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

***Chapter 3***

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Harry is amazed and delighted to see his friend Ron. What is more surprising is that Ron appears to be floating outside of Harry's upper-floor window. On closer inspection, Harry realizes that Ron is in a magical flying car that is being driven by his twin brothers, Fred and George. They have come to rescue Harry because Ron became worried when he didn't get any replies to the letters he'd sent to Harry. Ron and his brothers use the car to pull the bars off Harry's window. They then use a hairpin to unlock the cupboard under the stairs and retrieve Harry's belongings. They are about to escape through the window, only to realize they have left Hedwig behind. Harry rescues Hedwig, who has awakened Mr. Dursley with her screeching. Mr. Dursley reaches Harry's room to find him escaping, which sends him into a rage, but he is too slow to prevent Harry from climbing out through the window.

Harry and the three Weasley boys fly through the night in the car. Ron explains that they took the car from Mr. Weasley, who works for the Ministry of Magic in the "Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Office." Ron's father doesn't know they have the car, and they will be in trouble if they are caught with it, making it essential that they return home before daybreak. The plan is to return the car, then sneak upstairs to bed. However, they are shocked to find Mrs. Weasley in the garden, and she is furious with them. She tells them off for taking the car and lectures them about all the terrible things that could have happened to them, as well as the risk of costing their father his job if they had been found out. She is not angry with Harry; she's been worried about him and doesn't tell him off. After they've eaten, she sends them outside to "de- gnome," the gardena job that involves picking gnomes up, swinging them round and round above the head, then letting go so they fly through the air and can't find their way back.

Mrs. Weasley is also angry with her husband, as it was his car they used to rescue Harry. His job at the ministry gives him access to Muggle artifacts, with which he them tinkers, adding magical touches. He is interested to hear that the car flew without any problems, but he has to pretend to be angry with the boys, to placate his wife.

Ron shows Harry the rest of the house and takes him upstairs to his room, which reflects Ron's personality, being untidy and disorganized. Harry is delighted with the Weasleys and their home, as it is so completely different from Privet Drive and the Dursleys' house. He feels more at home here than he ever did at Privet Drive.

***Brief Analysis:***

In this chapter, Ron proves himself to be a loyal friend to Harry. His concern about his friend leads him to a heroic rescue that endangers him and his brothers and gets them into trouble. None of this is important to Ron; what is important is that Harry is all right. This demonstrates the true strength of their friendship, and the loyalty they share. The power of magic is also clearly described here, with an enchanted car being used to rescue Harry. An interesting comparison can be made between the way the Weasleys treat Harry as opposed to the treatment he received from the Dursleys. The Weasleys show more concern and love for Harry the first time they meet him than the Dursleys have ever shown him. This chapter shows the Weasleys to be warm and caring people, instead of shallow and cold like the Dursleys.

***Summary in Detail:***

Harry, awakened from a dream in which someone is tapping at his cage, peers out his barred window to see his best friend, Ron Weasley, inside a car suspended in midair driven/flown by his twin older brothers, Fred and George. Ron explains that he was worried when Harry failed to answer his letters and so came to rescue him from the Dursleys. The four boys work together to yank the bars off Harry's window. Fred and George, two avid pranksters, pick the lock on Harry's door and tiptoe downstairs to collect Harry's trunk. They manage to escape out the window, but without Hedwig, who screeches loudly, waking Uncle Vernon, who runs upstairs in a fury. A game of tug-a-war ensues. The Weasleys pull on Harry's arms and Vernon pulls on his legs. The Weasleys win, and the boys all drive off through the night sky.

In the car, Harry recounts his experience with Dobby, and Fred and George inform him that house-elves usually belong to old, wealthy wizard families. This information leads Harry to believe that Dobby must live with Draco Malfoy, Harry's least favorite person at Hogwarts. Harry believes that Draco must have sent his house-elf to prevent Harry from coming back to school. Harry mentions the incident to the twins, who inform him that Lucius Malfoy, Draco's father, was a loyal follower of Voldemort, an evil wizard. The boys discuss Mr. Weasley, who works in the Ministry of Magic in the Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Department, reversing the damage caused when bewitched objects do strange and dangerous things. The Weasley twins explain that their father loves anything having to do with Muggles, and bought this car so that he could tinker with and put spells on it.

At dawn they arrive at the Weasleys' crooked and disorderly house, The Burrow, and they are met by a furious and frightened Mrs. Weasley. She greets Harry warmly, and then stormily chastises her boys, setting them to work de-gnoming the garden. Harry decides to tag along on this venture. Before they begin, Mrs. Weasley consults a book by Gilderoy Lockhart on how to remove household pests, and when she admires his moving, winking cover photo and praises his knowledge, it is obvious that she has a crush on the author. The de-gnoming consists of peering through their untidy lawn and pulling small, leathery potato-like gnomes from bushes and violently flinging them out into a nearby field, rendering them too dizzy to find their way back. Harry tries politely to drop a gnome over the fence, but it senses his hesitation and bites him, so he resorts to flinging them.

By the time the de-gnoming is finished, Mr. Weasley has arrive home from a long night of work, and he talks for a moment about odd charms he saw throughout the evening. His wife is livid with him for enchanting their car. He apologizes but his guilt is clearly overridden by his childlike excitement at hearing the details of the car-flying experience. Ron takes Harry up to his bedroom, passing his younger sister Ginny on the way up, who blushes shyly and quite clearly has a crush on Harry. Ron's room is small and covered entirely with posters of Quidditch, a sport played on broomsticks; Ron is clearly self-conscious and apologetic about the small size and shabbiness of his house, but Harry is wide- eyed and thrilled by all of it.

***Analysis in Detail:***

This is the escape/transition scene which occurs in some form in each of the four Harry Potter books. Harry wrangles his way out of the clutches of the Dursleys in order to get to Hogwarts; he must escape the Muggle world to enter the world of magic. The difficulty of transitioning demonstrates the rift between the two worlds. Uncle Vernon, who is quite disgusted by the idea of anything magical, does not want Harry to cross the threshold, away from the certainty of 4 Privet Drive. We are to assume that part of his hesitation comes from the fact that he enjoys tormenting his nephew, and that part comes from the fact that he does not want to acknowledge that magic exists. But we know that Harry must leave 4 Privet Drive, simply because he must enter his own element. For the first time in the book, Harry feels at home. The Weasley children and parents enjoy Harry's company, treating him as a friend and equal-they do not fawn over him as Dobby does, nor do they regard him distrustfully the way the Dursleys do.

We see, once at The Burrow, the normalcy of the wizard world. The Dursleys seem plastic and grotesque in contrast to the lively, palpable Weasleys. Mrs. Weasley experiences the anger and fear that any human mother would when she wakes up in the night and finding her sons and the family car missing. Mr. Weasley returns from his job tired, yet immensely curious when confronted with a topic he loves (Muggle artifacts). The boys are sentenced to do yard work when they misbehave; they jest and bicker as boys typically do. When Ginny sees Harry, the object of her affection, she blushes and drops things. Nothing is unusual about the actions and reactions of these people, other than the fact that they are, by the nature of their being wizards, unusual. The Weasleys are loving, quirky and human; with this in mind, we are first led into the wizard world in its full, multi-dimensional state.

***Critical Study(Ch 1-3):***

Ron along with his brothers, the twins Fred and George, arrive at Harry’s window in a car that their father enchanted so that it can fly. Ron was concerned that Harry hadn’t replied to his letters. He also learned from his dad that Harry had received an official warning for using magic in front of Muggles. Fred and George help Harry to escape using non-magical methods. Uncle Vernon tries to stop them by hanging on to Harry’s ankle, but fails. During the car flight to the Weasleys’ house, Harry tells his friends about Dobby’s warning and about the pudding disaster. When Fred and George wonder who holds a grudge against Harry, and might have sent Dobby, Ron answers that [Draco Malfoy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#draco-malfoy), another student at Hogwarts, hates him. The twins relate the rumor that [Lucius Malfoy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#lucius-malfoy), Draco’s father, was a big supporter of Lord Voldemort. Ron also explains that he blamed Harry’s missing letters on [Errol](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#errol), their ancient messenger owl. So he asked his brother Percy to borrow his owl Hermes, but Percy refused. [Percy Weasley](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#percy-weasley) is a prefect at Hogwarts. His brothers agree that he has been behaving oddly lately. Harry learns that [Arthur Weasley](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#arthur-weasley) works at the Ministry of Magic in the Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Office. Mr. Weasley doesn’t know that his sons have borrowed his enchanted car. They touch down at the Burrow, the Weasely’s house.

Harry finds the lopsided house held together by magic wonderful. Mrs. Weasley yells at her sons for stealing the car, pointing out that they could have died, been seen, or caused their father to lose his job. While angry at her sons, she feeds everyone a big breakfast. She is especially kind to Harry. Ginny Wesley appears briefly and then runs away. Ron says that Ginny has been talking about Harry all summer. Mrs. Weasley orders her sons to de-gnome the garden. Harry joins in out of curiosity. She consults a book by Gilderoy Lockhart on the subject, who Fred says she fancies. Ron teaches Harry how to swing the garden gnomes like a lasso to make them dizzy, and then throw them over the hedge. Harry is sympathetic to the gnomes, until one bites his finger. Ron says that the gnomes will be back because his dad is too soft with them. Mr. Weasley comes home from a long night of raids. Mrs. Weasly confronts him about the car, which he hadn’t told her he had enchanted. He wrote a law with a loophole in it to make the enchanted car technically legal, as long as he wasn’t intending to fly it. When Mr. Weasley learns that his sons flew his car to rescue Harry, he is eager to hear how it went. Then he falters when he sees that his wife is angry. Ron shows Harry his bedroom, nervous about his opinion. Harry says it’s the best house he’s ever been in.

[Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets) is the second book in a series of seven. The first chapter reintroduces the protagonist, Harry Potter, and his world. We learn that Harry’s world is bifurcated into the magical, represented by Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and the mundane or “Muggle” world, represented by number four, Privet Drive. Harry’s status in these two places is starkly contrasting: in the wizarding world he is heralded for defeating Lord Voldemort, while in the Muggle world he is neglected and unloved.

Harry is prevented from bridging the gap between these two different identities by his complete powerlessness in his Muggle aunt and uncle’s home. He wants to communicate with his friends from school, but the Dursleys will not permit him to send messages via Hedwig, his pet owl. He knows that he can’t use magic to release Hedwig from her cage, as it is against Hogwarts rules for underage wizards to perform spells outside of school. The Ministry of Magic warns that “magical activity that risks notice by members of the non-magical community (Muggles) is a serious offense under section 13 of the International Confederation of Warlock’s Statute of Secrecy.” Harry is caught up in a clash larger than himself: mutual fear between Muggles and wizards. The Durselys' fear leads to prejudice, as they refer to Harry’s powers as his “abnormality.” Later we learn that some wizards also hold suspicion and prejudice towards Muggles, leading to the major conflicts of the story.

The beginning of the book uses auditory and gustatory imagery to display Harry’s relative powerlessness: he, and his pet, must keep quiet, while Vernon Dursley yells. He goes hungry while Mrs. Dursely overfeeds Dudley and prepares an elaborate meal for the Masons. These contrasts in sound and food are magnified by setting the story on Harry’s birthday: e sings only to himself, alone in the garden, and receives no birthday cake. Young readers expect that Harry’s birthday, like theirs, will be remembered. The situational irony of Mr. Dursley calling it a very important day, getting up the hopes of both Harry and his fans that he might be celebrated, and then disappointing by referring only to his own dinner party, reflects the pathetic formation of Harry’s character.

The broad slapstick of the Dursleys' behavior, their cartoonishness, makes their threats ridiculous. Although Harry is frustrated at this moment, we know that he will ultimately prevail over the narrow, wildly frightened Dursleys. Harry’s powerlessness is partially a symptom of his age, which will be overcome through maturing. This relates The Chamber of Secrets to a common genre, the coming-of-age story. There is an underlying mystery in the circumstances of Harry’s life, and the structure of the book: why is Harry in this home at all, where he doesn’t belong and is unwanted? Why do the Durselys take in Harry Potter, when they clearly loathe him? Why do adults who care for Harry in the wizard world knowingly permit him to return to abuse at home? These questions fit into a larger theme in the book of bungled authority in which adults are unable to keep children safe.

Harry’s isolated, lowly position is transformed during the school year through an enchanted escape, establishing the elements of another genre: the fairy tale. Harry plays Cinderella to the mean Dursleys. The third-person narration describes the Dursleys with great dramatic irony—they aren’t aware of how awful they are. Here’s one example: “‘Do I look stupid?’ snarled Uncle Vernon, a bit of fried egg dangling from his bushy mustache.” This technique of sly social satire built into the voice of the omniscient narrator is favored by Jane Austen, one of [J.K. Rowling](https://www.gradesaver.com/author/j-rowling)’s favorite authors. Even after he escapes into the world of magic, Harry will recognize injustice and fight for the downtrodden. Some have read the Christ story onto the Harry Potter series, seeing him as a persecuted savior who was resurrected to protect the meek.

As Harry longs for Hogwarts, the reader is introduced to both the Gothic context of a castle filled with secret passageways and ghosts, and the inventive vocabulary of the Harry Potter universe, from Quidditch to the Forbidden Forest, invoking the fantasy genre. Although Harry’s school is fantastical, his concerns about it are mundane: Will he be prepared? Have his friends forgotten him? In many ways, Harry is ordinary and relatable. He may be a wizard, but his needs are normal: to belong, to be recognized. The first chapter sets up a tension that the second chapter breaks. Harry lives in a precarious position, in which he must make himself small in order to survive. Dobby the house-elf will transgress this accommodation spectacularly.

Dobby is the first magical creature introduced in this book. His role in the plot is transgressive, as he breaks the rules of the Dursley household, transforming Harry’s position from precarious to impossible. Dobby also disrupts Harry’s vision of Hogwarts as a safe haven from the Dursleys’, creating suspense that remains unresolved until the end.

Because Dobby is bound to obey the family he serves, his presence in Harry Potter’s bedroom is also a transgression. In his guilt he is forced to constantly punish himself. Dobby recognizes a larger good in saving Harry Potter, beyond his social role, although the reason why is not revealed until later in the book. Harry attempts to be polite, and is empathetic when he hears of Dobby’s slavery, wishing he could help. In encountering the house-elf, Harry realizes that there are those who have it worse than him.

The central irony of Harry’s relationship with Dobby is that while Dobby is trying to save Harry, he repeatedly places Harry in danger. Uncle Vernon has already established what Harry is expected to do during the dinner party: to stay in his room, making no noise and pretending he’s not there. Harry is exhausted from yard work, has had little to eat, and wants to lie low until he can escape to Hogwarts. The one thing that Dobby asks Harry for in exchange for not disturbing the party is the one thing that Harry cannot offer: a promise to give up Hogwarts. For Harry, that’s the same as giving up hope.

At first, Dobby seems unaware of the social situation, as he wails loudly and crashes about, causing Harry to panic and Vernon to threaten. Chapter three is full of auditory imagery, which takes on a comic tone as Harry tries with increasing desperation to keep Dobby quiet, and the elf makes more and more noise. Dobby’s battle with his own nature is both darkly violent and exaggerated into broad slapstick. He brings chaos to the suburban household by banging his head on the walls and windows and beating his head with a lamp.

But Dobby is also uncannily aware of how to manipulate Harry. He steals Harry’s letters, hoping that if Harry thinks his friends have forgotten him, he won’t want to go back to Hogwarts. Then he finds the most precious item in the house at that moment: Aunt Petunia’s pudding, Harry’s anti-birthday cake, her offering to Uncle Weasley’s rich potential client, and holds it hostage. Dobby is aware of Harry’s desperation to keep the Dursleys calm. By levitating the dessert, he forces Harry to make a choice: maintain the tenuously safe status-quo and give up hope, or disrupt it irrevocably and maintain hope that he will be able to return to Hogwarts. Dobby prefers the former because he believes that Harry is safe at the Dursleys. When Harry chooses the later he loses his last shred of autonomy in that household. He maintained what freedom he had by not rocking the boat, and by making the Dursleys think that he could cast a spell on them at any moment. Both of those are lost, and Harry becomes a prisoner.

Then Harry is freed through the magic of friendship and an enchanted car. Mr. Wesley’s flying Ford Angola represents freedom and independence, and thus the promise of adulthood. It also represents the hybrid sensibility of the Weasleys, who value both Muggle and wizard skills. In a bit of irony for readers who expected a purely magical escape, Fred and George help Harry by knowing how to pick a lock. Arthur Weasley loves to tinker with Muggle things and also works for the “Misuse of Muggle Artifacts office.” Both arise out of respect for Muggles, but will create tension later in the plot. He works to keep the existence of wizardry covert with memory charms, even as his own politics are very liberal. He is willing to bend the Ministry’s rules. He takes delight in Muggles’ ingenuity for finding ways to get along without magic. He is impressed with difference and tolerant. In the flying car ride, the Malfoys are introduced as foils for the Weasleys. We learn that Lucius Malfoy is aligned politically with Voldemort, who represents evil in the series.

The Weasleys’ home the Burrow contrasts with Privet drive: it is situated in the country rather than the suburbs, is crooked and jumbled, and held together by magic. Mrs. Weasley cares, which is also a contrast to the Dursleys' indifference. She is both kind and fierce, and worried about her children. Her appearance is domestic and powerful, represented by her flowered apron with a wand in the pocket. The contrast between her rage and politeness to Harry adds a comedic tone to the scene. The sights and sounds of domesticity at the Burrow comfort Harry. [Ginny Weasley](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#ginny-weasley) is introduced as having a crush on him. Overall, female sexuality is ahead of male sexuality in this book. In Mrs. Weasley’s crush on Gilderoy Lockhart, female desire appears as somewhat silly and misguided.

The Burrow’s garden is unkempt, diverse, and full of life. Like Harry, the gnomes are displaced and homeless. In degnoming, the Weasleys toss them around until they are “dizzy, so can’t find their way back to gnome holes.” Harry is shocked by the routine mistreatment of gnomes until a gnome bites him. The omniscient narrator is the most sympathetic, adding pathos to their exodus with the description of “their little shoulders hunched.” This is an allegory for the politics of immigration. Ron thinks that his father is “too soft with them.”

Many characteristics of the Weasley family mark them as Irish Catholic: their liberal politics, red hair, large family, traditional gender roles, and relative poverty. While Ron is self-conscious about his home and room, Harry is enamored by the strange and unexpected at the Burrow, and the kindness he experiences there. We are given clues about Gilderoy Lockhart’s character early: He is a hyperbolic con-artist who bilks the poor Weasleys to sell his books. Errol, the Weasleys' pet owl, is a comic character who barely delivers messages in his advanced years, and also highlights the family’s poverty because they can’t afford a younger owl.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) and his brothers [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) are in a flying turquoise car, and they have come to rescue [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter). Ron explains that he had wondered why Harry hadn’t answered his letters. They pull the bars out of the window and load up all of Harry’s things for school, waking up [Vernon](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/vernon-dursley) in the process. Vernon tries to grab Harry as he piles into the car, but Fred and George are able to pull him into the car and then fly off.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Just when Harry is weak and vulnerable, Ron appears. He demonstrates his loyalty (he assumes that something must be wrong on Harry’s end, unlike Harry, who worries that his friends don’t care enough to write to him). He also proves how Harry often relies on his friend is in order to achieve his accomplishments.

***Summary Part 2:***

As the boys drive home, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) asks what’s happened to [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter). Harry tells him all about [Dobby](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/dobby)’s warning, the letters, and the pudding fiasco. [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) wonder whether Dobby was lying, as house-elves usually can’t use magic without their family’s permission. They think it might be a prank. Harry and Ron wonder whether [Draco Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy), who hates Harry, might have done it. Fred and George mention that Draco’s father, [Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy), used to be a big supporter of [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/tom-riddle-voldemort) (though he said afterward that he’d been bewitched at the time), and that they are a very wealthy old wizarding family.

***Analysis Part 2:***

This speculation serves as an early example of the dangers of rumor and not having information. Harry and Ron’s assumption that Draco sent Dobby as a prank not only demonstrates their own bias against him, but it also blinds them to the danger that will soon be present within the castle. Later they will exhibit this bias again when they assume that Draco is the heir of Slytherin and is causing the attacks on Muggle-borns.

***Summary Part 3:***

The boys continue home. [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) asks whether [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley)’s father, [Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley), knows that they took the car to rescue him. Ron says no, he’s working that night. Ron explains that his father works for the Ministry of Magic in the Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Office, which prohibits and regulates the bewitching of Muggle items. But Ron explains that his dad also really likes to bewitch Muggle items, like the car.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Ron’s description of his father’s work reveals that Mr. Weasley often breaks the rules that he is meant to enforce; again, Rowling highlights the ineffectiveness of the Ministry of Magic.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/fred-weasley), [George](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/george-weasley), [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley), and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) arrive home at the Burrow, which amazes Harry. It is a stone house with several stories, and it is very crooked. The boys try to sneak in, but they are immediately caught in the yard by [Mrs. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mrs-weasley), who is furious that they snuck out and stole the car. After her rant at her sons, however, she immediately tells Harry how happy she is to see him and how she, too, had been worried about him.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Even though Mrs. Weasley disagrees with the way in which Fred, George, and Ron broke the rules in order to go get Harry, she understands the value in what they did because of the dire situation that the Dursleys had put him in.

***Summary Part 5:***

They go into the kitchen, and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) is astonished. He has never been in a wizard house before, and he’s amazed to see objects like the enchanted clock whose hands point to words on the edge like “you’re late” and “time to make tea.” [Mrs. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mrs-weasley) makes the boys breakfast while still scolding them that they could have been seen by someone. At that moment, Ron’s little sister [Ginny](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ginny-weasley) walks in, sees Harry, squeaks, and walks out. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) explains that Ginny’s been talking about Harry all summer and will probably want an autograph.

***Analysis Part 5:***

As Harry returns to the world of magic, he also starts to be reinitiated into the ways in which many other people treat him. Ginny, like many others will this coming year at Hogwarts, views Harry as a celebrity and treats him differently only because she knows that he is famous. This will cause Harry to try to define his identity on his own terms and grapple with the ideas that other people have about him.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/fred-weasley), [George](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/george-weasley), and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) start to head up to bed, but [Mrs. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mrs-weasley) instead instructs her sons to de-gnome the garden. [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) offers to join them. De-gnoming the garden involves taking gnomes (small, potato-like creatures) by the ankles, swinging them in the air and hurling them as far away as they can. To the Weasleys it’s a chore, but Harry enjoys spending time with them.

***Analysis Part 6:***

As Harry spends time with Ron and the other Weasley boys, he regains the friendships and the love that he was never able to receive from his own family. This friendship becomes the ultimate support for Harry, and eventually enables him to be brave.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/fred-weasley), [George](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/george-weasley), [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley), and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) continue this process until they hear [Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley) return to the house, whereupon they scurry back into the kitchen. Mr. Weasley is a thin, balding man with red hair like his children. He explains that his department made nine raids on wizarding houses, finding “shrinking door keys and a biting kettle.”

***Analysis Part 7:***

The items that Mr. Weasley finds illustrates an aspect of wizarding prejudice, as some people believe that it’s funny to create shrinking door keys or biting kettles, in order to sell them back to Muggles and take advantage of them. Later Rowling will reveal that the Malfoys, who have quite a bit of this prejudice, fear these raids.

***Summary Part 8:***

[Mrs. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mrs-weasley) reenters the kitchen, furious with [Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley) that he enchanted the car (which she did not know he had done). Mr. Weasley explains that it isn’t against the law: if no one is intending to fly the car, it’s not illegal to make the car fly. Mrs. Weasley points out that he wrote the law with a loophole in it. As they argue, [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) slip upstairs to Ron’s bedroom.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Even though Mr. Weasley has a good heart, this is another example of how the Ministry wants to appear to be doing the right thing rather than actually creating fair rules. The loopholes Mr. Weasley writes into the laws make them easily exploited—as even he himself does.

***Summary Part 9:***

[Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley)’s room is covered in merchandise from his favorite Quidditch team: the Chudley Cannons. It is also filled with spell books, Self-Shuffling playing cards, and his rat, Scabbers, who is lying by the window. Ron admits that it’s a bit small, but [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) smiles and says: “This is the best house I’ve ever been in.”

***Analysis Part 9:***

Ron’s worry illustrates his fear of another prejudice: the prejudice against those who are not wealthy, which his family is not. But Harry, true to form, is kind to Ron and reassures him that the Weasleys do not need a lot of money in order to have a wonderful home.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

Fred and George climbed catlike through the window into Harry's room. You had to hand it to them, thought Harry, as George took an ordinary hairpin from his pocket and started to pick the lock.

"A lot of wizards think it's a waste of time, knowing this sort of Muggle trick," said Fred, "but we feel they're skills worth learning, even if they are a bit slow." (3.23-24)

***Explanation:***

The fact that Fred and George know how to use Muggle lock-picking techniques at thirteen years old demonstrates in about three sentences that they are born troublemakers. They're using their powers of deception for good. They may be pranksters happily breaking into Harry's house, but they're hearts are also in the right place.

***Quotation 2:***

"[The Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Office at the Ministry of Magic] is all to do with bewitching things that are Muggle-made, you know, in case they end up back in a Muggle shop or house." [...]

"But your dad – this car —"

Fred laughed. "Yeah, Dad's crazy about everything to do with Muggles; our shed's full of Muggle stuff. He takes it apart, puts spells on it, and puts it back together again. If he raided our house, he'd have to put himself under arrest. It drives Mum mad." (3.79-83)

***Explanation:***

One reason why the Misuse of Muggle Artifacts Office is so disrespected at the Ministry is because it deals with Muggle things, and there's a lot of anti-Muggle bigotry in the wizarding world. Mr. Weasley's fascination with Muggle things seems pretty funny at this point in the series, when he has the same glee for our things that we have in exploring the wizarding world. Later on in the series, though, Mr. Weasley's love of Muggle things becomes a political principle: Mr. Weasley is from an old wizard family, but he's standing against prejudiced pureblood families like the Malfoys. His admiration for all things Muggle shows how liberal he is.

***Quotation 3:***

All three of Mrs. Weasley's sons were taller than she was, but they cowered as her rage broke over them.

"Beds empty! No note! Car gone – could have crashed – out of my mind with worry – did you care? – never, as long as I've lived – you wait until your father gets home, we never had trouble like this from Bill or Charlie or Percy – [...] You could have died, you could have been seen, you could have lost your father his job —"

It seemed to go on for hours. Mrs. Weasley had shouted herself hoarse before she turned on Harry, who backed away.

"I'm very pleased to see you, Harry, dear," she said. "Come in and have some breakfast." (3.105-110)

***Explanation:***

The Burrow is the first wizarding house Harry has ever seen, so it's filled with things that are still new to him. It's not just the house itself that is new; this is also Harry's first experience of family life that isn't completely abusive and hostile to him. Mrs. Weasley yells at her kids, sure, but they have scared her to death. She shrieks because she worries. She also welcomes Harry with open arms. Harry is learning what a loving family looks like. No wonder he gets so attached to all of the Weasleys and not just Ron.

***Quotation 4:***

"This is what you have to do," [Ron] said. He raised the gnome above his head ("Gerroff me!") and started to swing it in great circles like a lasso. Seeing the shocked look on Harry's face, Ron added, "It doesn't hurt them – you've just got to make them really dizzy so they can't find their way back to the gnomeholes."

He let go of the gnome's ankles: It flew twenty feet into the air and landed with a thud in the field over the hedge [...]

"See, [the gnomes] are not too bright," said George, seizing five or six gnomes at once. "The moment they know the de-gnoming's going on they storm up to have a look. You'd think they'd have learned by now to just stay put."

Soon, the crowd of gnomes in the field started walking away in a straggling line, their little shoulders hunched. (3.141-149)

***Explanation:***

The Harry Potter series is set in a school, so of course it's about education. It also focuses on Harry (and the reader) learning more about the larger wizarding world. The Burrow isn't just a house where wizards live; it's also a magical place in its own right, filled with creatures like these (cute) gnomes and the ghoul in the attic. These scenes teach both Harry and us how different the day-to-day life of wizards truly is. By making Harry unfamiliar with wizarding culture, Rowling has a plot-level reason to explain cool details like the gnomes. All of this stuff is as new to Harry as it is to us, so of course he's curious and wants to know more – which is great, because we want to know more, too.

***Quotation 5:***

"Petunia" roared Uncle Vernon. "He's getting away! HE'S GETTING AWAY!"

But the Weasleys gave a gigantic tug and Harry's leg slid out of Uncle Vernon's grasp – Harry was in the car – he'd slammed the door shut – (3.40-41)

***Explanation:***

Perseverance – the ability to follow through on something even when it gets difficult – is a virtue. Arguably, Uncle Vernon has perseverance in his efforts to (a) make Harry's life miserable, and (b) squash the magic out of Harry. Of course, much though we may admire the idea of dedication, Uncle Vernon's goals are obviously insane. Why do you think he's so mad that Harry is getting away? Why does Uncle Vernon want to keep Harry at home when he hates him so much?