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

***Chapter 4***

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Harry settles into life with the Weasleys, where he feels completely at home. The Weasley household is completely different from the Dursleys. Whereas the Dursleys are organized, clean and perfectly tidy, the Weasleys live in a state of permanent chaos and disruption. Another difference from Privet Drive is that this is a magical household where mirrors talk and ghouls live in the attic. Harry is made to feel welcome by the Weasleys, with Mr. Weasley asking him lots of questions about living with Muggles.

A letter arrives one day from Hogwarts, informing the Weasleys and Harry about start-of-term arrangements. Also enclosed are the booklists for the forthcoming year, and Harry sees that a wizard named Gilderoy Lockhart has written most of the books on the list. A letter also arrives from Hermione, another close friend of Harry's who has been worried about him. She informs Ron and Harry of when she's going to London to get her books for the new school year, and the Weasleys decide to go then, too. Harry feels slightly uncomfortable for the first time since his arrival, because the Weasleys are a poor family who will have to struggle to buy the things their children need for the school year, especially since their youngest child, Ginny, will be starting at Hogwarts. Harry is embarrassed, since he has a lot of money that was left to him by his parents, something he would rather keep quiet about.

The Weasleys and Harry travel to London via Floo Powder, which is inhaled up the nose, whisking the wizard up into the fireplace of the room they are in and depositing them in a fireplace in the place they want to reach. It's Harry's first time traveling in this manner and, instead of arriving in Diagon Alley, he finds himself in a dusty, unfamiliar shop. He is horrified when his enemy Draco Malfoy enters the shop with his father, Lucius. Lucius Malfoy is worried that some of his possessions will be deemed unsuitable by a new act about to be passed by the Ministry of Magic and is trying to sell them. Draco is sulky, complaining that Harry has a better broom than he does. The Malfoys leave the shop without seeing Harry, and he escapes. Harry finds himself in an unfamiliar alley that seems threatening, devoted as it is to selling things related to the Dark Arts. He is rescued by Hagrid, the giant groundskeeper from Hogwarts, who is there by chance and escorts him to Diagon Alley.

Harry is reunited with the Weasleys, and they meet Hermione's Muggle parents. Ron, Harry, and Hermione leave their parents to do their own shopping, and Mr. Weasley takes Hermione's parents for a drink. As Muggles, they fascinate him. An hour later, they meet up to buy the necessary books. Unfortunately, there is a publicity shot at the shop for Gilderoy Lockhart, who is promoting his books. Lockhart uses Harry and his reputation for free publicity by dragging him into a photo with him, when Harry would rather have avoided the unwanted attention.

The Malfoys are also in the bookshop, and Draco Malfoy teases Harry about his apparent fame. Ginny defends Harry, but Malfoy then teases Ron about his family being poor. Ron defends his family, and Mr. Weasley has to prevent him from attacking Malfoy. The encounter leads to Lucius Malfoy becoming involved, and he makes mean comments about the financial status of the Weasleys. Arthur defends his family and a fight breaks out. The day ends on a sour note, with Mrs. Weasley being furious with her husband for setting a bad example.

***Brief Analysis:***

Loyalty is explored through many of the characters in this chapter. The Weasleys prove themselves to be loyal and true friends to Harry, looking after him better than his aunt and uncle ever did. Ginny Weasley stands up to Draco Malfoy to defend Harry, despite Draco being older and more powerful. Ron also defends his family and challenges Malfoy. He knows that his family is poorer than Malfoy's but is not prepared to let Malfoy criticize them, his love and loyalty for his family making him protective and defensive where they're concerned. Clearly, loyalty is a trait that runs in the Weasley family, as Mr. Weasley also defends his family when Lucius Malfoy publicly humiliates them. In each instance, the most important factors are being loyal and standing up for what you believe in.

Magic is also explored and categorized. The evidence of Dark Arts in Knockturn Alley introduces the idea of good and evil. The fact that the Malfoys are doing business in Knockturn Alley firmly places them in the evil category. This also distinguishes them from the Weasleys and Harry, whose ideals and values are at odds with the Malfoys,' categorizing them as good.

***Summary in Detail:***

Harry enjoys his weeks at The Burrow, and he marvels that every object in the house is enchanted in some way. Mr. Weasley pays a great deal of attention to Harry, asking him question after question about Muggle life. One day, letters containing school supply lists arrive by Owl-post. Ginny Weasley is remarkably clumsy whenever Harry is nearby. We meet another Weasley brother, Percy, the oldest child still living at home, who is studious, stuffy, annoying and harmless. All of the boys except for Percy spend an afternoon practicing Quidditch in a nearby hidden field, and while they fly through the air, Ron comments that his parents will have trouble paying for all of their new school supplies and robes. Harry feels a twinge of guilt, as he has in a wizard bank a fortune left to him by his parents; he never worries about money, and the Weasleys always do.

Several days later, the Weasleys and Harry prepare to travel to Diagon Alley to buy their school supplies. The travel method of choice is called Floo powder, and it is thrown into a lit fireplace, creating a passageway that will take the traveler to the destination fireplace of his or her choice. When it is Harry's turn to enter the flames, he swallowed a bit of hot ash and mumbled out "Diagon Alley," and so the Floo powder misunderstood him and took him instead to a fireplace inside a dark, dusty shop covered with evil-looking masks and human bones. Harry, not wanting to be seen, hides in a cabinet and ends up overhearing a conversation between the shop owner and Lucius Malfoy, who has just entered with his son Draco. Draco is complaining about how unfair it is that he is not allowed to play Quidditch yet, while Harry Potter is on his Hogwarts house's Quidditch team. Lucius warns him surreptitiously not to appear unfond of Harry, since he is a hero in the wizard world. Lucius then hands the shop owner a list of things he must sell immediately, in case the Ministry of Magic searches his house. Meanwhile Draco is touching objects in the shop and complaining, now about Hermione Granger, who gets better grades in all of her classes than he does, and Lucius responds unsympathetically, snapping that Draco should be embarrassed to be surpassed academically by a girl with no wizard blood.

The Malfoys leave, finally, and Harry darts out of the shop. He sees a sign indicating that he is in Knockturn Alley. Before he can decide what to do next, he is suddenly approached by Hagrid, Hogwarts' enormous and good-hearted gamekeeper. Hagrid whisks Harry away, warning him against Knockturn Alley, and soon they are back in Diagon Alley, where the Weasleys and Hermione are waiting, all worried about Harry's whereabouts and relieved to see him. Mrs. Weasley makes a beeline for Harry and fusses over him, while Mr. Weasley makes a beeline for Hermione's parents, both of whom are Muggles, and proceeds to ask them endless questions. The group heads toward Gringott's Bank, where goblins guard their money. A sad scene takes place when Mrs. Weasley scrapes every last sickle out of her family's vault, while Harry discreetly shoves handfuls of his large inheritance into his bag.

They wander around into several magical stores, eventually winding up at Flourish and Blotts, where they buy their schoolbooks. Inside, Gilderoy Lockhart is signing copies of his autobiography to a line of eager middle-aged witches. Lockhart catches sight of Harry and demands that they be photographed for the newspaper together. He then informs them that he will be teaching Defense Against the Dark Arts at Hogwarts this coming year.

Meanwhile, the Malfoys enter the bookshop and make a series of disparaging remarks to the Weasleys about their meager financial situation and about the non-wizard blood of the Grangers, who are standing nearby. Mr. Weasley and Mr. Malfoy get into a fistfight in the middle of the bookstore. The men are separated, and Mrs. Weasley is horrified. The Weasleys and Harry say goodbye to Hermione and her parents, before heading back to the Burrow.

***Analysis in Detail:***

This chapter explains more unfamiliar aspects of wizard life. Some of these places and things are as new to Harry as they are to us, although many are mentioned and explained in the first book of the series. The trip to Diagon Alley is significant because it portrays an entire wizard community, showing its commerce and customers to be akin to typical Muggle communities, although of course in Diagon Alley, the goods sold are slightly different and the bank is guarded by goblins. This reveals the potential for thoroughness in the creation of a wizard world; they live active, busy lives, and in places like Diagon Alley, everybody is a wizard, so that they are not forced to keep themselves tucked away from Muggle vision. This chapter especially gives the reader a glimpse of what is to come at Hogwarts: a bound, insular, inherently cozy environment of magic and magical people; no matter what tensions and animosities exist, everybody has their capacity for magic in common.

This chapter also sets the stage for many of the crises that are coming to a head in the story. Lucius Malfoy's disparaging comments about wizards who lack pure wizard blood are rather cryptic and bigoted, and they foreshadow an immensely important conflict in the book's later chapters involving an attack by pure-bloods against these ill-termed "mud-bloods". The Malfoys' concern is reminiscent of the British aristocracy's attempts to keep its lineage separate from that of commoners.

The Weasley's financial situation becomes more important in this chapter than before, first with the trip to Gringotts when Mrs. Weasley takes out all of what little money they have, and second when Lucius Malfoy and Draco make so many shockingly rude comments about the shabbiness of the Weasleys' books, jobs, and friends. This, clearly, is a touchy subject, hence the fight that ensues.

Gilderoy Lockhart becomes a presence quickly, signing copies of his (we can only assume, self-glorifying) book entitled "Magical Me," flashing his brilliant smile, swishing his flower-blue robes, and eventually pouncing on Harry Potter and having their photos taken together, since both are in some degree famous. Harry, as one might imagine, is humiliated by this-and this is only the first in a long line of occasions in which Lockhart singles him out for special responsibilities, honors, attention and "privileges." Each of these events in Diagon Alley will eventually take on its own role in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, each with its own need for resolution.

***Critical Study:***

Harry finds life at the Burrow very different from life at Privet Drive. It’s filled with the strange and unexpected, and everybody there seems to like him. Mr. Weasley enjoys learning about the Muggle world, and asks Harry about how things like telephones work. Harry and the Weasley children receive letters from Hogwarts, with both a book list and directions to catch the Hogwarts Express at King’s Cross station on September 1st. Most of the required books on the list were written by Gilderoy Lockhart. Ron also receives a letter from Hermione, suggesting that they all meet in Diagon Alley in London to buy their school supplies together. Harry, Ron, Fred, and George practice Quidditch, a wizard sport. Percy says he is too busy to join them, which they find strange. Harry learns about two more Weasley brothers: Charlie, who is studying Dragons in Romania, and Bill, who works for Gringots, the wizards bank. George worries about how his parents will afford their school supplies. Harry feels awkward because his parents left him a fortune in wizard money (although he owns nothing in the Muggle world).

The following Wednesday the Weasleys prepare to travel to London via Floo powder. It’s Harry’s first time, so they give him a lot of advice. He takes a pinch of Floo powder, scatters it into the fire, and steps into the green flames. Then he coughs on the hot ash, which causes him to stutter in pronouncing his destination: Diagon Alley. So, Harry ends up in the wrong place, in a creepy shop on a dark, narrow street. He also breaks his glasses in the process. When he sees [Draco Malfoy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#draco-malfoy) about to enter the shop he hides in a cabinet.

Lucius and Draco Malfoy visit Borgin and Burkes. Mr. Malfoy brings a list of items that he wants to sell because they would “embarrass” him if the Ministry of Magic raids his house. He says that the name Malfoy still commands a certain respect, but the Ministry is growing more meddlesome. There are rumors about a new Muggle Protection Act, likely the work of “that flea-bitten, Muggle-loving fool Authur Weasley.” Lucius admonishes his son for getting worse grades than [Hermione Granger](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#hermione-granger), a Muggle. Malfoy and Borgin haggle and then agree that Borgin will pick up the goods at Malfoy’s manor the next day. When Malfoy leaves, Borgin mutters to himself that Malfoy has more hidden in his manor. Harry leaves the shop and discovers that he is in Knockturn Alley, a dodgy place. He runs into Hagrid, the Hogwarts gamekeeper. Hagrid wants to know why Harry didn’t reply to his letters, so Harry tells him about [Dobby](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#dobby) and the Dursleys, to which Hagrid growls “Lousy Muggles.”

Harry is reunited with Hermione and the Weasleys. Mr. Weasley fixes Harry’s glasses. He is satisfied that [Lucius Malfoy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#lucius-malfoy) is worried enough to sell his Dark Arts possessions, and delighted to meet Hermione’s Muggle parents. A Gringotts goblin leads Harry and the Weasleys off to their underground vaults. They ride in small goblin-driven carts on tracks running through the bank’s underground tunnels. Harry feels bad about his wealth relative to the Weasleys’ poverty.

The group separates, agreeing to meet at Flourish and Blotts in an hour. Mr. Weasley takes the Grangers to the Leaky Caldron for a drink. Harry, Ron, and Hermione eat ice cream and window shop in Diagon Alley. They discover a crowd at Flourish and Blotts waiting to meet Gilderoy Lockhart at his book signing. Lockhart pulls Harry to the front of the line and makes a show of shaking his hand for the photographer. Then Lockhart clamps Harry tightly to his side and announces that he will be taking up the post of Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher at Hogwarts in the fall. The crowd cheers.

Lockhart presents Harry with all of his books, which Harry gives to Ginny by dropping them into her cauldron. Then Draco Malfoy mocks Harry and Ginny defends him. Then, Draco makes fun of Harry for having a girlfriend. Draco taunts Ron: “I suppose your parents will go hungry for a month to pay” for their school supplies. Ron drops his books in the cauldron too, and starts to fight Draco, but is pulled back by Harry and Hermione. Mr. Weasley struggles over to them through the crowd, where he finds Lucius Malfoy with his son. Lucius says “Busy time at the Ministry, I hear. All of those raids. I hope that they’re paying you overtime?” He reaches into Ginny’s cauldron, extracts a very old textbook, and says, “Obviously not. Dear me, what’s the use of being a disgrace to the name of wizard if they don’t even pay you well for it?” [Arthur Weasley](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/study-guide/character-list#arthur-weasley) replies, “We have a very different idea of what disgraces the name of wizard, Malfoy.” Lucius Malfoy looks at Hermione’s parents and says, “The company you keep, Weasley...and I thought your family could sink no lower–” Arthur Weasley throws himself at Lucius Malfoy, knocking over Ginny’s cauldron and a shelf full of books. Hagrid breaks up the fight, pulling the two men apart. Lucius Malfoy thrusts Ginny’s Transfiguration textbook at her, “his eyes glittering with malice.”

Hagrid tells Arthur that he should have ignored Lucius, that the whole family is “rotten ter the core” with “bad blood.” Mrs. Weasley is furious about the fight. Lockhart is pleased about the extra publicity. The group heads back to the fireside in the Leaky Cauldron pub, where the Weasleys and Harry will travel to the Burrow by Floo powder. The Grangers cross the street to travel home by bus. Arthur Wesley is curious how bus stops work. Harry takes off his glasses this time.

***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) is amazed by life at the Weasley home, which is both chaotic and wonderful—and, even more amazing, everyone likes him there. [Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley) often asks him about the “ingenious” ways that Muggles get along without magic, like telephones. About a week into Harry’s stay, letters from Hogwarts arrive with their list of books for the year—including all seven volumes of Gilderoy Lockhart’s books.

***Analysis Part 1:***

In contrast to the way in which some other wizarding families (like the Malfoys) despise Muggles, Mr. Weasley not only works to protect Muggles but is also truly interested in and supportive of them. His respect for and interest in Muggles also extends to Harry, who has a lot of insight on Muggles.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) also receives a letter from [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger), asking him if he was able to retrieve [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) and if Harry is okay. She also suggests they meet up to buy their books together in Diagon Alley the following week, which they agree to do. Harry spends the rest of the afternoon with [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 practicing Quidditch in a small field surrounded by trees so that people won’t be able to see them flying.

***Analysis Part 2:***

When Dobby was stopping his letters, Harry felt extremely vulnerable and cut off from his friends. But now, surrounded by their love and concern, and realizing that they had been loyal to him all along, he regains the confidence and support that he had lost at the Dursleys.

***Summary Part 3:***

The next Wednesday, the Weasleys and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) set off for Diagon Alley using Floo powder. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley) explains to Harry, who has never traveled this way, that he simply has to take a pinch of the powder, throw it into the fireplace, and shout “Diagon Alley.” But Harry doesn’t speak clearly enough and he ends up in a menacing-looking shop. Harry tries to get a sense of where he is, but when he looks out the shop window he knows the street he is on is not Diagon Alley.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Harry’s lack of knowledge about Floo powder drops him into unknown territory, which makes him more and more nervous when he realizes that he doesn’t know where he is. This is something that he experienced quite a bit in the first book and will as well in this book: that lacking information can lead him into scary situations.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) starts toward the door, but then he sees [Draco Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy) and his father, [Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy), walking toward the store. Harry immediately hides inside a large cabinet. Harry eavesdrops, hearing Draco complaining about how everyone thinks Harry is so smart and wonderful, and about his ability to have a broom at school—which he says is only because Harry has a scar on his forehead. Lucius warns Draco that he shouldn’t so openly dislike Harry, whom most people regard as “the hero who made the Dark Lord disappear.”

***Analysis Part 4:***

Harry continues to contend with others’ conceptions of his own identity. Draco laments that Harry is famous for doing nothing, a critique that has some merit, as Harry was only a baby when he made the Dark Lord disappear. At the same time, Draco acknowledges something that Harry is starting to realize: that people’s perception of him is somewhat out of his control because of their preconceived notions about what he has accomplished.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy) then addresses the owner of the shop, Mr. Borgin, and says he wants to sell some items that “might embarrass” him if the Ministry were to raid his home. He expresses frustration over the rumors of a new Muggle Protection Act, saying it must be the work of that “Muggle-loving fool [Arthur Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley).”

***Analysis Part 5:***

Although readers got a taste of the Malfoys’ prejudice through Draco in the first book, here it becomes clear where that prejudice stems from, and the fact that it is specifically directed towards Muggles.

***Summary Part 6:***

Mr. Borgin laments that “wizard blood is counting for less everywhere,” but [Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy) responds, “not with me.” He also insults [Draco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy) by wondering why [Hermione Granger](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger), who is “of no wizard family,” beats Draco in every exam, although Draco protests that she’s merely the teachers’ favorite. Lucius then haggles with Mr. Borgin; once the items are sold, he and Draco leave.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Not only does Lucius dislike Muggles, but it is also evident here that he dislikes Muggle-borns or anyone associated with Muggles. His dislike of Hermione also illustrates the generalizations that he makes: despite the fact that she is the best in the class, he still believes her to be inferior because of her blood status.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) waits for Mr. Borgin to disappear into a back room and then slips out of the shop. He is in a dingy alleyway and feels quite afraid of the shabby-looking people in the street who eye him from the shadows. A street sign reads “Knockturn Alley,” but he doesn’t know where that is. He tries to stay calm as an old witch approaches him, leering and wondering if he needs any help.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Again, Harry’s lack of knowledge about the world around him brings him a deep degree of fear, as he is not sure of how he might get to Diagon Alley. He also knows that he is very recognizable, and that that knowledge imbalance—that others know who he is while they remain anonymous to him—makes him even more nervous.

***Summary Part 8:***

Just then, [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) appears and asks [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) what he’s doing down there. Harry is relieved to see him and explains he’s lost. Hagrid steers him away from the witch and down an alleyway back to Diagon Alley, explaining that Knockturn Alley is a “dodgy place” and that it was lucky that Hagrid happened to be there buying a Flesh-Eating Slug Repellant. Harry explains what happened with the Floo powder. They then see [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger), [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ron-weasley), and the Weasleys across the street, who have been frantically looking for him.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Hagrid, who served as a mentor and friend to Harry in the first book, here saves him from unknown dangers and fear. Harry greatly appreciates this rescue, and feels his confidence and bravery returning as Hagrid pulls him away from a frightening situation and returns him to the comfort of his friends.

***Summary Part 9:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) explains what happened and describes the exchange he saw with [Draco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy) and [Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy). [Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley) is happy to hear that Lucius is worried about the Ministry raids, but he is quickly distracted when he sees [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger)’s Muggle parents, excited to talk to them. Everyone splits up to buy different things, with the plan to meet up at Flourish and Blotts after an hour.

***Analysis Part 9:***

Again, the difference between the Weasley family and the Malfoy family is highlighted by Mr. Weasley’s excitement over Hermione’s parents—people that the Malfoys would never interact with. This difference will come to a head later in the chapter.

***Summary Part 10:***

At Flourish and Blotts, there is a large crowd because [Gilderoy Lockhart](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/gilderoy-lockhart) is signing copies of his new autobiography, Magical Me. He is handsome, with a bright white smile and wavy hair. His table is surrounded by pictures of himself, each one winking and smiling at the crowd. [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger) is excited that they’re getting to meet him.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Regarding the question of how identity is shaped, Lockhart serves as another representation of the idea that identity is a choice. Despite the fact that Lockhart has actually accomplished very little himself, he has nonetheless worked to achieve the identity of a superstar.

***Summary Part 11:***

[Lockhart](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/gilderoy-lockhart) recognizes [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) and insists that they take a photo together, saying that the two of them together could make the front page. Lockhart then announces, before Harry can get out of the spotlight, that he will be the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher at Hogwarts. The crowd cheers and claps. Harry manages to get away, but [Draco Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy), who has just entered the shop, comments, “Can’t even go into a bookshop without making the front page.” [Ginny](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ginny-weasley) tries to defend him, but Draco only makes fun of Harry even more.

***Analysis Part 11:***

This  is a key moment in which Harry starts to realize that his choices in the public eye matter as a way of shaping his identity. Harry is thrust into the spotlight, and despite the fact that he is incredibly humble, this moment opens him up to criticism that he is attention-seeking, just like Lockhart is. Harry will spend much of the book trying to shy away from the focus that gets placed upon him, as many people try to make him the center of attention.

***Summary Part 12:***

[Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley) tries to herd the kids outside, but he is confronted by [Lucius Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy). Lucius coldly comments on the fact that Mr. Weasley has been working many hours overtime at the Ministry but still can’t afford to buy [Ginny](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/ginny-weasley) new books. He picks up one of her second-hand schoolbooks scornfully. Lucius also notices [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger)’s Muggle parents, commenting that he thought the Weasleys “could sink no lower.” Mr. Weasley, angry, knocks Lucius into a bookshelf until [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) comes over and pulls them apart. Lucius thrusts Ginny’s book back at her, and he and [Draco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/draco-malfoy) leave the shop.

***Analysis Part 12:***

This conflict centers on the Malfoy’s prejudice not only against Muggles and Muggle-borns, but also against those who are less wealthy (the Weasleys) and who deign to interact at all with Muggles. This prejudice is so harmful that it leads Lucius to give Ginny Tom Riddle’s diary (unnoticed in this moment), which ultimately enables the attacks on Muggle-borns and other students that will later occur at Hogwarts.

***Summary Part 13:***

[Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/rubeus-hagrid) tells [Mr. Weasley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/mr-weasley) that he should have ignored [Lucius](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/lucius-malfoy)—that the whole family is “rotten ter the core,” and that they have “bad blood.” The group then parts ways: [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/hermione-granger) and her parents walk toward the bus stop, and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets/characters/harry-potter) and the Weasleys return to the fireside at the Leaky Cauldron, where they take Floo Powder back to the Burrow.

***Analysis part 13:***

Hagrid and the Weasleys have their own prejudice against the Malfoys as a whole, but there is a distinction: while the Malfoys view others unkindly because of a perceived inferiority, Harry and the other characters dislike the Malfoys because they are simply hateful.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

"Harry Potter got a Nimbus Two Thousand last year. Special permission from Dumbledore so he could play for Gryffindor. He's not even that good, it's just because he's famous...famous for having a stupid scar on his forehead..."

Malfoy bent down to examine a shelf full of skulls.

"...everyone thinks he's so smart, wonderful Potter with his scar and his broomstick —"

"You have told me this at least a dozen times already," said Mr. Malfoy, with a quelling look at his son. "And I would remind you that it is not – prudent – to appear less than fond of Harry Potter, not when most of our kind regard him as the hero who made the Dark Lord disappear —" (4.65-68)

***Explanation:***

This conversation between Draco and Lucius Malfoy reveals a bunch of things. First, Mr. Malfoy is clearly concerned about appearing socially correct. What his actual feelings about Harry might be doesn't really matter. The other thing that strikes us is that there is no warmth here between Draco and Lucius. Draco complains and whines, and his father shuts him up. The relationship between these two provides yet another foil to the wonderful Weasleys.

***Quotation 2:***

Life at the Burrow was as different as possible from life on Privet Drive. The Dursleys liked everything neat and ordered; the Weasleys' house burst with the strange and unexpected. Harry got a shock the first time he looked in the mirror over the kitchen mantelpiece and it shouted, "Tuck your shirt in, scruffy!" The ghoul in the attic howled and dropped pipes whenever he felt things were getting too quiet, and small explosions from Fed and George's bedroom were considered perfectly normal. What Harry found most unusual about life at Ron's, however, wasn't the talking mirror or the clanking ghoul: It was the fact that everybody there seemed to like him. (4.1)

***Explanation:***

Harry's uncle and aunt think he's a freak. They've always treated him like an outcast because he can use magic. Now, though, he's found this new, magical home where he feels comfortable for the first time in his life. We have to say, this switch from the Dursleys to the Weasleys gives us hope. Even if you feel isolated or left out of the house where you grew up, you can always find new family to accept your quirks. The message of this chapter seems to be, isolation doesn't have to last, even if it is awful while it is happening.

***Quotation 3:***

"Dear me, what's the use of being a disgrace to the name of wizard if they don't even pay you well for it?"

Mr. Weasley flushed darker than either Ron or Ginny.

"We have a very different idea of what disgraces the name of wizard, Malfoy," he said.

"Clearly," said Mr. Malfoy, his pale eyes straying to Mr. and Mrs. Granger, who were watching apprehensively. "The company you keep, Weasley...and I thought your family could sink no lower —" (4.176-179)

***Explanation:***

It's still early in the Harry Potter series, but we're already starting to get a sense of the different politics of the wizarding world. Lucius Malfoy is a snob, both about money and about family. What other major social issues do the wizards of this series face? How much of a role do these social issues play in the plot of Chamber of Secrets?

***Quotation 4:***

"I hope my son will amount to more than a thief or a plunderer, Borgin," said Mr. Malfoy coldly, and Mr. Borgin said quickly, "No offense, sir, no offense meant —"

"Though if his grades don't pick up," said Mr. Malfoy, more coldly still, "that may indeed be all he is fit for —"

"It's not my fault," retorted Draco. "The teachers all have favorites, that Hermione Granger "

"I would have thought you'd be ashamed that a girl of no wizard family beat you in every exam," snapped Mr. Malfoy. (4.83-86)

***Explanation:***

Obviously, this scene between Draco and Lucius Malfoy underlines the Malfoys' bigotry. Lucius is outraged that Draco's scores aren't as good as the marks of "a girl of no wizard family." Beyond that, though, we have here an extremely negative example of parenting (clearly). Lucius publicly shames Draco for his grades rather than, say, doing anything to help him improve. He offers Draco a racing broom – so he's willing to spoil Draco – but he doesn't encourage Draco to work for the broom. So Lucius gives Draco things that he hasn't earned but then mocks him for poor grades without assisting him to improve. This is very bad parenting technique – a lesson for us all to bear in mind!

***Quotation 5:***

"Dunno how Mum and Dad are going to afford all our school stuff this year," said George after a while. "Five sets of Lockhart books! And Ginny needs robes and a wand and everything..."

Harry said nothing. He felt a bit awkward. Stored in an underground vault at Gringotts in London was a small fortune that his parents had left him. (4.28-29)

***Explanation:***

The Weasleys are poor and Harry is rich, which creates some tension between Harry and Ron (tension that really explodes around Book 4). Despite their poverty, the Weasleys accept Harry into their home with open arms, never making him feel like a burden (unlike the Dursleys). They make do with what they have. Yet their poverty is also important as an illustration of one of the rules of Harry Potter's world. You can't just conjure stuff out of nothing. Even though magic can make your life a lot easier, it can't make problems like poverty go away. The Weasleys may be accomplished wizards, but they can't just create gold – magic doesn't work like that in this series. So social problems like poverty persist.

***Quotation 6:***

Mr. Malfoy's lip curled.

"I have not been visited yet. The name Malfoy still commands a certain respect, yet the Ministry grows ever more meddlesome. There are rumors about a new Muggle Protection Act – no doubt that flea-bitten, Muggle-loving fool Arthur Weasley is behind it —" (4.76-77)

***Explanation:***

Perhaps this quote is an example of persistence rather than the more positive virtue of perseverance. We're going to include it here anyway because this category is about things that go on, negative or positive. Lucius Malfoy's conversation with Mr. Borgin in Knockturn Alley indicates how little respect he has for Arthur Weasley. We find it interesting that Lucius's hatred for Arthur carries over to the next generation. Obviously, Draco despises Ron. The Harry Potter series often focuses on how the past continues to influence the present. Here is our first inkling that the resentments of prior generations are influencing events happening right now in the novels. For a clearer example of this kind of persistence, check out Professor Snape's relation to Sirius Black in Book 5, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.