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

***Chapter 17***

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

The man in the last chamber is Professor Quirrell. Harry and Hermione are shocked because he is the last person they expect to see. They find out that Quirrell is not the mild-mannered teacher they thought he was. It was he, not Snape, who tried to knock Harry off the broom during his first Quidditch match to kill him. Snape was mumbling because he was setting a counter curse to stop the jinx, but was not sure who was attacking Harry. The talk in the woods was interpreted incorrectly by Harry. Snape suspected Quirrell was up to something and was prodding him to see how much he knew about the Stone and warned him about his odd actions.

Quirrell tells Harry that Snape does hate Harry; and an old vendetta against Harry's father is the reason why. But Snape never wanted Harry dead and would never betray Albus Dumbledore by trying to steal the Sorcerer's Stone.

Behind Quirrell stands the Mirror of Erised. Quirrell tells Harry that the mirror is the key to finding the stone. Quirrell walks around the mirror as he talks, and Harry discovers that Voldemort is his master and is with him wherever he goes. Quirrell is instructed by Voldemort to use Harry to find the stone. Harry stands before the mirror. As he looks into it, he sees himself holding the stone in his pocket, and at that moment the real Stone drops into Harry's real pocket.

Harry does not tell Quirrell this but makes up what he is seeing in the mirror. Quirrell pushes him out of the way and Harry tries to escape only to hear a shrill voice giving him away. A voice tells Quirrell to remove his turban and when he does Harry sees a face at the back of Quirrell's own head with red eyes and a snake like nose. It is Voldemort, who is sharing Quirrell's body. He tells Harry to give him the stone.

Harry will not give over the stone so Voldemort tell Quirrell to kill Harry. Quirrell tries to strangle Harry but when he does, his hands start to blister and burn. Harry then grabs at Quirrell's face and it too begins to blister. Harry's scar is burning to the point of making him pass out.

When Harry comes to, he sees Albus Dumbledore's face smiling down at him. He is in the Hospital wing of Hogwarts. He has been in the wing for 3 days. It seems that the Headmaster arrived in the chamber just in time to pull Quirrell off his unconscious body. Quirrell and the stone have been destroyed, but Voldemort's spirit escaped.

Dumbledore tells Harry that Quirrell's hands had burned because the love that saved Harry when his mother sacrificed her own life to save him, has a powerful effect on Voldemort. He cannot understand love or the sacrifices made in the name of that powerful emotion. He also tells Harry that it was he who gave him the cloak.

Harry asks about Professor Snape's intense hatred of him. Dumbledore explains that they were enemies the same as Harry and Draco Malfoy are, and that at some point Harry's dad saved Snape's life. Snape could never forgive this and tried very hard to save Harry so that the debt would be paid in full.

Ron and Hermione enter the hospital room, and Headmaster Dumbledore takes his leave. The three discuss the events of the past 3 days, and Harry shares with his friends all that Dumbledore has told him.

Harry is finally released from the hospital in time for the end-of-year feast. The students are told that because of the bravery of several students of Gryffindor, they have accumulated enough points to win the prized House Cup. Harry is beside himself with joy. It is by far the best night of his entire life. In his first year at Hogwarts he has managed to help Gryffindor win the Quidditch Cup for the first time in 7 years and also the House Cup for the first time in just as many years. He has saved the Sorcerer's Stone from falling into the hands of Voldemort, and he discovered new things about his parents and their own bravery. The faculty wishes the students a wonderful summer over very loud shouts of happiness and applause.

The next day, everyone is packed and ready to leave Hogwarts for the summer vacation. Harry and Hermione are invited by Ron to come and stay for a while at the end of summer before the next term. Harry is grateful for the invitation because he must stay with the horrible Dursleys and needs to have something to look forward to.

His friends wish him a happy summer with worried looks on their faces because they see his Uncle Vernon come to pick him up. Harry tells them not to worry; the Dursleys don't know that he can't use magic outside of school.

***Brief Analysis:***

This last chapter is truly the proverbial "Happy Ending." Harry saves the day and keeps Voldemort from securing eternal life. He has learned the meaning of friendship and is fortunate enough to have secured two very good friends right away. He is brave and fierce and has flourished considerably under the caring influence of those who love him and want the best for him.

It is a message for everyone that no matter how difficult our circumstances become, we can rise above them to have success and happiness. Harry, despite his horrid upbringing, has remained a decent and honorable boy while many others might have used their past as an excuse to do wrong in the world.

The book finishes with an open end and leaves many questions unanswered in the readers' minds, which allows room for further adventures of Harry, Ron, and Hermione to follow.

***Summary in Detail:***

Harry lies, telling Quirrell that he sees himself in the mirror winning the house cup for Gryffindor. Voldemort tells Quirrell that Harry is lying. Wishing to speak directly to Harry now, Voldemort tells Quirrell to unwrap his turban. Harry is shocked to find Voldemort’s face on the back of Quirrell’s head—Voldemort is a shape-shifter and has been using Quirrell’s body. Voldemort tries to persuade Harry to give him the stone, which he knows is in Harry’s pocket. He tells Harry to join him rather than resist and be killed like his parents. Harry refuses and Voldemort orders Quirrell to seize Harry. Quirrell tries, but each time he grabs for Harry, his hand blisters as if burned. Harry grabs Quirrell, putting him in tremendous pain; meanwhile, the pain in Harry’s forehead scar is steadily increasing. As the struggle intensifies, Harry feels himself losing hold of Quirrell and falling.

When Harry regains consciousness, Dumbledore is standing over him. Harry starts telling Dumbledore that Quirrell has the stone, but Dumbledore tells him to relax. Harry realizes that he is in the hospital. He asks Dumbledore again about the stone and Dumbledore tells him that he arrived just in time to save Harry from Quirrell. Dumbledore adds that he spoke with Nicolas Flamel and they decided to destroy the stone. He explains also that Quirrell could not touch Harry because Harry was protected by his mother’s love. Dumbledore also reveals that it was he who left the invisibility cloak for Harry and explains that there was enmity between Snape and Harry’s father, much like the enmity between Malfoy and Harry. Furthermore, Dumbledore explains how Harry ended up with the stone; Harry was the only one who wanted to find the stone for itself rather than for what the stone could obtain.

Harry gets out of his hospital bed to go to the end-of-year feast. The dining hall is decorated in Slytherin colors to celebrate Slytherin’s seventh consecutive win of the championship cup. Dumbledore rises to speak and announces that in light of recent events, more points need to be given out. He awards Ron and Hermione fifty points each and Harry sixty points for their feats in getting to the stone. Gryffindor thus pulls into a tie with Slytherin. Dumbledore then adds that Neville has been awarded ten points for learning bravery. Gryffindor pulls ahead into first place, thus winning the house cup.

When school grades finally arrive, Harry and Ron do well, and Hermione is at the top of the class. They all pack and head to the train station to go back to their homes. Harry, Hermione, and Ron say their good-byes for the summer and Harry heads home, eager to use a little magic on Dudley Dursley.

***Analysis in Detail:***

Quirrell’s comment about the Sorcerer’s Stone and his affections for Voldemort that “[t]here is no good and evil, there is only power and those too weak to see it” evoke important philosophical ideas. The sentiments Quirrell expresses underlie one of the classic works of political theory, Niccolò Machiavelli’s The Prince. In this sixteenth-century work Machiavelli wrote about how rulers should expand their power with no regard for morality or justice. The distinction Quirrell makes here between “power” and “those too weak to see it” follows the principles that Machiavelli laid out. Quirrell’s statement also echoes the thought of nineteenth-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who argued that individual human will and striving are more important and relevant than morality and more impressive than flimsy notions of right and wrong. The ideas of these two philosophers emphasize the individual at the expense of the common good, and Voldemort embodies their values.

By placing these sentiments in the mouth of Quirrell, who is as pathetic and squirrelly as his name suggests, Rowling rejects the idea that the world should be based on power and domination of others. It is fine to cultivate power; Dumbledore’s power, after all, is exceptional and praiseworthy. But the story suggests that with power comes responsibility toward others and that responsibility includes a sense of what is right and wrong. Dumbledore shows the students that Slytherin House may have acquired a lot of points but that victory should go to the house that has been engaged in a just and righteous struggle. This is surely also the reason that Flamel is induced to destroy the Sorcerer’s Stone; it is a source of incredible power, but there is no guarantee that its power will be used properly, and so it must be destroyed. Power is important, but morality is more so.

The wisdom of limiting one’s desires is revealed at the end, when Dumbledore tells Harry that, for Nicolas Flamel, dying will be a pleasant experience of relief, “like going to bed after a very, very long day.” Dumbledore’s earlier advice to Harry to refrain from looking in the Mirror of Erised becomes relevant here, as Dumbledore suggests that while it is important to reflect on one’s deepest desire, it is also important to keep that desire in perspective and perhaps even to limit it. Eternal life—the very thing promised by the Sorcerer’s Stone and the very thing many have been desiring—might not be as valuable as those seeking it have thought. Flamel is close to achieving immortality, and yet he prefers to die. Dumbledore points out that living forever could actually become tiresome, and that the desire for it may be misinformed.

While Flamel and Dumbledore ultimately understand that eternal life may not be such a good goal, Voldemort’s fatal flaw is that he is misinformed about what is important in life but is never able to realize it. Voldemort lives for his own desires, but as we discover toward the end, he is not really living at all: he does not even have his own body, but must live by stealing others’ bodies (again, one meaning of the French word vol is “theft”). But Voldemort lacks more than a body; he lacks a soul as well. Living by desire, he has no real life. Nor does he have any love, as Dumbledore explains to Harry. Love is the one thing that Voldemort cannot understand, which is why he is burned by the traces of motherly love on Harry’s body. The greatest lesson learned throughout this adventure may be that love for others is more valuable than the pursuit of one’s own desires (which is really nothing more than love for oneself).

***Critical Study(Chapter 16-17):***

Harry successfully completes all of his final exams, though he is constantly distracted by thoughts of [Voldemort](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#voldemort) and the Sorcerer’s Stone. His scar throbs regularly, and he is plagued with nightmares about a hooded figure dripping blood. After their final exam is over, Ron and Hermione try to help Harry relax by assuring him that the Sorcerer’s Stone is well protected. Still, Harry cannot shake the suspicion that he is missing a piece of the puzzle. Suddenly, it hits him: with [Hagrid](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#hagrid) as the only person who knows how to get past [Fluffy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#fluffy), the unexpected gift of a rare dragon’s egg could not be just a coincidence.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione rush to Hagrid’s cottage and trick him into telling them how exactly he won the dragon’s egg in the power game. More importantly, the three friends learn that Hagrid got drunk and told a mysterious stranger that he could use music to lull Fluffy to sleep. Harry, Ron, and Hermione now know that Snape has the key to getting to the Sorcerer’s Stone, and they immediately run back to the castle to warn Dumbledore. On their way, they run into [Professor McGonagall](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#professor-mcgonagall), who informs them that Dumbledore has left the castle for the day. Professor McGonagall scoffs at their warnings about Snape and the Sorcerer’s Stone and urges them to enjoy the weather outside.

Although none of the teachers will listen, Harry refuses to accept that Snape will get the Sorcerer’s Stone without a fight. He decides that he will steal the Stone himself that night. Even if he is expelled for breaking rules, he cannot sit back and wait for Voldemort to steal the Stone and use it to regain his former power. Inspired by his passion, Ron and Hermione vow to help him steal the Stone.

That night, Harry, Ron, and Hermione run into Neville on their way out of the portrait hole. Neville refuses to let them pass and lose more points for the House. When they fail to convince him of the importance of their actions, Hermione uses a body-bind spell to incapacitate Neville. When they reach the forbidden third-floor corridor, Harry plays the flute that Hagrid gave him for his birthday and successfully lulls Fluffy to sleep. Harry, Ron, and Hermione jump through the trapdoor and land on Devil’s Snare, a large plant with long tendrils that starts to strangle them. Hermione is able to recall their Herbology lesson on the plant and uses magical fire to free Ron and Harry before they suffocate.

The next challenge is to pass through a small room that is filled with small flying keys, one of which will unlock the door to the next room. Harry uses a nearby broomstick and, using his Quidditch skills, manages to grab the correct silver key and unlock the door. Harry, Ron, and Hermione walk into the next room, which is a massive chessboard: they must win the game in order to access the next challenge. As an expert at wizard’s chess, Ron takes the lead and directs all of the pieces. Ultimately, Ron sacrifices himself in order for Harry to checkmate the King and win the game.

In the next room, Harry and Hermione are faced with a difficult wizard’s riddle. On a table full of bottles, one potion will allow them to move into the next room, while another potion will allow them to return to the previous room. Hermione is able to use her skills of logic to unravel the riddle and allow them to pass through the flames. She gives Harry the potion he needs to move into the next room, and she takes the potion to return to the wizard’s chessboard and help Ron. Harry walks through the flames toward the final room but, unexpectedly, finds neither Snape nor Voldemort waiting for him, but rather [Professor Quirrell](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#professor-quirrell).

Quirrell immediately binds Harry’s body with several ropes, and then explains that he is the one who has been trying to kill Harry throughout the year. Not only did Quirrell jinx Harry’s broom during the first Quidditch match, but he let in the troll on Halloween and has been trying to steal the Sorcerer’s Stone since Dumbledore brought it to Hogwarts. Harry is shocked at this revelation, particularly since it means that he has been blaming Snape for Quirrell’s actions. Harry also realizes that Quirrell has been serving Voldemort all along, and he blames himself for not realizing that fact when he met Quirrell in Diagon Alley.

Harry notices that Quirrell is standing in front of the Mirror of Erised; this is the final challenge separating him from the Sorcerer’s Stone. Quirrell looks in the mirror and sees himself holding the Sorcerer’s Stone, but he cannot figure out how to retrieve the actual Stone. Suddenly Harry hears a disembodied voice telling Quirrell to use Harry to retrieve the Stone. Quirrell positions Harry in front of the mirror and demands to know what he sees. Determined to keep Voldemort from getting the Stone, Harry lies and tells Quirrell that he sees himself winning the House Cup for Gryffindor. In actuality, he sees himself holding the Sorcerer’s Stone and putting it in his pocket. Harry feels a sudden weight in his pocket and realizes that he has inadvertently retrieved the Stone from the mirror.

The disembodied voice speaks again, this time ordering Quirrell to let him speak directly to Harry. Quirrell slowly unwraps his turban and shows Harry that Voldemort’s face is protruding from the back of his head; too weak to possess a body of his own, Voldemort had been using Quirrell’s body to survive. Voldemort tells Harry that he knows that the Sorcerer’s Stone is in his pocket, and Harry should give it to him before he is killed. Harry refuses, and Voldemort angrily orders Quirrell to seize Harry and kill him. Quirrell tries to grab Harry, but his hands blister every time that they come into contact with Harry’s skin. Seeing an advantage to this, Harry presses his hands on Quirrell’s face to cause purposeful blisters. As the two struggle amid Voldemort’s furious screams, the pain in Harry’s scar becomes unbearable and he faints.

Harry wakes up in the hospital wing, where Dumbledore has been waiting for him. Dumbledore assures Harry that the Sorcerer’s Stone has been saved from Voldemort’s clutches; after Dumbledore arrived on the scene in the dungeon, Voldemort fled and left Quirrell to die. [Nicolas Flamel](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#nicolas-flamel) and Dumbledore had decided to destroy the Stone to ensure that it could never be used by a dark wizard. Dumbledore explains that Quirrell’s skin blistered against Harry’s because Harry is protected by his mother’s love, something that Voldemort failed to take into account. Dumbledore also explains that Harry was able to find the Stone in the Mirror of Erised because he was the only one who wanted to Stone for unselfish reasons.

After recuperating in the hospital wing, Harry goes to the end-of-year feast. Slytherin House is set to win the House Cup, and the dining hall is decorated festively in silver and green. Before making the official announcement of Slytherin’s victory, however, Dumbledore decides to give out some last minute points. Ron and Hermione are awarded fifty points each and Harry is given sixty points, all for their courage and strength in protecting the Sorcerer’s Stone. Finally, Dumbledore awards ten points to Neville for his bravery in standing up to his friends. With Neville’s ten points, Gryffindor is ahead of Slytherin in terms of house points and is pronounced the winner of the House Cup.

As the book comes to a close, Harry, Ron, and Hermione pack their trunks and head to the train station to take the Hogwarts Express back to London. Although they will all go their separate ways for the summer, Harry knows that he will see his friends again in a few short months when they come back to Hogwarts for their second year. In the meantime, Harry is looking forward to frightening Dudley with his magic wand.

In the final two chapters of the novel, Harry demonstrates the extent to which he has grown in wisdom and maturity over the course of the year. Of the three students, Harry is the only one who fully understands what will happen if Voldemort is successful in his attempt to steal the Sorcerer’s Stone. Ron is preoccupied with Gryffindor’s battle for the House Cup against Slytherin, as demonstrated by the vision that he sees in the Mirror of Erised, and he is unable to see the larger picture beyond the world of Hogwarts. Hermione is similarly oblivious: although she received a score of 112% on her charms final exam and has read nearly every book in the library, she does not grasp the severity of the situation.

Only Harry comprehends Voldemort’s true capacity for evil, and only because of Voldemort’s murder of his parents. He realizes that Voldemort’s return to power will only mean loss and death for other innocent people, and, in another return to the theme of justifiable causality, he knows that this is a circumstance that demands disobedience and rebellion. Compared to the return to Voldemort’s days of tyranny and dark magic, the hours of detention and possible expulsion that Harry might face for breaking Hogwarts rules seems to be an acceptable sacrifice.

Harry’s willingness to sacrifice his education, future with magic, and even life positions him as a savior figure in the narrative. Harry does not know whether or not he will be successful at protecting the Sorcerer’s Stone, just as he does not know if his disobedience will even be recognized. Yet, he gives no thought for his own wellbeing and quickly comes to the ultimate decision that, if anyone must be sacrificed in order to defeat Voldemort, it will be him.

This concept of sacrifice can be explained in part by Harry’s inherent guilt over the death of his parents. Voldemort killed both Lily and [James Potter](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-philosophers-stone/study-guide/character-list#james-potter) but, for some unbeknownst reason, was unable to murder Harry as well. As the sole survivor of his family, Harry feels that he is undeserving of the gift of life. His parents were both exceptional wizards, while he is simply ordinary, and he cannot help but think that his survival was nothing more than a comical twist of fate. The wizarding public expects amazing things from him as the “boy-who-lived”, but Harry knows that he lacks the unique talents that would make him a true hero figure. A personal sacrifice is the one opportunity that Harry has to prove his worth to himself and to those around him, as well as show that his parents did not die in vain.

In the final chapter of the book, Rowling continues to express the importance of friendship above all else. Harry, Ron, and Hermione are only able to pass through the protective challenges of the Sorcerer’s Stone by combining their strengths and depending on each other as friends. Each of them has a different strength – Harry has courage, determination, and his flying skills; Ron has his skill at wizard’s chess and his loyalty to his friends; Hermione has logic and a vast magical knowledge. Only by using their strengths together and protecting each other are the three students able to achieve the same feat as Voldemort and ultimately access the final room of the challenge.

The importance of friendship is further emphasized in contrast to Voldemort’s isolated position. Although he inhabits Quirrell’s body for the lack of a better one, Voldemort views him with disdain and treats him as nothing more than a servant. Quirrell, in turn, does not help Voldemort out of a sense of love or loyalty, but because the fear that he has for the dark wizard. Because Voldemort does not understand the power of love and friendship, he is always isolated and thus, remarkably weaker than a wizard who has the support of his friends.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

In the final room, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) is surprised to come face to face not with [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-snape) or [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who), but with [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell). Quirrell, who is no longer stuttering and nervous, explains chillingly that he was the one who tried to jinx Harry’s broom (though Hermione knocked him over, messing up his curse), and that Snape was trying to save Harry with a countercurse. Quirrell says, however, that Snape can’t prevent him from killing Harry now. He snaps his fingers, and ropes wrap tightly around Harry. Quirrell continues calmly, saying that he let the troll in on Halloween, while Snape went to the third floor to try to head him off.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Harry makes it to the Stone and doesn’t hesitate to put himself in danger, knowing that he is likely facing Snape or Voldemort, and that there is a great possibility of his being killed. But his surprise at seeing Quirrell demonstrates how his desire to prove that Snape was after the Stone had blinded him to the reality.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) then realizes that [the Mirror of Erised](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-mirror-of-erised) is behind [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell). Quirrell examines it, knowing that it must be the key to finding [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone). In the Mirror’s reflection, he sees himself proudly presenting the Stone to [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who), but doesn’t know where the Stone is. Harry tries to distract him, asking about the time he heard Quirrell sobbing. Quirrell says that sometimes he is too weak to follow his master’s orders. His master has taught him that “there is no good and evil, there is only power, and those too weak to see it.”

***Analysis Part 2:***

The philosophy that Quirrell and Voldemort espouse is the most direct argument that Rowling makes associating power and greed with evil. Even though Quirrell says that there is no such thing as evil, the fact that he is possessed by a wizard who kills anyone who stands in his way, and the fact that Harry does not believe this philosophy, demonstrates that Rowling too does not truly espouse this belief.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) realizes that his deepest desire at that moment is to find [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone) before [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell). Thus, if he looks in [the Mirror of Erised](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-mirror-of-erised), he should see himself finding it. Meanwhile, Quirrell is also trying to figure out how to use the Mirror. He asks for help from [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who), and to Harry’s surprise, a voice whispers, “Use the boy.”

***Analysis Part 3:***

Even though desires can be dangerous, Rowling uses Harry’s train of thought to show that desires, when they are motivated by selflessness or the greater good, can actually be useful. This is ultimately why Harry can find the Stone and Quirrell cannot.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) unbinds [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) and tells him to stand in front of [the Mirror](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-mirror-of-erised). When Harry sees his reflection, it smiles at him and pulls the blood-red [Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone) out of his pocket. When his reflection puts the Stone back, Harry can feel the real Stone drop into his pocket. But when Quirrell asks Harry what he sees, Harry hastily lies and says that he sees himself winning the House Cup for Gryffindor.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Harry’s humility and self-sacrifice, in that he doesn’t want the Stone for himself but only to prevent Quirrell from getting it, is direct in contrast with Quirrell and Voldemort’s desire and greed, as their sole interest is securing more power for themselves. The former is thus associated with goodness, while the latter are associated with evil.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who)’s voice returns, demanding to see [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) face to face. [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) reaches up and undoes his purple turban, then turns around. At the back of his head is Voldemort’s face, with “glaring red eyes and slits for nostrils.” Voldemort tells Harry that he has been reduced to a weak form that can only survive by sharing another’s body. Unicorn blood has strengthened him, but the Elixir of Life will allow him to create a body of his own. He demands that Harry hand over [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone).

***Analysis Part5:***

Voldemort’s evilness is evident not only in his appearance, but in the fact that he has taken over the body of another person (and drank the blood of something pure) in order to sustain his own life. This makes his greed parasitic, and is the opposite of Harry’s tendency to put others’ well-being over his own.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) starts to move away. [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who) tells Harry not to be a fool, or he will meet the same end as [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/lily-potter) and [James](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/james-potter), who died trying to save Harry from Voldemort. He warns Harry not to let their deaths be in vain, commanding him again to hand over [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone). Harry runs, screaming, “NEVER!” but [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) grabs him. But when he does so, pain shoots through Harry’s scar and Quirrell lets go of him instantly, the skin on his hands burning.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Harry’s self-sacrifice is perhaps an extension of the self-sacrifice that Lily and James displayed when trying to protect their son. Thus, Harry understands that his own death would not be in vain, but that he would die in order to prevent the return of an evil wizard and the destruction of everything and everyone he loves.

***Summary Part7:***

[Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) tries to grab [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) again, but his hands continue to blister, and he howls in agony. [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who) tells Quirrell to kill Harry, but before Quirrell can pull out his wand, Harry realizes that he must keep Quirrell in enough pain to stop him from performing a curse. He grabs Quirrell by the arm and holds tight, until Harry faints from the pain in his scar.

***Analysis Part 7:***

As Dumbledore explains later in the chapter, the sacrifice that Lily made for Harry provides him with a kind of magical shield that makes it impossible for Quirrell to touch him. Thus, love becomes a literal form of protection.

***Summary Part 8:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) awakens in the hospital wing, with [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) in front of him. Dumbledore explains calmly that Harry’s been out cold for three days, and that [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) does not have [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone). Dumbledore had arrived just in time to rescue Harry, after realizing that the message from the Ministry was a ruse. He tells Harry that the Stone is going to be destroyed, because people cannot handle the possibility of gaining eternal life and infinite wealth.

***Analysis Part 8:***

The defeat of Voldemort parallels the destruction of the Stone. Both represent distillations of greed, and the vanquishing of both of them at the end of the novel reinforces the fact that humility, self-sacrifice and good will overcome power, greed, and evil.

***Summary Part 9:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) continues, wondering what happened to [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who). [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) says that [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) has died, but Harry merely delayed Voldemort’s return to power. Harry then asks why Quirrell couldn’t touch him; Dumbledore explains that the kind of love and sacrifice that [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/lily-potter) made in dying for Harry gives a person some protection forever. Quirrell, who is “full of hatred, greed, and ambition,” could not understand this love and “could not touch [Harry] for this reason.”

***Analysis Part 9:***

The explanation for why Quirrell couldn’t touch Harry emphasizes the true power of family and love as a form of protection. Lily’s sacrifice protected Harry not only in his first confrontation with Voldemort, but throughout his entire life—a protection that even outlives her.

***Summary 10:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) then asks who left the [Invisibility Cloak](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-invisibility-cloak) for him; [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) reveals that it was him, and that he thought it would be useful. Harry’s asks a final question: how he got [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone) out of [the Mirror](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-mirror-of-erised). Dumbledore explains that only someone who wanted to locate the Stone, but not actually put it to use, would be able to get it. If someone wanted to use the Stone, “they’d just see themselves making gold or drinking Elixir of Life.”

***Analysis 10:***

The fact that Dumbledore is the one who gave Harry the Invisibility Cloak proves that he encouraged (or at least allowed) Harry to break the rules all year. Dumbledore’s explanation of how Harry acquired the Stone also emphasizes how only a person who wanted the Stone not for their own power or greed, but rather to protect it from falling into the wrong hands, could acquire it.

***Summary 11:***

After [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) leaves, [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) visit [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter), relieved to see that he’s okay. Harry explains what happened to him before asking what happened to them. Hermione explains that they were able to get back, and as soon as they dashed to the owlery they saw Dumbledore in the entrance hall, who somehow knew that Harry had gone after [the Stone](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-sorcerer-s-stone). Harry realizes that Dumbledore wanted to give Harry a chance, teaching him just enough to help them (the [Invisibility Cloak](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-invisibility-cloak), the information about [the Mirror](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/symbols/the-mirror-of-erised)) rather than stopping them.

***Analysis 11:***

Dumbledore’s assumption that Harry had gone after the Stone demonstrates his faith that Harry would make humble and self-sacrificing choices, and as Harry realizes, his behind-the-scenes guidance had subtly led Harry to the Stone. This ultimately allowed Harry to prevail over Voldemort, and Dumbledore’s guidance becomes key to Harry’s character arc throughout the rest of the books as well.

***Summary Part 12:***

The next day, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) gets one more visitor: [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/rubeus-hagrid), who bursts into tears when he sees Harry and apologizes, saying that it’s all his fault for telling [Quirrell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/professor-quirrell) how to get past Fluffy. Harry comforts him, saying that [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/voldemort-you-know-who) would have found a way anyway. Hagrid feels better, and says that he has a present for Harry: a leather-bound book of wizard photographs, all of which are of [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/lily-potter) and [James](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/james-potter). Hagrid had asked all of their school friends for photos, knowing that Harry didn’t have any. Harry is speechless with gratitude.

***Analysis Part 12:***

This exchange between Harry and Hagrid is a testament to the power of friendship and love. In some ways, their dynamic has reversed, as Harry now comforts Hagrid. But at the same time, Hagrid, as he has been from the beginning of the book, serves as a conduit for the familial love that Harry did not get growing up. Hagrid gives him the gift of seeing his parents, which had been his innermost desire, but the gesture in and of itself is a powerful form of love.

***Summary Part 13:***

At the end-of-year feast, the Great Hall is decked out in Slytherin’s colors, silver and green, as Slytherin has the most points in the House Cup. [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) arrives and begins a speech, saying that he has a few last-minute points to award before the House Cup is awarded. Dumbledore awards fifty points to [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley) for the “best-played game of chess Hogwarts has seen in many years,” and fifty points to [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) “for the cool use of logic in the face of fire.”

***Analysis Part 13:***

The points that Dumbledore awards at the feast serves as a final confirmation of the joint achievement of Harry, Ron, and Hermione in successfully battling their way to the Stone, and affirming the idea that sometimes it’s necessary to break the rules in order to do what is right.

***Summary Part 14:***

[Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/albus-dumbledore) awards [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) sixty points for “pure nerve and outstanding courage.” Gryffindor students give a roaring cheer: they are now tied with Slytherin for the House Cup. Lastly, Dumbledore awards ten points to [Neville](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/neville-longbottom) for being brave enough to stand up to his friends. With this, Gryffindor wins the House Cup, and Dumbledore claps his hands to change the silver and green decorations to Gryffindor’s scarlet and gold. The students enjoy the feast, and Harry thinks it is the best evening of his life.

***Analysis Part 14:***

It is notable that Dumbledore awards points to both Harry and Neville. It is not simply that he rewards rule-breaking, but instead that he rewards students for doing what they believe in their heart is the right thing to do.

***Summary Part 15:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/harry-potter) packs up his belongings with a bittersweet sense of finality. He and the other students board the Hogwarts Express and a few hours later arrive at King’s Cross station. Lots of students say goodbye to Harry, and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/ron-weasley) makes Harry and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/hermione-granger) promise to visit him over the summer. [Vernon](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-sorcerer-s-stone/characters/vernon-dursley) arrives to take Harry home. Ron and Hermione say goodbye, telling Harry to have a good holiday. Harry responds that he will, saying with a smile that the Dursleys don’t know that he’s not allowed to do magic at home.

***Analysis Part 15:***

The final passages of the book emphasize the transformation that Harry’s life has undergone. In discovering magic, he has also discovered perhaps the most important things in life: a place where he belongs, and the vital bonds of friendship. These things give Harry the confidence to return to his life with the Dursleys, knowing that now, he is no longer alone, and no longer unloved.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation1:***

After all, to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.

***Explanation:***

Dumbledore makes this remark to Harry in Chapter 17, when Harry is in the hospital, in reference to the imminent death of Nicolas Flamel, Dumbledore’s old partner and inventor of the Sorcerer’s Stone. When Dumbledore announces that he and Flamel have decided to thwart Voldemort by destroying the stone, and with it the possibility of attaining eternal life, Harry realizes that Flamel will die. Flamel is effectively sacrificing himself for the good of Hogwarts and of the world, just as Jesus Christ, according to Christian belief, was supposed to have sacrificed himself for the salvation of humankind. Flamel’s decision reveals his wisdom, all the more so as Dumbledore’s words echo the thoughts of innumerable philosophers and religious figures (from the Greek Socrates to the Indian Buddha) who have similarly seen death as a beginning rather than an end.

Dumbledore’s and Flamel’s wisdom is precisely what is lacking in a villain like Voldemort, who clings unnaturally to life, refusing to accept the natural human adventure of death. By saying that a healthy acceptance of death is a characteristic of a “well-organized mind,” Dumbledore is implying that Voldemort’s manic pursuit of immortality is not well organized at all, despite all of his savvy tricks, but is rather deranged.