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

***Chapter 14***

***Summary and analysis***

***Summary:***

**Cornelius Fudge**

* Harry, Ron, and Hermione can't believe that *Hagrid* was the Heir of Slytherin who opened the Chamber fifty years before.
* They decide that they won't say anything to him unless there's another attack.
* Harry hasn't heard the voice in weeks, though, and nothing seems wrong at the castle.
* Over Easter break, Hermione starts talking about what classes they'll get to choose for third year.
* Harry has no idea what to do, since he was raised as a Muggle and doesn't understand what might help in the future.
* Finally, he just goes with all the classes Ron picks, so at least he'll have a friend.
* Harry continues to train in Quidditch, since there's an upcoming match between Gryffindor and Hufflepuff.
* On his way back from one of the practices, he finds Neville Longbottom panicking.
* In their dorm room, Harry sees that all of his stuff has been turned inside out and upside down.
* Riddle's diary is also gone.
* The morning of the match against Hufflepuff, Harry is on his way to the game when he hears that voice again – "*Kill this time…let me rip…tear*" (14.47).
* Ron and Hermione still can't understand the voice.
* Then Hermione seems to have some kind of breakthrough.
* She rushes off to the library without explaining.

ADVERTISING

* Harry goes out to the Quidditch pitch for the game.
* However, Professor McGonagall appears to announce, "This match has been canceled" (14.63).
* There has been an emergency: Hermione and a Ravenclaw prefect, Penelope Clearwater, have both been Petrified.
* Professor McGonagall brings Harry and Ron to the Hospital Wing.
* There, they find Hermione lying Petrified in a hospital bed.
* Professor McGonagall shows them a mirror that was found near her body.
* She asks if they can think of any explanation.
* They can't.
* Professor McGonagall leads them back to the Common Room and announces new rules: there's a 6:00 PM curfew, students must be accompanied to each lesson by a teacher, no student is allowed to go to the bathroom without a teacher, and Quidditch has been canceled.
* All the students are in an uproar.
* Harry and Ron decide that it's time to see Hagrid.
* They sneak out of the castle using Harry's Invisibility Cloak.
* Hagrid opens his cottage door looking extremely nervous and distracted.
* He invites Ron and Harry in for tea.
* Before they can really settle in to talk, there's a knock at the door.
* Harry and Ron hide under the Invisibility Cloak.
* It's Professor Dumbledore and a stranger with "rumpled gray hair and an anxious expression […] wearing a strange mixture of clothes: a pinstriped suit, a scarlet tie, a long black cloak, and pointed purple boots" (14.104).
* This stranger is the Minister of Magic, Cornelius Fudge.
* He has come to arrest Hagrid for the attacks on Muggle-borns at the school.
* He points out that Hagrid's record is against him, and the Ministry has to do something.
* They're going to take him straight to Azkaban, the wizard prison, without a trial.
* Just then, Lucius Malfoy comes in.
* He has arrived to tell Professor Dumbledore that the school governors (including Lucius) have voted to remove Professor Dumbledore from office.
* They can't trust him to run the school because, "At this rate, there'll be no Muggle-borns left at Hogwarts, and we all know what an *awful* loss that would be to the school" (14.124).
* Professor Dumbledore agrees to go, but he also says very clearly, "I will only *truly* have left this school when none here are loyal to me. You will also find that help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it" (14.138).
* Harry is sure that Professor Dumbledore knows he and Ron are there.
* Hagrid also gives a parting word: "If anyone wanted ter find out some *stuff*, all they'd have ter do would be ter follow the *spiders*"

***Brief Summary:***

Harry, Ron and Hermione discuss the possibility that Hagrid is responsible for the recent events related to the Chamber of Secrets. They know that he is fond of dangerous animals, often keeping them as pets, but they also know that Hagrid would never intentionally hurt anyone. They decide not to question him, as nothing untoward has happened at the school for some time.

The students are occupied with school issues such as choosing their subjects to study for next year. Hermione signs up for every possible subject but Harry and Ron are less certain of what they want to do and sign up for the same subjects so they can help each other when they get stuck. Harry is also busy practicing for the next Quidditch match; this takes up most of his time. He is horrified one night when he returns from practice to find that someone has ransacked his dormitory, damaged his possessions, and thrown his belongings everywhere. He also discovers that the diary is missing and feels sick to think that it must have been a fellow Gryffindor pupil who has done this, as no one else knows the password. As Hermione, Ron, and Harry discuss the implications of the break-in at the dinner table, Hermione has a flash of inspiration and rushes off to the library to research her idea.

Harry and Ron collect Harry's broom and make their way to the Quidditch match, Harry is worried as he hears the evil voice again but his mind is focused on the forthcoming Quidditch match. The match is just beginning when, to everyone's surprise, Professor McGonagall arrives with a loud hailer and cancels the match. She has some upsetting news for Harry and Ron: Hermione is the latest victim to be attacked, along with a Ravenclaw prefect. All extra-curricular activities are cancelled and a curfew is introduced. Students are instructed to remain in the common rooms after six at night, and no pupil is allowed in the corridors alone. An escort is required at all times.

Harry and Ron decide it's time to visit Hagrid and leave the school at night, under the safety of Harry's invisibility cloak. They reach Hagrid's cabin to find him visibly upset by the recent events. They are unable to question Hagrid as Dumbledore arrives, accompanied by Cornelius Fudge, The Minister of Magic. Cornelius feels it is his duty to remove Hagrid from the school. The school governors have contacted the ministry and the ministry has to be seen to act. With Hagrid's past involvement with the chamber, he is an obvious suspect. Dumbledore is unhappy with the decision and defends Hagrid, telling Cornelius that he supports Hagrid completely. Unfortunately, Dumbledore's support isn't enough, as Lucius Malfoy arrives with a demand for Dumbledore to step down as head teacher. It has been signed by all the governors and is a result of their lack of faith in Dumbledore's ability to stop the attacks. Hagrid is furious and accuses Malfoy of blackmailing the other governors but this doesn't make any difference. Dumbledore accepts the demand and looks towards the corner where Harry and Ron are hiding. Harry is convinced Dumbledore knows they are there as he looks directly at Harry and gives him a subtle message. Hagrid also gives the boys a clue about how to solve the problems by following the spiders, and reminds them to look after Fang, Hagrid's dog. Ron and Harry are left alone in the cabin, shocked at the turn in events and worried about the implications of Dumbledore being made to step down.

***Brief Analysis:***

The power of the good magicians appears to be failing, as faith is lost in their ability to succeed, with faith being placed in the dark side instead. Ron and Harry are forced to question Hagrid because of the attack on Hermione. Hagrid is made a scapegoat and removed by the ministry, the members of which have been forced into action by the school governors, all the work of the dark side. The school governors have been blackmailed by Lucius, who symbolizes dark powers, dark powers that lead to the triumph of Malfoy over Dumbledore, with Dumbledore being forced to step down. Dumbledore is symbolic of the power of good. Without him at the school, there is not much hope left. Harry has to trust in his faith, and trust that Dumbledore will find a way to help him. If Harry loses faith, then the dark side will have won.

***Critical Analysis:***

Harry, Ron, and Hermione spend endless conversations discussing Harry's jaunt into the diary and the possibility that Hagrid could be the culprit. The three students debate asking him, but decide against it, at least until another attack occurred. Meanwhile, the school term continues: the Mandrakes are still maturing, once delighting Professor Sprout by throwing a wild party in their greenhouse, and the Hogwarts second-year students are busy choosing their classes for the following year. Ron and Harry sign up for the same few classes, while Hermione signs up for everything offered. Things are surprisingly normal during this time, and soon the Hufflepuff-Gryffindor Quidditch match draws apace. The evening before the big game, Harry is startled to find that his dormitory room has been broken into, his things torn, broken and rearranged, and Riddle's diary taken. He and Hermione are alarmed to conclude that a Gryffindor must have done it, as nobody else knows the House password.

The morning of the match, Harry hears the hissing, disembodied voice again, and Hermione leaps up and dashes to the library. Harry heads out to the Quidditch pitch, and no sooner than he has taken his position does Professor McGonagall step into the field and stop the game, instructing all students to return to their houses, and Harry and Ron to follow her to the hospital wing, where they find Hermione and a Ravenclaw prefect named Penelope Clearwater, petrified, with a small hand mirror lying next to them. The students all are told to remain in their House common rooms from six P.M. on, and always to be escorted by teachers to and from class. Professor McGonagall adds that the school will likely be closed down unless the attacks are halted. Ron and Harry decide that this is a moment to visit Hagrid. Because of the strict rules about wandering around unchaperoned, they decide to do this underneath Harry's invisibility cloak, a gift left to him by his late father.

The boys set out late that night, and as soon as they enter Hagrid's small wooden cabin, they hear a knock at the door and hide invisibly in a corner. Dumbledore enters with a man Ron immediately recognizes as Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic. Fudge explains apologetically to Hagrid that in light of the present circumstances, he must ask him to leave Hogwarts and reside in Azkaban, a frightful wizard prison, until the events stop or are solved. Dumbledore states calmly that he trusts Hagrid entirely, but Fudge says that he must act or else the ministry will think he is doing nothing to stop the attacks, and since Hagrid's history is muddled with rumors about the Chamber of Secrets, he should be the Ministry's first target. While this is being discussed, the door opens again, and Lucius Malfoy enters, explaining icily that the twelve school governors have signed a petition calling for Dumbledore to step down as headmaster. Dumbledore consents without argument, saying only these portentous words, "You will find that I will only truly have left this school when none here are loyal to me. You will also find that help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it." Hagrid leaves more reluctantly, calling out behind him two instructions heard by Harry and Ron: to follow the spiders to find the culprit, and to feed Fang, his dog.

With the break-in to his dormitory, Harry has further cause for alarm: the criminal of that endeavor must be someone he knows, someone who is in Gryffindor, someone he had up until that point trusted. The Heir of Slytherin speculation shifted away from Malfoy after the Polyjuice affair, but now it is away from Slytherin altogether, leaving Percy, due to his earlier suspect positions, as a more likely threat, but really anyone in the House could now be responsible. After Hermione is petrified while all of Hogwarts is outside watching the Quidditch match, the circumstances become more threatening; the creature responsible for the crime may not even be a student. With the diary gone, Harry can no longer communicate with Riddle, and so the burden of discovery lies entirely on him alone.

Harry and Ron's decision to slip out of their dorms and question Hagrid is one of obligation to their involvement in the crisis. Harry wound up with the diary, he spoke with Tom, and now he feels it his responsibility to cut to the core of the mystery in any way he can, even at great personal risk. Ron, as loyal as ever, accompanies him. This is the quintessential origin of Harry's heroism at Hogwarts; he is bold enough to break rules in search of evidence, and his situation brings together personal interest (keeping Hogwarts open and functioning so that he can remain there instead of with the Dursleys) and a general sense of integrity (a need to do everything he can to help stop the attacks on his community).

The boys are handicapped by not having Hermione with them. Hermione pieces facts together in a way that could only be possible for someone as well-read as she. Having her petrified leaves Ron and Harry to figure out the information that Hermione sought. With her out of the picture, the two boys must be more alert than ever, since their way of discovery is trial-and-error exploration, while Hermione's is based more on research. Here Ron and Harry must do both, and the need to revive the victims is more pressing than ever, now that their best friend is one of them. The mirror next to them serves as evidence, but of what we do not yet know. Obviously Hermione had learned that the monster in the Chamber was somehow rendered less dangerous by a mirror, but what she found is useless until the Mandrake potion will be ready.

In Hagrid's house, Harry and Ron learn critical pieces of information that seem directed at them by Hagrid, who of course knows that they are hidden in his house, and by Dumbledore, who Harry always suspected could see through the invisibility cloak. They have witnessed what nobody else in the school has, and what they have seen and heard requires them to remain involved in the solving of the Chamber of Secrets attacks until the very end. Although the boys don't yet know how to use these words of wisdom, they know that they are important.***Critical Study:***

Harry knows that Hagrid has “an unfortunate liking for large and monstrous creatures.” It is easy for him to imagine Hagrid caring for the monster in the Chamber of Secrets as a boy. But Harry is also certain that Hagrid would never have meant to kill anyone. Harry tires of recounting what he saw in Riddle’s diary to his friends, and the circular conversation that follows. Hermione points out that Riddle might have had the wrong person, and some other monster could have been attacking people. Ron is skeptical. Harry remembers that they knew that Hagrid had been expelled, and assumes that the attacks must have stopped afterward in order for Riddle to get his reward. Ron thinks that Riddle sounds like Percy, a squealer. Hermione reminds Ron that the monster killed someone. Harry sympathizes with Riddle’s desire to keep Hogwarts open so he wouldn't have to return to the Muggle orphanage. They wonder if they should go ask Hagrid about it all, but decide not to, unless there’s another attack. It has been four months since the last one, and the school has relaxed. The Mandrakes are nearly mature, at which point Professor Sprout will be able to revive the victims.

During the Easter holidays, the second-year students choose their subjects for the third year. Harry wants to give up Potions and Ron wants to give up Defense Against the Dark Arts, to escape Snape and Lockhart, but they can’t. [Neville Longbottom](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#neville-longbottom) is overwhelmed by the possibilities. Hermione signs up for everything without asking anyone. Percy tries to give Harry career advice. Harry feels that the only thing he’s really good at is Quidditch, and ends up signing up for the same new subjects as Ron for friendly support.

On a Friday evening before a Saturday Quidditch match, Harry goes up to his dorm after practice to drop off his broom. He runs into Neville Longbottom, looking frantic. Neville has discovered that someone ransacked Harry’s things. Harry finds that the contents of his trunk have been thrown everywhere. The blankets have been pulled off his bed, his drawer emptied, and its contents strewn over the mattress. His cloak is ripped and the pockets of his robe turned out. Ron asks if there’s anything missing. Harry realizes that Riddle’s diary is gone. Harry and Ron hurry to the Gryffindor common room to join Hermione. She is aghast at the news, especially since only a Gryffindor student could have done it. No one else knows their password.

The next morning offers perfect conditions for Quidditch: sunny with a breeze. An enthusiastic Wood tries to get Harry to eat his breakfast. Harry is worried about what to do. Hermione is urging him to report the robbery, but he doesn’t want to tell a teacher about the diary and get Hagrid in trouble. As he leaves the Great Hall with Ron and Hermione, Harry hears the voice again: “Kill this time...let me rip...tear…” Harry shouts, and asks his friends if they heard the voice too, but they didn’t. Hermione exclaims: “Harry—I think I’ve just understood something! I’ve got to go to the library!” and sprints away.

Harry collects his broom from Gryffindor Tower and joins the crowd heading to the Quidditch field, distracted by thoughts of the voice. The teams walk onto the field. Wood warms up. [Madam Hooch](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#madam-hooch) releases the balls. The Hufflepuffs huddle up. Harry is just mounting his broom when Prof. McGonagall marches onto the field and announces through a megaphone that the match has been canceled. A devastated Wood protests. McGonagall ignores him, instructing the students to return to their house common rooms quickly for further information. McGonagall leads Harry and Ron to the infirmary, explaining gently that there has been another double attack. Madam Pomfrey is attending to Penelope, a girl from Ravenclaw house. When he sees the second victim, Ron groans: It’s Hermione, petrified with open eyes. McGonagall explains that they were found near the library. She asks if Harry or Ron can explain the small circular mirror on the floor next to the victims. They shake their heads.

McGonagall escorts them back to Gryffindor Tower. She addresses the students, reading new restrictions from a rolled parchment: All students must return to their house common rooms by six PM, and cannot leave their dorms after that. Teachers will escort students to classes and the bathroom. Quidditch training and matches are postponed. All evening activities are canceled. She adds that it is likely that Hogwarts will be closed unless the culprit behind the attacks is caught and urges anyone who thinks they might know anything to come forward.

The Gryffindors begin talking immediately. Lee Jordan points out that of the victims, two were from Gryffindor, one from Ravenclaw, and one from Hufflepuff, and none from Slytherin. He argues that the teachers should chuck out all of the Slytherins, as the obvious source of the attacks. Percy looks pale and stunned. George tells Harry that Percy is in shock because the Ravenclaw girl who was attacked, Penelope Clearwater, is a prefect; George thinks Percy didn’t think the monster would attack a prefect. Harry thinks of Hermione. And he is afraid that if the culprit isn’t caught soon, he faces a lifetime of living with the Dursleys. He feels like Tom Riddle, when he decided to turn in Hagrid in order to keep Hogwarts open and so avoid the prospect of a Muggle orphanage. Ron asks Harry what they should do. Harry decides that they should visit Hagrid. “I can’t believe it’s him this time, but if he set the monster loose last time he’ll know how to get inside the Chamber of Secrets, and that’s a start.”

Ron and Harry go to bed at the usual time that night, wait until their dormmates are asleep, and then dress again and throw the Invisibility Cloak that Harry inherited from his father over themselves. They make their way through the corridors, trying to avoid making a sound that might attract the attention of the teachers, prefects, and ghosts monitoring for unusual activity. They pull off the cloak when they reach Hagrid’s front door. Hagrid flings open the door, aiming a crossbow at Harry and Ron. Surprised to see them, he lowers the crossbow, and starts to make tea, clearly flustered. Harry asks Hagrid if he’s ok, and if he has heard about Hermione. Hagrid replies that he has, looking upset. He keeps glancing at the windows. He serves them hot water, forgetting the tea bags. He begins to put a slab of fruitcake on a plate when there’s a loud knock at the door. He drops the cake. Harry and Ron throw the invisibility cloak over themselves and retreat into a corner. Hagrid checks to see that they are hidden, then seizes his crossbow and flings open the door again.

Dumbledore enters, looking serious, followed by another man who Ron recognizes as Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic. Fudge says that with four attacks on Muggle-borns, the Ministry has got to act. Hagrid protests. Dumbledore tells Fudge that Hagrid has his full confidence. Looking uncomfortable, Fudge replies that Hagrid’s record is against him. The school governors have been in touch. Dumbledore argues that taking Hagrid away won’t help in the slightest. Fudge, fidgeting, says that he’s under a lot of pressure and has to be seen doing something. He promises that if it’s not Hagrid, he will be back and no more will be said. But he has to take him, for a short stretch, not as a punishment, but as a precaution. If someone else is caught, Hagrid will be let out with a full apology.

Hagrid croaks “Not Azkaban?” Before Fudge can answer, there’s another rap on the door. Dumbledore answers it. [Lucius Malfoy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#lucius-malfoy) enters and is pleased to see Fudge already there. Hagrid demands to know what Malfoy is doing there and tells him to get out of his house. Malfoy insults Hagrid’s house and says he’s there to see Dumbledore. He takes out an Order of Suspension and tells Dumbledore that all twelve governors have signed it. Fudge looks alarmed and says suspending Dumbledore is the last thing they want right now. Malfoy replies that the appointment and suspension of the headmaster is a matter for the governors, and that Dumbledore has failed to stop the attacks. Fudge argues with Malfoy: “if Dumbledore can’t stop them...who can?” With a nasty smile, Malfoy replies “That remains to be seen.” Hagrid accuses Malfoy of threatening and blackmailing the other governors for their votes. Malfoy advises Hagrid to watch his temper around Azkaban guards. Hagrid yells that if they take Dumbledore, the Muggle-borns won’t stand a chance, and that there will be killings soon.

Dumbledore tells Hagrid to calm himself. Addressing Malfoy, Dumbledore agrees to step aside. “However,” said Dumbledore, speaking very slowly and clearly so that none of them could miss a word, “you will find that I will only have truly left this school when none here are loyal to me. You will also find that help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it.” Harry senses that Dumbledore can see them hiding in the corner. Malfoy opens the door for Dumbledore. Fudge waits for Hagrid to go ahead of him, and is astonished when Hagrid stands his ground to say carefully: “If anyone wanted to find out some stuff, all they’d have ter do would be ter follow the spiders.” He tells Fudge that he’s coming and then adds loudly that someone will have to feed [Fang](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#fang) while he’s away. After the door bangs shut, Ron pulls off the invisibility cloak and declares that they are in trouble: “No Dumbledore. They might as well close the school tonight. There’ll be an attack a day with him gone.”

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter), [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) have long discussions about Riddle’s memory. Hermione wonders whether Riddle could have caught the wrong person, and if another [monster](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/symbols/the-monster-basilisk) could have been attacking students. But Ron questions how many monsters could be living inside the school, and Harry figures that the attacks must have stopped after [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) was expelled. They wonder whether they should ask Hagrid about it, but in the end, they decide to talk to him only if there is another attack.

***Analysis Part 1:***

One of Harry’s most important qualities is his loyalty to his friends, and his loyalty to Hagrid shows here. Hagrid has always been a friend and even a father figure to Harry, and Harry also knows that Hagrid would never intentionally do something to hurt students. This prevents Harry, Ron, and Hermione from immediately reporting him, showing how loyalty can combat misinformation.

***Summary Part 2:***

It has now been four months since [Justin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/justin-finch-fletchley) and [Nick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/nearly-headless-nick) were petrified, and life continues somewhat normally in the castle. Students sign up for classes for the following year, and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) has another Quidditch game coming up. But the evening before the match, Harry discovers that someone has ransacked his dorm room, and that [Riddle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/tom-riddle-voldemort)’s diary is gone. He wonders who could have done it, as only a Gryffindor would have the password.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Later it is revealed that Ginny is the person who steals Riddle’s diary here because she doesn’t want Harry to be possessed by Riddle like she was. This exhibits an immense amount of bravery and loyalty from Ginny, as she in essence sacrifices herself in order to protect Harry from Riddle.

***Summary Part 3:***

The next day, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter), [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) are returning from breakfast when Harry hears the cold voice again. He asks Ron and Hermione if they can hear it, but they shake their heads. Then Hermione says suddenly that she thinks she understands something, and she hurries off to the library.

***Analysis Part 3:***

In this moment, Hermione connects the fact that only Harry can hear the voice to the fact that only Harry can talk to snakes. True to form, she heads to the library in order to discover more information and confirm her suspicions before taking action.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) isn’t able to catch the voice again, so he heads off to the match. But just before it is about to start, [Professor McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-mcgonagall) comes out and says the match has been cancelled. She beckons Harry and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) and brings them up to the hospital wing. [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger) and a Ravenclaw girl named Penelope Clearwater have been petrified. A mirror was found on the floor near them, but Harry and Ron don’t know what that could mean.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The attacks continue to plague the Muggle-born students, this time taking Hermione. But Riddle also later explains that he wanted to target Hermione because he knew that Harry is incredibly loyal to his friends. Harry would have no choice but to try and find out more information about the Chamber of Secrets and attempt to save more friends from this fate. In this way, Riddle plays Harry’s sense of loyalty against him.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter), [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley), and [Professor McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-mcgonagall) head back to the Gryffindor common room. She announces that all students must be back in their common rooms by six each evening and will be escorted to each lesson by a teacher. She also mentions that it is likely the school will be closed if the culprit isn’t found. Harry can’t stop thinking about [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger)—and about how [Tom Riddle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/tom-riddle-voldemort) felt at the prospect of the school closing.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Harry’s sympathy for Riddle’s feelings again highlights the similarities between the two. But his thoughts just before also highlight their differences: Harry is worried about one of his best friends, and about all the Muggle-born students, whereas Riddle was simply looking out for himself when he was in the same situation.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) tells [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) that they have to go and talk to [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid), though it won’t be easy with the new rules in place. They decide to break out Harry’s Invisibility Cloak and sneak down to Hagrid’s hut in the middle of the night. When Hagrid answers the door, he is holding a crossbow, but he lowers it when he sees Ron and Harry. Hagrid seems very nervous as he makes them tea, and Harry asks if he’s all right—and if he heard about [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger). Hagrid confirms that he heard, but just then there is a knock on the door. Ron and Harry get under the Invisibility Cloak once more.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Again, Harry and Ron demonstrate loyalty to Hagrid by trying to ask him about the attacks and the events of fifty years ago, rather than assuming the worst without finding more information. Additionally, they begin their rule-breaking streak once more by sneaking out at night, because they know that it is more important to try and save other students than to follow the curfew rules.

***Summary part 7:***

[Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-dumbledore) enters with [Cornelius Fudge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/cornelius-fudge), the Minister of Magic. Fudge explains that the Ministry has to act, now that four Muggle-born students have been attacked. Though Dumbledore tries to assure Fudge that [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) has his confidence, Fudge says that he’s under a lot of pressure, that he has to be seen doing something, and that Hagrid’s record is against him. Fudge must take Hagrid to Azkaban prison.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Unlike Harry and Ron, who are more concerned about doing what is right than about the rules, Fudge proves that he thinks in the opposite way. The Ministry is more concerned with the appearance of doing something than with actually trying to stop the attacks.

***Summary Part 8:***

There is another knock on the door, and this time it is [Lucius Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy). He is looking for [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-dumbledore): he and the other school governors feel that it is time for him to “step aside.” He has an Order of Suspension to remove Dumbledore from his post because of the attacks on Muggle-borns. [Fudge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/cornelius-fudge) tries to protest that it would be a bad idea to suspend Dumbledore, but Lucius states that this is a matter for the governors to decide.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Lucius is also more concerned with the appearance of doing something than with actually finding out what happened. As is revealed later, he knows that Riddle’s diary is what is actually causing the attacks, because he planted the book in Ginny’s cauldron. But he takes advantage of the situation in order to remove Dumbledore, which he knows will only make the school more dangerous. Thus, Harry and Ron see how easily the rules are manipulated by corrupt people.

***Summary part 9:***

[Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) becomes very upset at the idea of [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-dumbledore)’s removal, but Dumbledore remains calm. He says that if the governors want his removal, he will step aside. He leaves with these parting words: “You will find that I will only truly have left this school when none here are loyal to me.” [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) thinks that Dumbledore is looking right at him, even though he and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) are invisible.

***Analysis Part 9:***

This advice from Dumbledore becomes key for Harry. Later, when Harry is facing Riddle and the monster in the Chamber of Secrets, he proves his loyalty to Dumbledore. This calls Fawkes to him and enables him to be brave in the face of immense danger.

***Summary Part 10:***

[Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy) and [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/professor-dumbledore) lead the way out. Before [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) exits, however, he says that “If anyone wanted ter find out some stuff, all they’d have ter do would be ter follow the spiders.” [Fudge](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/cornelius-fudge) looks at him in confusion, and then the two men leave. Once they are alone, [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) pull off the Cloak, horrified at what has just happened.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Hagrid’s advice to Ron and Harry will also test their bravery and loyalty, as this advice leads them into the Forbidden Forest. But because they want to prove Hagrid innocent and save Hermione, they work together and are able to summon their courage even in a frightening situation.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

"Dreadful thing, Dumbledore," said Malfoy lazily, taking out a long roll of parchment, "but the governors feel it's time for you to step aside. This is an Order of Suspension – you'll find all twelve signatures on it. I'm afraid we feel you're losing your touch. How many attacks have there been now? Two more this afternoon, wasn't it? At this rate, there'll be no Muggle-borns left at Hogwarts, and we all know what an awful loss that would be to the school." (14.124)

***Explanation 1:***

Lucius Malfoy is the single biggest opportunist in all of the Harry Potter novels. He's great at seizing chances to twist things to his advantage. These attacks on the Muggle-borns give him an apparently righteous reason to get rid of one of Voldemort's biggest enemies, Professor Dumbledore. Lucius is also remarkably good at saying the opposite of what he means and yet, making his true feelings perfectly clear. Obviously, he does not care at all if "there'll be no Muggle-borns left at Hogwarts." He's a callous, evil bastard, but he does have style and skill with language. How does Rowling show that Lucius is not to be trusted? Do we have any sense of his motivations beyond being an enemy to all things good?

***Quotation 2:***

"That's two Gryffindors down, not counting a Gryffindor ghost, one Ravenclaw, and one Hufflepuff," said the Weasley twins' friend Lee Jordan, counting on his fingers. "Haven't any of the teachers noticed that the Slytherins are all safe? Isn't it obvious all this stuff's coming from Slytherin? The Heir of Slytherin, the monster of Slytherin – why don't they just chuck all the Slytherins out?" he roared, to nods and scattered applause. (14.84)

***Explanation 2:***

The whole House rivalry thing is a great example of the plot technique of misdirection. There is so much hatred between Gryffindor and Slytherin, but it turns out that the whole "Heir of Slytherin" thing is a fake clue. Ginny Weasley is the one who is opening the Chamber of Secrets, possessed by Voldemort. The thing that keeps her nighttime activities hidden is that she is a Gryffindor, an eleven-year-old, the youngest sister of a large and protective family – all of these things shield her from too much scrutiny from the people living in her dorm with her. Of course, Ginny is absolutely not doing these things on purpose. Still, she's a great choice for Voldemort to possess because she is, literally, the last person anyone would suspect of slaughtering roosters and Petrifying Muggle-borns. Harry's hatred for Draco and the Hufflepuffs' suspicion of Harry serves only to distract everyone from the real truth, which is something no one could guess.

***Quotation 3:***

"The voice!" said Harry, looking over his shoulder. "I just heard it again – didn't you?"

Ron shook his head, wide-eyed. Hermione, however, clapped a hand to her forehead.

"Harry – I think I've just understood something! I've got to go to the library!"

And she sprinted away, up the stairs.

"What does she understand?" said Harry distractedly, still looking around, trying to tell where the voice had come from. (14.47-51)

***Explanation 3:***

We've already wondered why Professor Dumbledore – who was present in Riddle's memory and must have some thoughts about Hagrid's expulsion and the Chamber of Secrets – doesn't just share his suspicions with Professor McGonagall when Justin Finch-Fletchley is first Petrified. Here, though, Hermione is doing it, too. She's clearly gotten an idea about the monster in the Chamber of Secrets, so why doesn't she stop and explain? If you had figured out something important about a monster attacking your school, wouldn't you take a few minutes to fill in your friends before bolting to the library? Is this an example of J.K. Rowling just looking for new ways to build suspense? Or can you think of a real reason why Hermione keeps her sudden inspiration secret?

***Quotation 4:***

"Bad business, Hagrid," said Fudge in rather clipped tones. "Very bad business. Had to come. Four attacks on Muggle-borns. Things've gone far enough. Ministry's got to act."

"I never," said Hagrid, looking imploringly at Dumbledore. "You know I never, Professor Dumbledore, sir —"

"I want it understood, Cornelius, that Hagrid has my full confidence," said Dumbledore, frowning at Fudge.

"Look, Albus," said Fudge, uncomfortably. "Hagrid's record's against him. The Ministry's got to do something – the school governors have been in touch —" (14.108-111)

***Explanation 4:***

This scene in Book 2 between Cornelius Fudge, Hagrid, and Professor Dumbledore happens long before Cornelius Fudge goes power-mad and paranoid in Book 5. Still, we can already see signs of the kind of leader he's going to be. He wants to seem decisive, so he acts without clear evidence (and under pressure from the school governors) to arrest a man and send him straight to Azkaban, the wizard prison. Fudge is willing to lock Hagrid up without trial, a definite indication that the wizarding justice system is not all it should be in Britain. How do Fudge's choices in Book 2 foreshadow what's going to happen to him in the later Harry Potter novels? What flaws does Fudge show in this scene that continue on through the series? What makes Fudge a bad model of leadership?