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

***Chapter 14***

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Weeks pass and Quirrell seems to be losing weight, but he does not seem to have cracked yet. It is 10 weeks to final exams, and Hermione is preparing for the end of the term. Harry, Ron, and Hermione discover that Hagrid is hiding something and investigate.

They find out that Hagrid is hiding a dragon egg. They ask him where he has gotten it, and he admits that he won it in a drunken card game with a stranger. Since Hagrid is a lover of magical creatures and Hogwarts' game keeper, he is delighted with his win, even though ownership of dragons is illegal.

The egg hatches after some time and out comes a Norwegian Ridgeback dragon. Hagrid promptly names him Norbert. The baby dragon bites Ron on the hand and he has to go the hospital wing for treatment. Malfoy overhears Harry, Ron, and Hermione discussing the dragon and think he might report Hagrid, which would get him into serious trouble.

Harry and Hermione convince Hagrid to give the baby dragon to Ron's brother, Charlie, who is in Romania studying dragons. Ron's hand has gotten much worse, and Hagrid, who feels bad about that, realizes that Norbert might be a bit dangerous to keep.

It is up to Hermione and Harry to get Norbert out of the school since Ron has to stay in the Hospital. They manage to outwit Malfoy and get the dragon delivered to Charlie at the top of a Hogwarts tower just in time.

The two are thrilled. They managed to foil Malfoy and get Norbert, the dragon, off safely, avoiding trouble for Hagrid. On their way down the stairs from the tower, they realize that in their excitement they have forgotten the invisibility cloak at the top of the tower steps and are caught by Filch, the groundskeeper.

***Brief Analysis:***

Chapter 14 seems to be merely a prelude to the next chapter and a method of providing some background for future chapters. It also demonstrates the ability of Harry, Ron, and Hermione to work together and garner results that they would otherwise not have been able to manage on their own.

***Summary in Detail(12 and 13):***

As Easter approaches, Hermione begins to worry about exams, while Harry and Ron merely try to keep up with the tremendous amount of homework assigned. One day, Hagrid comes upon them studying in the library. They bombard him with questions about the Sorcerer’s Stone. He invites them to come and talk to him later but says he does not promise that he will reveal anything. They visit Hagrid’s hut later, and Hagrid tells them he does not know what else is guarding the stone besides the three-headed dog. He does tell them which teachers cast spells to guard the stone. He adds that he will never give out any information on how to bypass the dog.

Hagrid shows the students a dragon egg that he won in a poker game the previous night. Dragons are illegal, but Hagrid wishes to raise one anyway. Later, Harry gets a note saying the dragon egg is hatching. Excitedly, he and his friends rush over to Hagrid’s to watch the dragon’s birth. The children realize that Hagrid must get rid of this dragon, which Hagrid names Norbert, before he grows too big. They decide to write to Charlie, Ron’s older brother, who is studying dragons in Romania. Charlie agrees to help them and arranges for them to meet some of his friends to take the dragon away. The plan is set for the children to meet Charlie’s friends at midnight one Saturday atop the tallest tower of the castle. They take the invisibility cloak and sneak up carrying Norbert. Charlie’s friends come and take the dragon away. As they descend from the tower, they forget to wear the invisibility cloak, and Filch catches them.

***Analysis in Detail(Chapter 12 and 13):***

Rowling fleshes out the character of Hagrid more fully in this chapter. Hagrid initially seems like an uncouth but affectionate and well-meaning oaf sincerely concerned for Harry’s welfare after the boy’s arrival at Hogwarts, sending him a much-appreciated invitation to tea. Hagrid’s fondness for animals shows that he can see the gentle side of even fierce creatures, as he is the owner of the murderous three-headed dog he cutely names Fluffy. For Hagrid, even wild and monstrous nature is full of kindness; he simply cannot believe in the bad side of anything. Unfortunately, this naïveté makes him ill-equipped to understand the villainous plots afoot at Hogwarts, because he cannot imagine that anyone would want to unseat the beloved Dumbledore. This simple faith is not just wrongheaded but downright dangerous, because, as we later discover, Hagrid’s trust in a stranger who brings him a couple of drinks is what enables the villains to learn the secret of the guard dog.

Hagrid’s optimism also keeps him from understanding the dangerous consequences of raising a dragon at home, not only because of the destructive potential of the beast, but also because it is a major offense and could get him and any accomplices into a lot of trouble. The dragon becomes a symbol of bad consequences that can come from good intentions. In insisting on seeing only the optimistic and kindly side of life, Hagrid makes us think about the dangers of being naïve and unaware of evil. In this sense, he makes us draw parallels between him and Harry, who may be similarly naïve. When Harry gets into trouble for helping Hagrid with his dragon, we see that being naïvely kind can be punished severely. Harry’s awareness of evil is growing, as evidenced by the fact that he urges Neville to stick up for himself against the wicked Malfoy. But he still has some things to learn. Harry, like Hagrid, needs to think more critically and realistically about the consequences of his well-intended actions.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

Every time [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter), [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) pass the third-floor corridor, they check that Fluffy is still there. But Hermione also starts to be preoccupied with the exams that are looming at the end of the year, and the teachers start to pile on more and more homework. One day in the library, Ron notices [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid), but when he greets him, Hagrid becomes very shifty and leaves with a book behind his back. They discover that Hagrid is looking up books about dragons, though Ron comments that keeping a dragon as a pet is illegal.

***Analysis Part 1:***

While Harry and Ron have grappled with their own dangerous desires, Hagrid’s deepest desire becomes dangerous as well—both in the sense of what it is, an illegal fire-breathing dragon, and how he acquired it, as it is ultimately revealed that he only gained it in exchange for a piece of key information about how to tame Fluffy.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter), [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) decide to go down to [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid)’s hut. They start to ask Hagrid more about the other enchantments guarding [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone), revealing that they know what Fluffy is hiding. Hagrid doesn’t tell them, but he does tell them who is helping protect the Stone, including [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore), [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell), and [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape). The students think to themselves that if Snape is helping to protect the Stone, he could easily find out how the other teachers had guarded it.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Knowing that Snape likely knows how to get to the Stone is ultimately what prompts Harry and the rest of the gang to try and steal it first. They know that they would be breaking many rules to do so, but their impulse to sacrifice themselves for the good of the community as a whole proves even stronger.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid) assures [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) that he hasn’t told anyone how to get past Fluffy. Harry is relieved, until he sees something on the fire: an enormous black dragon egg, which Hagrid reveals he won the previous night in a game of cards with a stranger. Now, they think, they have to worry about what might happen if Hagrid is discovered with an illegal dragon.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Hagrid’s desire led him to acquire an illegal dragon, but instead of any impulse to try to follow the rules, Harry, Ron, and Hermione’s main concern is instead with protecting Hagrid and making sure that he doesn’t get into trouble.

***Summary Part 4:***

A few days later the dragon hatches, but when [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter), [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) sneak down to see it happen, [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/draco-malfoy) also ends up following them and seeing the dragon as well. They grow very nervous about Malfoy and try to convince [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid) to set the dragon free. Hagrid refuses, saying that Norbert (his name for the dragon) is too young to survive on his own. Harry suggests that they send Norbert to Ron’s brother [Charlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters), who can take care of him and then set him free. Hagrid agrees, and they send an owl to Charlie.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Harry’s decision again prioritizes doing what’s right rather than strictly following the rules. He doesn’t want to turn Hagrid in and he doesn’t want to condemn this dragon to die, but he also knows that they all could get into serious trouble because of what Malfoy has seen.

***Summary Part 5:***

The following week drags on. [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter), [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) help take care of Norbert (even though he bites Ron’s hand). Then Hedwig returns with a letter from [Charlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters). Charlie suggests that they send Norbert with friends of his who are visiting him the following week. He writes that they should bring Norbert to the tallest tower at midnight on Saturday, so his friends can take the dragon away under the cover of night.

***Analysis Part5:***

Getting rid of Norbert now explicitly requires that Harry, Ron, and Hermione break the school’s rules, sneaking out of bed at night. But again, they do so in the hope that Hagrid can stay out of trouble and that the dragon will be in good hands.

***Summary Part 7:***

By the next morning, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley)’s hand has swollen to twice its size, forcing him to go to the hospital wing. When [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) visit him, Ron reveals that [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/draco-malfoy) had come to his bed to make fun of him under the guise of borrowing one of Ron’s books. But Ron then realizes that [Charlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters)’s letter was in the book Malfoy took, so now Malfoy knows about the plan. Still, Harry and Hermione think that they can’t change the plan.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Hagrid’s desire to keep a dragon becomes particularly dangerous when it not only threatens Ron’s health, but also threatens to get Harry, Ron, and Hermione into serious trouble as they try to help Hagrid stay out of trouble.

***Summary Part 8:***

On Saturday, [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid) says goodbye to Norbert and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) carry him up to the castle under the [Invisibility Cloak](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-invisibility-cloak). In the hall, they see [Professor McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-mcgonagall) giving [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/draco-malfoy) detention and taking twenty points from Slytherin as he tries to protest that Harry is going to be coming with a dragon.

***Analysis Part 8:***

The Invisibility Cloak once again becomes an instrument that helps Harry and his friends break the rules in a useful way, as it allows them to protect Hagrid from legal ramifications.

***Summary Part 9:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) make it to the top of the tower, where [Charlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters)’s friends take Norbert from them. They are elated that their plan goes so well, and that [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/draco-malfoy) got detention in the process. But as they slip back down the stairs, [Filch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters) emerges from the darkness, and Harry and Hermione realize that they have left the [Cloak](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-invisibility-cloak) at the top of the tower.

***Analysis Part 9:***

This is one of the rare times that Harry is punished for his rule-breaking, though it is worth noting that this punishment would have been avoided if he had retained his Invisibility Cloak.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

He looked very pleased with himself, but Hermione didn't.  
  
"Hagrid, you live in a wooden house," she said. (14.51-52)

***Explanation:***

Here, Hermione reminds us of the literal importance of kinds of homes. Hagrid's home is unprepared for dragon raising for many reasons, not least of all the issue that the dragon breathes fire constantly, and the house is made of wood. His home has structural problems with the very idea of dragon raising. His idealism shows us both his big heart and total lack of practicality.

***Quotation 2:***

Harry knew Ron and Hermione were thinking the same as he was. If Snape had been in on protecting the Stone, it must have been easy to find out how the other teachers had guarded it. He probably knew everything – except, it seemed, Quirrell's spell and how to get past Fluffy. (14.39)

***Explanation:***

In this context, Snape seems totally evil. Harry, Ron, and Hermione have a certain amount of evidence, and they have guessed rightly in many aspects of it. One of the teachers "protecting the Stone" is in the best position for figuring out how to get at it later. They're just wrong about which teacher is secretly evil, at least in this case.

***Quotation 3:***

"But there aren't wild dragons in Britain?" said Harry.  
  
"Of course there are," said Ron. "Common Welsh Green and Hebridean Blacks. The Ministry of Magic has a job hushing them up, I can tell you. Our kind have to keep putting spells on Muggles who've spotted them, to make them forget." (14.25-26)

***Explanation:***

Malfoy just doesn't stop with the insults, does he? We're guessing that, in this case, he's being so cruel because he's jealous: the Even after the introduction of magic, witchcraft, and wizardry, of goblins, trolls, and three-headed dogs, the wizarding world is still full of surprises. In this case, it's "wild dragons," which to regular magical citizens like Ron are just part of the landscape. We can contrast Ron's use of "our kind" with Malfoy's reference to the "wrong sort," or the Dursleys' purposeful ignorance about people with differences; when magic is involved there can't always be distinctions of separate but equal.