***Harry Potter and the Chambers of Secret***

***Chapter 10***

***Summary and analysis***

***Summary:***

### The Rogue Bludger

* Professor Lockhart spends his Defense classes reenacting episodes from his own books.
* After class one day, Hermione approaches him to ask for permission to get a Restricted book out of the library.
* She pretends that "it would help [her] understand what [he says] in Gadding with Ghouls about slow-acting venoms" (10.10).
* Really, though, it's Moste Potente Potions, a book with instructions to make Polyjuice Potion.
* Professor Lockhart is so puffed up with Hermione's flattery that he signs the permission form immediately.
* Hermione still thinks Professor Lockhart is impressive, but Ron sums up our feelings: "brainless git" (10.18).
* They hurry off to the library, permission slip in hand.
* The school librarian, Madam Pince, brings out Moste Potente Potions.
* Harry, Ron, and Hermione carry the book to Moaning Myrtle's bathroom to start brewing.
* Hermione has never seen such a complicated potion.
* They'll have to steal a ton of ingredients – including a bit of the people they're trying to turn into.
* It'll take about a month to finish the potion.
* In the meantime, the first Quidditch game of the year – Slytherin versus Gryffindor! – is coming up.
* With all of the Slytherin players on brand new, top-of-the-line brooms, the Gryffindor team is at a disadvantage.
* Oliver Wood warns Harry, "It'll be down to you [...] to show them that a Seeker has to have something more than a rich father. Get to that Snitch before Malfoy or die trying [...] because we've got to win today, we've got to" (10.46).
* The two teams hit the field.
* It soon becomes clear that something has gone wrong with one of the Bludgers, which keeps attacking Harry.
* Fred and George (the team Beaters) spend all of their time trying to protect Harry from the Bludger.
* As a result, the Gryffindors are getting destroyed by the Slytherins.
* They're already sixty points behind.
* Wood calls a timeout.
* Harry tells Fred and George, "Listen [...] with you two flying around me all the time the only way I'm going to catch the Snitch is if it flies up my sleeve. Go back to the rest of the team and let me deal with the rogue one" (10.67).
* The rest of the team thinks this is a very bad idea, but Harry doesn't want to forfeit the game to wait for an investigation of the Bludger.
* So Fred and George leave Harry alone as he starts hunting for the Snitch.
* He has to fly increasingly complicated maneuvers to avoid the Bludger.
* Draco shouts insults at Harry.
* As Harry turns to look at Draco, he sees that the Snitch is hovering right over Draco's shoulder.
* Draco just hasn't noticed it because he's too busy laughing at Harry's flying.
* As Harry hesitates, the rogue Bludger slams into his arm, breaking it.
* Through the pain, he flies straight at Malfoy to catch the Snitch.
* Harry collapses to the ground with the Snitch in his good hand.
* Gryffindor has won the match.
* Professor Lockhart pushes his way to Harry's side to heal his arm.
* Professor Lockhart is an idiot, though, so he actually turns Harry's arm into rubber.
* Professor Lockhart tells Hermione to bring Harry to Madam Pomfrey, the school mediwitch.
* In the Hospital Wing, Madam Pomfrey tells Harry that she'll be able to re-grow the bones in his arm, but it'll be uncomfortable – he has to spend the night in the Hospital Wing.
* Ron and Hermione agree that the Polyjuice thing has become urgent; clearly, Draco must have been the one to bewitch Harry's rogue Bludger.
* Harry wakes in the middle of night feeling uncomfortable as his bones re-grow.
* He finds Dobby waiting by his bedside.
* Then the whole story comes out: It was Dobby who bewitched Platform 9 3/4, and it was Dobby who enchanted the Bludger.
* Dobby is trying to drive Harry out of Hogwarts for his own good.
* Harry tells Dobby he's not going anywhere, no matter what Dobby has to say.
* The sound of footsteps interrupts their conversation.
* Dobby disappears and Harry pretends to be asleep.
* He sees Professors Dumbledore and McGonagall levitating a body into the Hospital Wing.
* It's Colin Creevey. He has been Petrified just like Mrs. Norris.
* He was holding a camera, which has now been melted on the inside.
* Professor Dumbledore tells Professor McGonagall that the Chamber of Secrets has now been opened – but how?

***Brief Summary:***

Harry, Ron and Hermione begin their quest to locate the Chamber of Secrets. They trick Lockhart into signing a permission slip to sign a spell book, "Moste Potente Potions," out of the restricted area of the library and continue their research in the toilets haunted by Moaning Myrtle, which they reason is the least likely place to be discovered. The potion they need to make to be transformed into someone else contains a lot of ingredients that are difficult to obtain and prepare, including something from the body of the person they want to be transformed into. Ron isn't keen on ingesting anything that has been taken from the body of Crabbe or Goyle, Draco Malfoy's oafish henchmen, but Hermione persuades him that it's worthwhile. Harry and Ron both have reservations about the many school rules they will be breaking, including breaking into Snape's storage cupboard, but Hermione is adamant that the cause is worthwhile and convinces them to do it.

The Quidditch match between Gryffindor and Slytherin is the main focus of the chapter. Gryffindor is determined to beat Slytherin, despite the Slytherin team's superior brooms. The match doesn't go well, as one of the Bludgers appears to be enchanted. It attacks Harry whenever possible, despite Fred and George's best efforts to beat it back. The Gryffindor team raises their concerns during half time, with many of the team wanting an investigation into the rogue bludger. This would mean that the game is forfeited with Slytherin winning, something no one wants to have happen. Harry reassures the team that he can handle the bludger, and the game recommences. Despite his best efforts, Harry cannot avoid the bludger as it follows him constantly. As Harry twists to avoid the bludger, he sees the golden snitch. Watching it, he remains still for slightly too long, and the bludger finally smashes into him and breaks his arm. Harry hangs onto his broom and aims for the snitch, despite the bludger renewing its attack on him. He grabs the snitch, then crashes to the ground.

Harry passes out. When he comes to, he sees Lockhart enjoying being the center of attention as he prepares a spell to repair Harry's broken bones. Harry begs him not to, saying that he would rather go to the hospital wing, but Lockhart continues, succeeding in removing the bones in Harry's arm rather than repairing them.

Harry is taken to the hospital wing for Madam Pomfrey to heal his arm. He wakes up during the night to find Dobby sitting on his bed. Dobby is upset as he thinks Hogwarts isn't safe for Harry. Soon, Harry learns that Dobby was responsible for the railway platform not allowing Harry and Ron to pass, and for the enchanted bludger. Dobby wants Harry to go home, where it is safe. Because Harry won't listen to him, Dobby is trying everything he can think of to make Harry get sent home. Harry also finds out from Dobby that the Chamber of Secrets is open. He is intrigued and wants to know more but Dobby is horrified that he has let so much information slip. Harry wants Dobby to tell him more, but the house elf disappears, having heard footsteps coming towards the hospital wing.

The footsteps belong to Dumbledore and McGonagall, who are carrying Colin Creevey 's petrified body. Madam Pomfrey is summoned to look at the boy. By, listening to their conversation, Harry learns that the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open again, proving its existence.

***Brief Analysis:***

The dedication and loyalty of Harry, Ron and Hermione to each other and to what they believe in is clear. Hermione is prepared to break school rules, something she would never normally do, in the pursuit of the greater good of truth and justice. Ron is willing to support his friends and break the rules despite his obvious terror in doing so, as he is worried about what might happen to Hermione. (Being Muggle-born, she is in danger if they don't act.) Harry puts his team and house before his own personal safety, and succeeds in winning the Quidditch match for his house despite a severely broken arm. Dobby also demonstrates extreme bravery and loyalty, placing Harry's needs before his own safety.

There is a strong sense of dark magic rising, with the enchanted bludger attacking Harry and another victim being petrified. The confirmation that the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open signifies the active presence of evil. The symbolism of the Chamber of Secrets being open and its effect on Dumbledore, who symbolizes all that is good, creates a tense atmosphere in which good is threatened by evil, and suspense is achieved by the reader not knowing if good will triumph over evil on this occasion.

***Critical Analysis:***

After the incident with the pixies, Lockhart reverts to role-playing in his Dark Arts class. Hermione approaches Lockhart at the end of class and asks for permission to get a book out of the restricted section of the library, in order to better understand the tactics employed in one of his books. Lockhart is very flattered by this attention paid to his works, so he signs the slip, and Harry, Hermione, and Ron hurry into the library, where they are given the book. They read about the painful and complicated steps to making and using Polyjuice potion, and by the end Hermione is the only one still interested in trying to make it, although she persuades the boys to join her.

The Quidditch match between Gryffindor and Slytherin dawns, and during the Gryffindor team pep talk, Oliver Wood reassures his team that while the Slytherins have better brooms, the Gryffindors have better people on their brooms. He then tells Harry to get the Snitch or die trying. The game begins, and as soon as Harry is circling through the air looking for the Snitch, a Bludger streaks toward him, and continues to aim for him, even after knocked away by Fred and George. While the two beaters are protecting Harry, the Slytherins are scoring goal after goal, and during the time-out talk, Harry requests that Fred and George return to the game, allowing him to fend against the Rogue Bludger for himself while he looks for the Snitch. Malfoy, the Slytherin seeker, laughs at Harry for his twirling evasions of the Bludger, and while he is laughing, Harry notices the Snitch next to his face. Harry pauses, is whacked by the Bludger, recovers quickly and flies at Malfoy, grabbing the Snitch and falling out of the sky.

Harry wins the game but lands painfully, and he is greeted on the ground by Lockhart, who immediately sets to repair his broken arm but makes a mistake and de-bones it. Harry is sent to the hospital wing where he must stay the night, waiting for his arm to re-grow itself through a lengthy and painful process. During the night, he is visited by Dobby, who explains that he had closed up the train platform and bewitched the Bludger, both in hopes that Harry would give up and return home and away from Hogwarts, where his life would be threatened because the Chamber of Secrets had been opened again. Harry perks up at this knowledge, wanting to know more from Dobby, but the house-elf is adamant about saying nothing more, and soon footsteps sound in the corridor and Dobby disappears. Dumbledore enters with Professor McGonagall, together carrying a stony figure that Harry soon recognizes as Colin Creevey, who has been petrified with his camera in front of his face. Dumbledore gravely reiterates what Dobby had said, that the Chamber of Secrets has been opened again.

This chapter illustrates the uselessness of Lockhart as a teacher, both when he de-bones Harry's arms instead of fixing it, and when he is flattered and manipulated by Hermione in her mission to obtain the restricted library book. Oddly enough, in this situation Hermione is the one persuading Ron and Harry to break school rules, instead of the other way around. Harry is not the instigator of the detective-work, as he usually is. He is hesitant to get involved in this situation; even though he wants the Heir to be caught, he does not necessarily want to take this potion with all of its risks, in order to determine whether Malfoy is the heir. Perhaps this is because Hermione is Muggle-born and frightened for her own well-being, but most likely it is because she feels competent to solve this mystery, and the author wants to show a situation in which Harry is not the main seeker of some Hogwarts truth. He is brave enough to enter dire situations, and he is loved deeply by people who help him along the way, but in this situation, it should be known that Harry is not the main person "looking" for adventure and trouble.

During the Quidditch game, we see a perfect metaphor for the good of Harry and Gryffindor versus the evil of Malfoy and Slytherin. As Oliver Wood notes, the Slytherins can afford faster broomsticks, but the Gryffindor have trained more and harder on theirs. When the seekers are facing off to find the Snitch, it is telling that Malfoy has the treasured Snitch dangling inches away from his face, but does not notice it because he is so busy ridiculing Harry. Harry, on the other hand, notices his goal immediately, and does not allow a blow from a Bludger to prevent him from flying for the Snitch with all his energy and determination. Malfoy is a character who has options and treasures laid out before him, but is so preoccupied with gloating about them that he never stops to use them properly. Harry, on the other hand, has very little, but is alert and determined and willing to make a full effort, and so he succeeds in this game instead of Malfoy.

Dobby's visit explains many mysteries that until this point had puzzled Harry, and it reiterates the importance of Harry's life to the magical community, as well as hinting further that Harry is more involved, more threatened, by the events at Hogwarts than he could possibly know or understand. Hearing the fear in Dumbledore's voice as Colin is brought to the hospital wing furthers this ominous sentiment; even the world's greatest wizard, and the Hogwarts headmaster, cannot fully understand how these events have come about.

***Critical Study:***

Since the disaster with the pixies, Professor Lockhart has not brought live creatures to his class. Instead, he reads passages from his books and reenacts dramatic moments. He usually chooses Harry to act in these reconstructions. In the next Defense Against the Dark Arts lesson, Harry pretends to be a werewolf to keep Lockhart happy. After class, Hermione approaches Lockhart nervously, with Harry and Ron right behind her. She asks him to sign a note to get a book out of the Restricted Section of the library for background reading, to help her understand his book Gadding with Ghouls. Flattered, Lockhart signs the note without looking at it, using an enormous peacock quill. He then talks to Harry about the first Quidditch match of the season the next day: Gryffindor vs. Slytherin. Lockhart claims that he was a Seeker like Harry, and offers to give him private training. On the way to the library, Ron and Hermione argue about whether Lockhart is or is not a “brainless git.”

Harry, Ron, and Hermione go to the library. [Madam Pince](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#madam-pince), the librarian, is suspicious of the note, but ultimately gives them the book. Hermione doesn’t want to give up the note, but Ron wrenches it from her grasp, saying “We’ll get you another autograph. Lockhart’ll sign anything if it stands still long enough.” Then they barricade themselves in [Moaning Myrtle](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#moaning-myrtle)’s out-of-order bathroom again. Hermione overrides Ron’s objections, pointing out they would be guaranteed privacy. They discover that the Polyjuice potion recipe is very complex. Ron is disgusted that it requires a bit of who they want to change into. Harry is worried about how much they will have to steal. Hermione becomes angry, saying “Well, if you two are going to chicken out, fine. I don’t want to break rules, you know. I think threatening Muggle-borns is far worse than brewing up a difficult potion. But if you don’t want to find out if it’s Malfoy, I’ll go straight to Madam Pince now and hand the book back in—” Ron and Harry agree to go through with the plan. The potion will be ready in about a month. Ron mutters to Harry that it will be a lot less hassle if he just knocks Malfoy off his broom during the Quidditch game the next day.

Harry wakes early, nervous about the Quidditch match against Slytherin with their super-fast broomsticks. He goes down to breakfast, where he finds the rest of the Gryffindor team as nervous as he is. The whole school goes to the Quidditch stadium. Ron and Hermione wish Harry good luck as he enters the locker room. Wood gives his pre-match pep-talk, saying that while Slytherin has better brooms, Gryffindor has better people on their brooms, who have trained harder, “and we’re going to make them rue the day they let that little bit of slime, Malfoy, buy his way onto their team.” Wood tells Harry to prove that a Seeker has to have something more than a rich father, and to “Get the Snitch before Malfoy or die trying.”

They walk out onto the pitch, greeted by the roar of the crowd. [Madam Hooch](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#madam-hooch), the Quidditch teacher, asks Wood and Flinch to shake hands, and then blows the whistle to begin the game. The fourteen players fly into the sky, with Harry highest, searching for the Snitch. Malfoy flies under Harry, taunting him. A Bludger narrowly misses hitting Harry. George hits the Bludger away, but it changes direction mid-air and heads towards Harry again. Harry drops quickly to avoid it. George hits it toward Malfoy, but the Bludger swerves once again towards Harry’s head. Harry zooms towards the other end of the pitch. The Bludger follows him. Harry wonders what’s going on. This is unusual behavior from a Bludger. It’s the Bludger’s job to unseat as many players as possible, not to concentrate on one player. When Fred wacks the Bludger, it temporarily flies off course, but then comes after Harry again, forcing him to fly at full speed.

Rain splatters Harry’s glasses. He’s unaware of what’s happening in the rest of the game until he hears the commentator Lee Jordon say that Slytherin leads sixty points to zero. The Slytherins’ superior brooms are doing their jobs, while the mad Bludger is trying to knock Harry out of the air. Fred and George fly so close to Harry that all he can see is them. He has no opportunity to look for the Snitch. Fred says that someone has tampered with the Bludger. George signals to Wood that they need a time out.

Madam Hooch blows her whistle. On the ground again, Fred, George, and Harry talk to Wood. He wants to know where Fred and George were when a Bludger stopped Angelina from scoring. George explains that they were above, stopping another Bludger from murdering Harry, and that someone must have fixed it. Wood says that the Bludger has been locked in Madam Hooch’s office since their last practice, and there was nothing wrong with it then. Harry says that he can’t catch the Snitch with Fred and George flying around him all the time, and proposes that they go back to the rest of the team, and let him deal with the rogue Bludger. “Don’t be thick,” said Fred. It’ll take your head off.” [Alicia Spinnet](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#alicia-spinnet) tells Wood that he can’t let Harry deal with it on his own, that they should ask for an inquiry. Harry argues that if they stop now, they will have to forfeit the match, and that they shouldn’t lose to Slytherin just because of a crazy Bludger. He asks Oliver to tell them to leave him alone. George blames Wood for telling Harry to “Get the Snitch or die trying.” Madam Hooch asks them if they are ready to resume play. Wood looks at the determined expression on Harry’s face, and tells Fred and George to let him deal with the Bludger on his own.

The rain is falling more heavily. On Madam Hooch’s whistle, Harry climbs high into the air, the Bludger right behind him. He finds that the Bludger is heavy and can’t change direction as quickly as he can, so he swoops around the stadium in spirals, zigzags, and rolls, hearing laughter below him, and aware that he must look silly. When he does a twirl in mid-air to narrowly avoid the Bludger, Malfoy taunts him, yelling, “training for the ballet, Potter?” As Harry glares back at Malfoy in hatred, he sees the Golden Snitch hovering inches above Malfoy’s ear. Malfoy hasn’t seen it. Harry hangs in the air for a moment, not daring to speed towards Malfoy, in case he looks up and sees the Snitch. Harry stays a second too long—the Bludger smashes into his elbow, and he feels his arm break. “Dimly, dazed by the searing pain in his arm, he slid sideways on his rain-drenched broom, one knee still crooked over it, his right arm dangling uselessly at his side–the Bludger came pelting back for a second attack, this time aiming at his face–Harry swerved out of the way, one idea lodged firmly in his numb brain: get to Malfoy.” Harry dives for Malfoy’s face and sees his eyes widen in fear when Malfoy thinks that Harry is attacking him. Harry takes his remaining hand off of the broom and makes a wild snatch. He catches the Snitch, gripping his broom only with his legs. There’s a yell from the crowd as he heads straight for the ground, trying not to pass out. Harry hits the mud and rolls off of his broom. His arm is hanging at a strange angle. His body is riddled with pain. He hears, as if from a distance, whistling and shouting. He focuses on the Snitch clutched in his good hand, says “We’ve Won” and faints.

Harry wakes up still lying on the field in the rain and recognizes Lockhart leaning over him. Lockhart tells the anxious crowd that Harry doesn’t know what he’s saying, and tells Harry not to worry, that he is about to fix his arm. Harry says “No!” He hears a familiar clicking noise nearby, and tells Colin that he doesn’t want a picture of this. Lockhart orders Harry to lie back to prepare for a simple charm he has used countless times. Harry wants to know why he can’t just go to the hospital wing. Wood agrees with Harry, as he congratulates him on a great capture. Harry spots Fred and George wrestling the Bludger back into the box. When Lockhart directs his wand at Harry’s arm, Harry feels as if his arm was being deflated. He hears the people above him gasp, and Colin click his camera. His arm doesn’t hurt anymore, but it also doesn’t feel like an arm. Lockhart asks Ron and Hermione to accompany Harry up to the hospital wing. Harry stands and realizes that instead of mending his arm bones, Lockhart has removed them.

Madam Pomfrey is not pleased. She says that she can mend bones in a second, but growing them back will be painful. Harry will have to stay the night. Hermione waits outside the curtain around Harry’s bed while Ron helps him into his pajamas. Ron asks Hermione how she can stick up for Lockhart now. She replies that anyone can make a mistake. Madam Pomfrey gives Harry Skele-Gro, which is nasty to drink. Ron complements Harry on his catch, grinning about the win, and the expression on Malfoy’s face. Hermione wants to know how Malfoy fixed the Bludger. Harry says they can add that to their questions for when they take the Polyjuice potion. The Gryffindor team visits Harry, bringing sweets. George says that he just saw Flint yelling at Malfoy about having a Snitch on top of his head and not noticing. The team is starting a party when Madam Pomfrey kicks them out, saying that Harry needs his rest: He has thirty-three bones to grow.

Hours later, Harry wakes in pain. He realizes that someone is sponging his forehead in the dark. It’s [Dobby](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#dobby), a tear running down his nose. The house-elf, miserable, wants to know why Harry didn’t heed his warning, and why he didn’t go home when he missed his train. Harry asks how Dobby knows that he missed the train, and then suspects that Dobby stopped the barrier from letting them through at the station. Dobby admits this is true, relaying that he had to iron his hand afterward. He says that he didn’t care, because he thought that Harry was safe, and never dreamed that he would find another way to get to school. He was so shocked that he let his master’s dinner burn, and received a flogging.

Angry, Harry tells Dobby that he nearly got him and Ron expelled, and that he better get lost before his bones come back, or he will strangle him. Dobby says he is used to death threats. The house-elf blows his nose on the pillowcase he wears, and looks pathetic, causing Harry’s anger to dissipate. When Harry asks him why he wears it, Dobby explains that it’s a mark of his enslavement. Dobby can only be freed if his masters present him with clothes, so they are careful not to pass him even a sock. Dobby insists that [Harry Potter](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#harry-potter) must go home, and that he thought that his Bludger would be enough. Harry interrupts him, angry again, “Your Bludger? What do you mean your Bludger? You made that Bludger try and kill me?” Shocked, Dobby protests that he never wanted to kill Harry. He wants to save Harry’s life. He only wanted him hurt enough to be sent home. Harry then demands to know why Dobby wanted him sent home in pieces.

Dobby replies: "Ah, if Harry Potter only knew!...If he knew what he means to us, to the lowly, the enslaved, we dregs of the magical world! Dobby remembers how it was when He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named was at the height of his powers, sir! We house-elves were treated like vermin, sir! Of course, Dobby is still treated like that, sir," he admitted, drying his face on the pillowcase. "But mostly, sir, life has improved for my kind since you triumphed over He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. Harry Potter survived, and the Dark Lord's power was broken, and it was a new dawn, sir, and Harry Potter shone like a beacon of hope for those of us who thought the dark days would ever end, sir...And now, at Hogwarts, terrible things are to happen, are perhaps happening already, and Dobby cannot let Harry Potter stay here now that history is to repeat itself, now that the Chamber of Secrets is open once more—”

Dobby grabs a water jug from the bedside table and cracks it over his head, toppling out of sight, then crawls back onto the bed, muttering “Bad Dobby.” Catching hold of Dobby’s wrist, Harry tries to get Dobby to tell him more about the Chamber of Secrets, about who has opened it, and who opened it last time. Dobby says he can’t tell him, and Harry must go home. Harry insists that he’s not going anywhere, and tells Dobby that one of his best friends is Muggle-born, so will be in danger if the Chamber really has been opened. Dobby is impressed that Harry would risk his own life for his friends, but says he must save himself.

Dobby and Harry both hear footsteps coming towards them. With a loud crack, Dobby disappears. Dumbledore and Prof. McGonagall carry what looks like a statue into the dormitory and heave it onto a bed. When Madame Pomfrey arrives they explain that they found [Colin Creevey](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#colin-creevey) on the stairs. There was a bunch of grapes next to him. They think he was trying to visit Harry. Colin is petrified, his eyes wide, with his hands stuck out in front of him, holding his camera. Dumbledore wrenches the camera away from Colin and opens it to see if he got a picture of his attacker, but the film has melted. Prof. McGonagall asks Dumbledore what this means, and he replies that it means that the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open again. She wonders “who?” And he answers “The question is not who. The question is how.”

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

***Summary Part 1:***

One day after [Lockhart](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/gilderoy-lockhart)’s class—in which he makes [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) reenact an episode in which Lockhart wrestled a werewolf and turned him back into a man—Harry, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley), and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger) approach Lockhart. Hermione asks him to sign a note to take out Moste Potente Potions, which, she explains, will help her understand a part of Lockhart’s book Gadding with Ghouls. Lockhart is flattered and signs the note without even looking at it.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Together, Harry, Ron, and Hermione use their collective efforts in order to get what they want. They play into Lockhart’s ego, flattering him during and after class. Using his note, they won’t even have to break the rules in order to take the book out from the library—though this will certainly lead them to break more rules.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger) brings the note to the library and takes out Moste Potente Potions. Then Hermione, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter), and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) return to [Myrtle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/moaning-myrtle)’s bathroom, which no one ever uses, so they can look up the ingredients for Polyjuice Potion. Hermione realizes that they’re going to have to break into [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-snape)’s store of ingredients to get some of the items. The boys worry about getting into more trouble after [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-dumbledore)’s threat to expel them, but  Hermione is adamant that they try and figure out who is threatening Muggle-borns. If they can get all the ingredients, she says, it should take about a month to brew.

***Analysis Part 2:***

This is a big change for Hermione. Just like in the first book, she is usually very against breaking the rules. But she knows that preventing the attacks on Muggle-borns is important, particularly because she has a vested interest in the matter as a Muggle-born herself. She knows that there are prejudices against her and that she could be in danger, and thus Harry and Ron know that it’s important to support her and brew the potion even when it might get them into a lot of trouble.

***Summary Part 3:***

The next day, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) wakes early for the first Quidditch match of the season. He wants to win—not only to beat [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy), but because he had been in the hospital wing for the last match of the year prior and Gryffindor had lost miserably. In the locker room, [Wood](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters) also says that he wants to show the Slytherins that it takes more than a rich father to win a match.

***Analysis Part 3:***

The Quidditch match becomes more than a game to Harry. It becomes a way to support his friends after leaving them hanging the year prior, as well as a way to make a statement about the fact that the wealthy shouldn’t be able to buy advantages.

***Summary Part 4:***

When the match begins, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) flies high above the action, looking for the Snitch. Almost immediately, a Bludger starts to hurtle toward him. When he avoids it, it pivots and swerves toward him again. And again. And again. Harry starts to worry: Bludgers aren’t supposed to target one player. Harry continues to avoid the Bludger, unable to focus on the Snitch. Then he hears the score: 60-0, advantage Slytherin.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Later it is revealed that Dobby is the one bewitching the Bludger in order to try to scare Harry out of Hogwarts. Because Harry doesn’t understand what’s happening, he grows more and more afraid of the Bludger, seeing that it is targeting him directly.

***Summary Part 5:***

Gryffindor calls a time out, and [Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/fred-weasley) and [George](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/george-weasley) tell [Wood](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters) that someone has bewitched the Bludger. One of the Chasers argues that they should ask for an inquiry, but [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) says if they stop they’ll forfeit the match. Play resumes, and Harry keeps avoiding the Bludger. [Draco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy) makes fun of Harry, but then Harry spots the Snitch just next to Draco’s head. At that moment, Harry feels the Bludger smash into his arm and break it. Harry ignores the pain, diving for the Snitch with his good hand. He rolls onto the ground, the Snitch in his good hand. They’ve won the game, and Harry promptly faints.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Although Harry’s friendships are at the core of his character, sometimes he is loyal to a fault: in this moment, he doesn’t want to disappoint the rest of the team, and so he refuses to forfeit. He also doesn’t want to appear weak in front of the Slytherins, and so he demonstrates that he is willing to get hurt in order to prevail. This is another key component of Harry’s character: he is willing to and often chooses to sacrifice himself for the good of others.

***Summary Part 6:***

When [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) comes to, [Lockhart](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/gilderoy-lockhart) is standing over him, saying that he’s going to fix Harry’s arm. Harry tries to protest, but Lockhart insists. Instead of fixing Harry’s broken bones, however, Lockhart removes the bones in his arm entirely. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger) escort Harry to the hospital wing.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Lockhart presents another way in which lack of knowledge can be both dangerous and terrifying. Harry knows that Lockhart has no idea how to fix his arm, and so desperately tries to prevent him from doing so, to no avail.

***Summary Part 7:***

Madam Pomfrey, the nurse, is raging, saying that [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) should have come straight to her. Growing the bones back will be painful, she says. Harry has to stay the night. She gives him a potion called Skele-Gro, which burns as he drinks it. But, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) says, at least they won the match. [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger), for her part, wants to know how [Draco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy) fixed the Bludger. Then Madam Pomfrey makes them leave so that Harry can rest.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Harry, Ron, and Hermione again display their own prejudice against Draco, to the point where they assume that anything bad that happens to Hogwarts or Harry  must be because of him, which blinds them to the realities of what’s happening in the castle.

***Summary Part 8:***

Hours later, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) wakes to find Dobby at his bedside. Dobby says that he warned [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) not to come back to school, adding that he should have gone home when he missed the train. Harry realizes that Dobby sealed the platform barrier, and that Dobby had also fixed the Bludger. He threatens Dobby, angry that he got Harry nearly killed.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Although Dobby is trying to be  loyal and supportive of Harry, his attempts to get him to leave the castle are dangerous. Harry’s continued perseverance in the face of these obstacles also demonstrates how important Hogwarts is to his newfound identity as a wizard and how he cannot leave the place that he truly considers home.

***Summary Part 9:***

Still, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) can’t help but feel sorry for [Dobby](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/dobby), who starts to cry at Harry’s threats and blows his nose on the pillowcase he wears. Harry asks why he wears a pillowcase; Dobby explains that he can only be freed from enslavement if his masters present him with clothes.

***Analysis Part 9:***

The fact that Harry feels sorry for Dobby, even though Dobby has repeatedly tried to hurt him, demonstrates Harry’s decency and kindness towards others. Dobby’s words here about his enslavement also foreshadow Harry’s future role in helping to free Dobby at the end of the book.

***Summary Part 10:***

[Dobby](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/dobby) goes on to say that [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) has always represented hope for the house-elves, who were treated like vermin during [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/tom-riddle-voldemort)’s reign. And that’s why Harry can’t stay, he says, now that the Chamber of Secrets has been opened again, because he is in too much danger. Harry latches on to this information, realizing the Chamber is real and that it’s been opened before. But then they hear footsteps down the hall, and [Dobby](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/dobby) disappears.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Just like Slytherin, Voldemort also used prejudice against Muggle-borns to gain support and power, which foreshadows who is in fact causing the attacks. This also made it easier to discriminate against other groups, like the house-elves, whom the wizards believed to be inferior, as Dobby highlights here.

***Summary part 11:***

Then, [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-dumbledore) enters the room with [Professor McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-mcgonagall) while [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) pretends to sleep. They are carrying a petrified [Colin Creevey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters), who is frozen holding his camera and taking a picture. They open the camera to see if he got a picture of the attacker, but it smells like burnt plastic. Dumbledore acknowledges that this attack means the Chamber of Secrets has been opened again. Harry can see on McGonagall’s face that she doesn’t understand what is happening any more than he does.

***Analysis Part 11:***

The attack on Colin provides some information, but it also raises more questions. It confirms that the monster is targeting Muggle-born students, as Colin is Muggle-born. But it still doesn’t provide any clues about who or what could be causing the attacks. And because Harry realizes that the people in charge have little understanding of what is happening as well, Harry and the rest of the students quickly become afraid that they will not be protected.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

Training for the ballet, Potter?" yelled Malfoy as Harry was forced to do a stupid kind of twirl in midair to dodge the Bludger, and he fled, the Bludger trailing a few feet behind him; and then, glaring back at Malfoy in hatred, he saw it – the Golden Snitch. It was hovering inches above Malfoy's left ear – and Malfoy, busy laughing at Harry, hadn't seen it. (10.79)

***Explanation:***

Draco manages to buy his way on the Slytherin team as Seeker. Yet it's not clear how much he's playing Quidditch because he loves the sport, and how much he's doing it because he desperately wants to beat Harry at something. Here, he doesn't notice the Golden Snitch right over his shoulder because he's too busy laughing at Harry. A surprising amount of Draco's life seems to revolve around Harry: He's jealous of him, and he hates him, so he seems to be distracted by him quite often. What do you think Draco does in his spare time, when he's not harassing Harry? What does he want in life? Do we get any kind of depth for his character in Book 2? How does he change from Book 2 to the later novels of the series?

***Quotation 2:***

"Ah, if Harry Potter only knew!" Dobby groaned, more tears dripping onto his ragged pillowcase. "If he knew what he means to us, to the lowly, the enslaved, we dregs of the magical world! Dobby remembers how it was when He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named was at the height of his powers, sir! We house-elves were treated like vermin, sir! Of course, Dobby is still treated like that, sir," he admitted, drying his face on the pillowcase. "But mostly, sir, life has improved for my kind since you triumphed over He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. Harry Potter survived, and the Dark Lord's power was broken, and it was a new dawn, sir, and Harry Potter shone like a beacon of hope for those of us who thought the dark days would ever end, sir..." (10.148)

***Explanation:***

Dobby's statement of admiration for Harry as the defeater of Voldemort eleven years ago is really touching. At the same time, it's a bit at odds with the experiences of other magical creatures (the goblins, giants, and centaurs) who seem pretty ambivalent about choosing between Voldemort and the Ministry of Magic in Book 5. These creatures all resent the rights they have been refused by the Ministry, and they consider siding with Voldemort in order to get those rights. What might make the house-elf population different? Why are they not in a position to negotiate with Voldemort? How is the status of the house-elves different from the status of other magical creatures (such as the centaurs) in the wizarding world? What does Dobby fear will happen if Harry is killed? How might Dobby's own life be materially different if there were no Boy-Who-Lived?

***Quotation 3:***

So, Harry [...] Tomorrow's the first Quidditch match of the season, I believe? Gryffindor against Slytherin, is it not? I hear you're a useful player. I was a Seeker, too. I was asked to try for the National Squad, but preferred to dedicate my life to the eradication of the Dark Forces. Still, if ever you feel the need for a little private training, don't hesitate to ask. Always happy to pass on my expertise to less able players. (10.15)

***Explanation:***

The thing that's odd about Professor Lockhart is less that he's willing to lie to make himself look better and more that he is so bad at it. How does anyone not see through this guy? Mrs. Weasley is a woman of the world, and yet she still seems really taken with Lockhart, and even after hearing this little speech to Harry, Hermione's crush continues on. Does Professor Lockhart remind you of anyone you know? What do you think drives his compulsive need to make himself look good all the time? Does Professor Lockhart believe that he is truly as great as he claims to be?

***Quotation 4:***

"It means," said Dumbledore, "that the Chamber of Secrets is indeed open again."

Madam Pomfrey clapped a hand to her mouth. Professor McGonagall stared at Dumbledore.

"But, Albus...surely...who?"

"The question is not who," said Dumbledore, his eyes on Colin. "The question is, how."

And from what Harry could see of Professor McGonagall's shadowy face, she didn't understand this any better than he did. (10.175-179)

***Explanation 4:***

Professor Dumbledore obviously means well. We still have to wonder, though: why doesn't he just tell the people around him what he knows? It would save them all a lot of trouble, especially in the later novels. Oh, of course, it preserves the suspense of the books that he's not totally open about his suspicions ever, but it would be nice if he explained himself once in a while, and avoided these totally obscure and incomprehensible hints. Why do you think Professor Dumbledore doesn't just tell Professor McGonagall what he thinks has happened to Colin Creevey? Why must he be so mysterious all the time? What reasons does he give in the later novels for keeping secrets? What do you think his motivations are in not explaining everything he knows up front to his colleagues?

***Quotation 5:***

History of Magic was the dullest subject on their schedule. Professor Binns, who taught it, was their only ghost teacher, and the most exciting thing that ever happened in his classes was his entering the room through the blackboard. Ancient and shriveled, many people said he hadn't noticed he was dead. He had simply got up to teach one day and left his body behind him in front of the staffroom fire; his routine had not varied in the slightest since. (9.83)

***Explanation 5:***

There's something ironic about a dead man teaching history, since history is all about the past and the activities of long-dead people. We have to wonder a little at the wisdom of Professor Dumbledore leaving such a deadly dull instructor in charge of a subject that's actually really important. Not only is the history of the four founding wizards and witches essential to the plot of Book 2, but wouldn't it have been helpful for Harry to know about Grindelwald before Book 7?

***Quotation 6:***

"Well, if you two are going to chicken out, fine," [Hermione] said. There were bright pink patches on her cheeks and her eyes were brighter than usual. "I don't want to break rules, you know. I think threatening Muggle-borns is far worse than brewing up a difficult potion. But you don't want to find out if it's Malfoy, I'll go straight to Madam Pince now and hand the book back in —"

"I never thought I'd see the day when you'd be persuading us to break rules," said Ron. (10.36-37)

***Explanation 6:***

Hermione believes in school rules. She's much more hard core about being obedient and following the rules in Book 1; as the series continues, Hermione relaxes more and more (under the influence of Harry and Ron). She comes to see that Truth and Justice are more important than following the rules at every turn – it's what keeps Hermione from turning into another Percy Weasley. At the same time, Hermione is generally obedient, more so than her best friends. When does she decide it's OK to break the rules? What will she break the rules to achieve? What does Hermione's rule-breaking tell us about her principles?

***Quotation 7:***

As [the Gryffindor Quidditch team] walked out onto the pitch, a roar of noise greeted them; mainly cheers, because Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff were anxious to see Slytherin beaten, but the Slytherins in the crowd made their boos and hisses heard, too. (10.48)

***Explanation 7:***

The entire school hates Slytherin. All three of the other houses are cheering Gryffindor over Slytherin because they hate Slytherin house. Now, we're not saying that there aren't plenty of bad people in Slytherin, because there are (obviously). Still, we do feel kind of sorry for the house as a whole, since everybody hates them. They're not really being given much of an option except to turn bad. It's not exactly a joyous life, being a Slytherin, which seems a bit unfair – it is a Hogwarts House, after all, in the same way that Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and even Gryffindor are. Or does this logic not get very far with you? What do you think of the Slytherins? Are they all like Draco? What do you think the primary traits of Slytherin House are? Who are the good Slytherins in the Harry Potter novels? How do they differ from the bad ones?