corridor. Hagrid involuntarily reveals that the three-headed dog, Fluffy, is his, and that what the dog is guarding is a secret known only to Albus Dumbledore and a man named Nicolas Flamel.

***Analysis in Detail(Chapter 10 and 11):***

The episode with the troll on Halloween is the first time that Hermione becomes a full-fledged member of the group. Before this point in the text, Hermione is described solely as an obnoxious know-it-all, and the reader cannot help but agree with Ron’s negative view of her. When Hermione runs away crying after hearing Ron make fun of her, the reader gets a first glimpse into her character; instead of the over-eager student that irritates her classmates, the reader is introduced to an extremely insecure and lonely girl. Suddenly it seems as if Ron’s judgment of her has been too harsh.

Yet, it is not until Hermione brashly takes full responsibility for the episode with the troll that Rowling provides the reader with a true sense of her courage and sheer grit. Hermione does not help Ron and Harry knock out the troll in the girl’s bathroom; she is too terrified even to run away, let alone use her magic to subdue the troll. Still, she is able to recognize the bravery that Harry and Ron display in rescuing her and realize that the three students will receive a lesser punishment if she lies to Professor McGonagall and takes all of the blame.

Significantly, it is this moment of falsehood that truly establishes the friendship between Harry, Ron, and Hermione. At this point in the narrative, Harry and Ron have already demonstrated a sort of cavalier attitude toward the rules at Hogwarts. Although they do not break rules for the sake of breaking them, neither Harry nor Ron shies away from occasional disobedience. When Hermione lies to the teachers in order to save Harry and Ron from consequences, she reveals that she follows the same causal principle as Harry: break the rules only when the ends justify the means. Hermione’s concept of this causal justification does vary from that of Harry and Ron, but even so, it shows Harry, Ron, and the reader that Hermione has more to offer in the context of the narrative.

In some ways, a friendship based on a lie would not seem to be an appropriate element of a novel for young adults. In fact, Harry and Ron do not become friends with Hermione simply because she lies to the teachers for them. Her lie highlights the importance of being loyal to friends; even though Hermione is not close to Harry and Ron at this point, she is still loyal to them in the face of institutional consequences. This idea of friendship and loyalty is a crucial theme of the narrative, particularly when it comes to the challenges that the three friends must face in the final few chapters of the novel.

During the first Quidditch game of the season, Rowling takes the opportunity to create a clear distinction between good and evil for the first time in the narrative. Although Malfoy and the other members of Slytherin House have demonstrated unpleasant and malevolent natures, none of them have used truly dark magic against Harry. When Harry’s broom is jinxed by dark magic, it becomes clear that there are larger forces at work than merely the match between the two teams; Harry is in opposition with a more powerful opponent, and one who remains identified until the final chapter of the book.

Notably, Harry’s first inclination is that Snape is the source of this mysterious dark magic, an assumption that is based on rather sketchy evidence. Snape is certainly a likely candidate for the role of the antagonist/villain in the narrative, particularly because of his mistreatment of Harry during Potion’s class. Still, the quantification of Snape as a villain is too obvious and rather unfair of Harry and his friends. In Rowling’s world, there are not absolutes of good and evil: every character has elements of both, even though some are more sympathetic than others.

The good and the wicked sides of Hogwarts become more distinct in these chapters as the novel’s major characters begin to move into opposition. Just as the Quidditch players are divided into two opposing teams, Hogwarts separates into those allied with Dumbledore’s rightful authority and those, like Snape, who seem to be plotting some wrongdoing against it. Harry’s success at Quidditch foreshadows his later successful role in the more important standoff between good and bad in the story, and so it is significant that such an outright sign of evil occurs during the Quidditch game. We see that identifying one’s enemy is a key part of any game strategy, and when Hermione notices that Snape seems to be muttering a curse on Harry’s broomstick, it is suggested that teamwork is equally necessary. Hermione is playing on Harry’s team just as much as his Quidditch teammates are, only in a different and more important game. Her role is just as important as Harry’s, because without her assistance Harry might have fallen from his broomstick to his death. Though it is merely a game, Quidditch is given such significance throughout the story precisely because it demands both individual talent and teamwork in equal measure. Harry’s education at Hogwarts teaches him not just that he has unique magic powers, but also that he needs to cultivate friends and allies if he is going to be able to use these powers effectively.

The game takes on greater significance, however, with the idea that it is not merely a contest between noble Gryffindors and cunning Slytherins but between good and evil. Hagrid’s comment that only dark magic could make Harry’s broomstick wobble so much indicates that the game has evolved from being a relatively friendly competition to being one of outright hostility. The use of dark magic forces Harry to face a more urgent threat—the need to survive. Hermione’s decision to help save Harry’s life by setting fire to Snape’s robe demonstrates how the game’s heightened stakes result in heightened motivations and consequences. As the forces of good and evil in the story draw closer, these motivations and consequences continue to intensify.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part***

***Summary Part 1:***

In November, Quidditch season begins. [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter)’s first Quidditch match is against Slytherin, and he’s nervous that he has to prove his skill. He’s grateful to [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) for her help with his homework, seeing as he’s spent so much time training lately. Hermione has become more relaxed about breaking rules: for instance, the day before Harry’s first Quidditch match, Hermione, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley), and Harry sit in the freezing courtyard during a break, and she conjures a fire to keep them warm.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Harry continues to rely on his friends both for emotional and also practical support. His newfound friendship with Hermione is, again, based on the fact that she now understands Harry’s belief that sometimes it can be okay to break the rules if they are being broken for a good reason, like keeping them warm.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape) enters the yard, limping. Even though he doesn’t see the fire, when he notices [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter)’s book Quidditch Through the Ages, he sneers that library books are not to be taken outside the school. He takes five points from Gryffindor for the offense and confiscates the book from Harry, who is fuming because he knows that Snape just made up that rule.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Harry continues to think poorly of Snape because of his constant abuse of his power over Harry. In this instance, Snape goes so far as to makes up a rule (and an arbitrary one, at that) just so that Harry will get into trouble.

***Summary Part 3:***

That evening, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) wants to get his book back from [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape), thinking that he has no reason to be afraid of the teacher. When he goes down to the staffroom to find Snape, he peers through the door and sees [Filch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters) bandaging Snape’s bloody, mangled leg as they discuss the three-headed dog. Harry tries to close the door quietly, but Snape notices him and yells at him to get out.

***Analysis Part 3:***

In addition to associating Snape with power, Harry also starts to associate Snape with greed. This episode brings Harry to the conclusion that Snape is trying to steal whatever had been in Gringotts, and whatever the dog is now guarding.

***Summary Part 4:***

Back in the common room, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) relays what he saw to [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger), concluding that [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape) must have tried to steal whatever the three-headed dog was guarding on Halloween. Hermione argues that a teacher wouldn’t try to steal something from [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore), but Ron says he “wouldn’t put anything past Snape.” Harry goes to sleep wondering again what the dog might be guarding.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Even though Harry views Snape as greedy and power-hungry, in this passage Harry falls victim to a desire of his own; he wants desperately to prove that Snape is up to something bad and to be the hero that prevents Snape from stealing what the dog is guarding.

***Summary Part 6:***

The next morning, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) feels terrible—he didn’t get much sleep, and he’s not hungry at breakfast. By eleven o’clock, the whole school is at the Quidditch field. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley), [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger), [Neville](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/neville-longbottom), and [Seamus](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters) have painted a Potter for President banner to surprise Harry. In the locker room, [Wood](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters) gives a short motivational speech and then the team walks onto the field, where [Madam Hooch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters) is refereeing. When Harry sees the banner, he feels a little bit braver.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Friendship again becomes a crucial support system for Harry, as it allows him to muster up his courage for the match. This will be true throughout the rest of the book as well, as the friendship between the three protagonists helps Harry to be braver than he would be alone.

***Summary Part 7:***

The game begins in a swirl of balls, brooms, and bats. Gryffindor pulls ahead early, and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) flies way above everyone else, looking for the Snitch. But partway through the game, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) feels his broom lurch under him, “as though the broom [is] trying to buck him off.” No one seems to have noticed it, until [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid), who is sitting with [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger), points out that it seems like Harry’s lost control of his broom.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Harry’s jinxed broom is perhaps Voldemort’s first attempt at killing Harry, albeit indirectly. It seems that Voldemort believes that getting rid of Harry will prevent the same loss of power that Voldemort experienced when trying to kill Harry as a baby.

***Summary Part 8:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter)’s broom starts to roll, causing Harry to dangle from it by one hand. The crowd gasps. [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) grabs [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid)’s binoculars and looks at the crowd. She sees [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape), who has his eyes “fixed on Harry” and is muttering something under his breath. Thinking that Snape is jinxing the broom, Hermione races to the row of seats behind Snape, accidentally knocking over [Professor Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) in the process. She crouches behind Snape and casts a spell to set his robes on fire, thus breaking his focus. In the air, Harry is able to clamber back onto his broom.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Hermione again proves how vital her friendship is, and how crucial it is sometimes to break the rules. She wants to protect Harry from the jinx, even going so far as to light a teacher’s robes on fire in order to do so. This moment also carries a subtle but key detail, in that Hermione also knocks Professor Quirrell in the process of trying to stop Snape.

***Summary Part 9:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) speeds toward the ground and hits the field on all fours. His hand is clamped over his mouth as if he’s going to throw up. He coughs, and the Snitch falls into his hand, ending the game in confusion. Gryffindor wins 170 points to 60—the Gryffindors cheer the results.

***Analysis Part 9:***

Harry’s first Quidditch success may not go exactly as planned, but winning the game certainly helps him feel like he belongs both on the team and in Gryffindor, and helps to fuel his confidence in later games.

***Summary Part 10:***

Later, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) returns to [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid)’s hut with [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) for tea. Ron explains that [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape) was the one jinxing the broom, but Hagrid is unconvinced. Harry reveals that he found out Snape tried to get past the three-headed dog, and that Snape’s trying to steal whatever it’s guarding. Hagrid is shocked that they know about “Fluffy” and argues that Snape wouldn’t try to steal what it’s guarding. He concludes by saying that the kids shouldn’t try to intervene, and that what the dog is guarding is strictly the business of [Professor Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) and [Nicolas Flamel](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters). The kids’ ears perk up at this new piece of information, and Hagrid realizes that he’s said too much.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Although dangerous desires will be explored more fully in the next chapter, Harry also exhibits a dangerous desire here. He wants desperately to prove that Snape is up to something, biased by his immediate dislike of the man, and this desire also biases Ron and Hermione.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

It was really lucky that Harry now had Hermione as a friend. He didn't know how he'd have gotten through all his homework without her, what with all the last-minute Quidditch practice Wood was making them do. (11.4)

***Explanation:***

If Harry thinks he's "really lucky" to have Hermione around now, just wait until they're fighting for their lives in the forbidden third-floor corridor. This is welcome praise from Harry, but he doesn't realize how lucky he is to have Hermione reminding him of the importance of focusing on the academic side of Hogwarts. (This goes for Ron too.)

***Quotation 2:***

Ron and Hermione joined Neville, Seamus, and Dean the West Ham fan up in the top row. As a surprise for Harry, they had painted a large banner on one of the sheets Scabbers had ruined. It said Potter for President… (11.41)

***Explanation:***

While the book focuses mainly on Harry's relationships with Ron and Hermione – and to some extent Neville – it's nice to see that he has a much larger friend group, and that so many of the Gryffindor first years support and encourage him. This scene shows how Harry has become part of a real community and can count on his friends to root for him.

***Quotation 3:***

"No – he wouldn't," she said. "I know he's not very nice, but he wouldn't try and steal something Dumbledore was keeping safe."  
  
"Honestly, Hermione, you think all teachers are saints or something," snapped Ron. "I'm with Harry. I wouldn't put anything past Snape. But what's he after? What's that dog guarding?" (11.29-30)

***Explanation:***

According to the conclusion of Book 1, Hermione is right: Snape isn't on the evil side here. While Snape acts really weird and suspicious throughout the book, giving Harry and Ron plenty of reasons not to trust him, ultimately Dumbledore himself defends the potions master. It would appear, then, that Hermione is right in her separation of Snape being "not very nice" from the idea of him working for the Dark Lord.

***Quotation 4:***

"Can't have," Hagrid said, his voice shaking. "Can't nothing interfere with a broomstick except powerful Dark magic – no kid could do that to a Nimbus Two Thousand." (11.105)

***Explanation:***

Many factors combine here to emphasize how scary the enchantment of Harry's broomstick is. One, whatever did it is something that scares the large, confident Hagrid, who describes the situation with "his voice shaking." Two, broomsticks are complicated objects on their own and it would take some extremely "powerful Dark magic" to mess with them. Three, whatever did this is "no kid" but an adult with full-fledged magic powers.