***Harry Potter and Prisoner of Azakaban***

#### **Chapter 12-The Patronus**

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Classes resume, and Oliver Wood promises to persuade Professor McGonagall to give back Harry's Firebolt. In the meantime, Harry begins meeting weekly with Lupin to practice the anti-Dementor spell, which is intended to conjure up a Patronus, a silvery protective charm. Lupin tells Harry to focus on his happiest thought before saying "Expecto Patronum" and repelling the Dementor, or in this case, a Boggart that takes the shape of a Dementor around Harry. Harry tries this complicated spell several times with varying happy thoughts—flying on a broomstick, winning the House Championship, and leaving Privet Drive for Hogwarts. The last thought brings him some success, but he is still weak after the encounter. Each time the lesson ends, Lupin gives him chocolate and sends him on his way. Harry senses, however, that one reason he is unable to conjure a proper Patronus is that he secretly does not want to do away with hearing his parents' voices ever again.

Time moves on, and Hermione is still overworked with classes; Oliver Wood returns defeated from his visit with Professor McGonagall, who refused to give back the broomstick yet. During another lesson with Lupin, Harry inquires what is below a Dementor's cloak. Lupin answers that the only people who truly know are not in the state to report it, as the Dementor will only lower its cloak when it is preparing to administer the "kiss," which essentially sucks the soul out of the person who is kissed. Lupin adds that the Ministry of Magic has given the Dementors permission to administer the kiss to Black if they find him. Harry is a bit shaken by these thoughts as he leaves, and runs into Professor McGonagall, who returns to him the Firebolt. That night, the Gryffindor common room is alight with astonishment at Harry's broomstick, and even Hermione looks up from her books to talk with Harry. All is well, until Ron returns from his dormitory to report furiously that Scabbers is missing, that his sheets are slightly bloodied and strewn with orange cat hairs.

***Critical Analysis (Ch11-12):***

The Firebolt broomstick instance is folkloric; in adventure myths, the hero is often given a magical gift that helps him on his way. In the first book, Harry is given an invisibility cloak, and in the second, he is given what appears to be help through his discovery of an old diary floating in the toilet. Here, Harry receives a replacement broomstick, an anonymous gift that plays on this ambiguity of a magical bit of help that may not turn out to be what it seems; out of fear that it is a gift form Sirius, Hermione turns the broom in. In the end, she is correct about the giver, but not about the danger.

The unjust conviction of Buckbeak foreshadows Harry's hatred toward Black. Malfoy frames Buckbeak just as Peter Pettigrew frames Black in a later chapter. This incident shows us reverse sides of a legal system that is attacking an innocent beast and has lost track of the murderer of Harry's parents. These two situations are both unfair but in vastly different ways. Furthermore, the sentiment Harry feels now toward liberating Buckbeak returns once he discovers Black's innocence. Another false conviction occurs at the end of Chapter Twelve. When Scabbers has disappeared, blood appears on Ron's sheets, and cat hairs linger near the site of the crime. The lesson learned in the many mistakes Professor Trelawney makes in her predictions is reinforced by these occurrences—things are not always what they seem, and thus the future is very difficult to predict.

Learning more about the Dementors and how to fight them is the continuation of Harry's new stage of magical agency, beginning with his flight from the Dursleys, moving through his willingness to confide in Professor Lupin, and now landing him in these lessons, where he works hard each week to learn how to confront his greatest personal demon. The presence of his parents' voices in his bouts of Dementor "depression" is significant, and to be expected. Harry is constantly aware of his loss of them, and although he never knew his parents, he believes in their love for him, and he battles Voldemort and his servants, in part to protect himself, and in part to avenge their deaths.

***Synopsis:***

* The boys are furious with Hermione and refuse to talk to her.
* They're all relieved when the holidays end and the other students arrive back at school.
* Oliver Wood flips when he hears about the Firebolt and starts stalking McGonagall to get it back.
* Harry is happy to begin his Dementor fighting lessons with Lupin.
* They meet one night to practice the anti-Dementor spell on a boggart.
* The spell is called a Patronus charm and to produce it you have to concentrate on a powerful, happy memory.
* Harry tries it out, using the memory of the first time he rode a broomstick.
* But it doesn't work and he passes out.
* So he tries again, thinking of the time Gryffindor won the House Cup last year, but that doesn't work either.
* This time, he hears his dad when the Dementor-boggart approaches. Lupin pauses at this and reveals that he knew James in school.
* But he quickly changes the subject and has Harry try one more time.
* Harry uses the memory of when he found out he was a wizard and could leave the Dursleys.
* This time it works and he produces a silvery light that keeps the Dementors at bay.
* Harry can still hear his parents, but at least now they sound very distant.
* Lupin and Harry are thrilled with his success and Lupin tells him that's enough for one day.
* The two chat over some Butterbeer and Harry asks Lupin if he knew Sirius Black, which freaks Lupin out.
* Lupin answers that he knew Sirius, and then abruptly sends Harry on his way.
* That night, Harry thinks about how part of him wants to hear his parents, but he realizes that he'll never be able to fight off the Dementors until he accepts that they're dead and gone.
* Between Harry's Dementor classes and Quidditch practice, he barely has any time for school work.
* Ron and Harry are still not speaking to Hermione, but they notice how insanely stressed and overworked she appears.
* Wood strikes out with McGonagall, who gets infuriated with him when he says that he doesn't care if Black did tamper with the broom, so long as Harry gets the snitch.
* Oliver's people skills could use some work.
* Harry's Dementor lessons start to stall and he has trouble making more progress with his Patronus charm.
* After one of his lessons, Harry chats with Lupin about the Dementors.
* Lupin explains about the Dementor's Kiss, which involves a Dementor sucking out your soul. This is the punishment Sirius Black will receive when he's caught.
* Those Dementors are starting to sound worse than Voldemort at this point.
* Finally, McGonagall returns the Firebolt to Harry after finding nothing wrong with it.
* The boys head back to the Common Room and discover poor Neville outside – he forgot the passwords and lost the list of passwords he wrote down.
* A party breaks out when everyone sees the Firebolt.
* Harry approaches Hermione, who's studying in a corner, and tries to make up with her.
* But then Ron storms in screaming about how Scabbers is missing. At the scene of the crime were two things: blood and ginger cat hairs.
* Call in the CSIs!

***Brief Analysis(Ch9-12):***

In response to the possibility that [Sirius Black](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list#sirius-black) is roaming the halls of Hogwarts, Dumbledore promptly herds all the students into the Great Hall, which he has cleared of dining tables and filled with plush sleeping bags. There, they can sleep in safety under the supervision of faculty and the Head Boy and Girl. In the middle of the night, while pretending to be asleep, Harry, Ron, and Hermione overhear a hushed conversation between Dumbledore and Snape (Percy also stands awkwardly near them, attempting to act important). Snape assures Dumbledore that the third floor has been completely searched. It appears that if Sirius Black was in the castle earlier in the evening, he is longer there. Snape shares his strong suspicion that someone *helped*Black infiltrate the castle, perhaps a new member of the faculty, but Dumbledore vehemently denies that anyone at Hogwarts would assist him.

The weather is horrible in the weeks leading up to Gryffindor's first Quidditch match, which was supposed to be against Slytherin but is now against Hufflepuff. Malfoy has continued to exaggerate his arm injury so that the match would be switched and Slytherin could hold out for better playing conditions. The week of the match, Lupin apparently takes ill, so Snape substitute-teaches Defense Against the Dark Arts. He skips to a lesson at the very end of the curriculum, about werewolves, despite the class's instance that they left off on Grindylows. The day of the match against Hufflepuff, the weather is the worst it's been so far. Despite a valiant effort, Harry is sabotaged by the appearance of Dementors on the playing field, which causes him to fall off his broom. When he wakes up in the hospital wing, he is informed that Hufflepuff's seeker and new captain, Cedric Diggory, grabbed the Snitch before he realized that Harry was in danger. Diggory tries to argue for a rematch, but Madame Hooch, the school's Quidditch coach, declares it a fair win. And to make matters worse, after he fell, Harry's broom had been smashed to smithereens by the Whomping Willow.

Harry has many well-wishers visit him while he's in the infirmary. By the time Madam Pomfrey lets him leave, Lupin is back teaching Defense Against the Dark Arts. He asks Harry to stay after class and offers his sympathy for what happened at the Quidditch match. Harry asks Lupin if there's a way to fight off Dementors, and Lupin tells him that there is a quite advanced spell for that very purpose. Harry convinces Lupin to meet with him later that week to teach him the spell in case he encounters more Dementors on the field. Since the Dementors obviously have a more severe effect on Harry than on his peers, Lupin agrees.

As Hogwarts approaches the end of the first term, all anyone can think about are the winter holidays. There's another trip to Hogsmeade scheduled for the last day of classes. At this point, Harry is resigned to the fact that he won't see Hogsmeade until Black is captured, but then on the morning of the trip, Fred and George Weasley pull Harry aside and gift him their most prized possession: the Marauder's Map. The Map shows every detail of Hogwarts' floorplan, even the tunnels hidden throughout the school and underground all the way to Hogsmeade. But what makes it magical is that it also displays the live whereabouts of everyone in the school. For a moment, Harry is hesitant to use it; he remembers something Arthur Weasley once told him: "Never trust anything that can think for itself, if you can't see where it keeps its brain" (194). But in the end, the temptation of Zonko's magic shop and Honeydukes sweets win out, and Harry sneaks to the Village through a secret tunnel.

When he meets up with Hermione and Ron, they are both shocked to see him. Ron is thrilled (though angry at his brothers for never giving *him*the map) and Hermione is both disappointed in Harry for leaving and nervous that they'll be caught. They duck out of the blizzard and into the Three Broomsticks bar for butterbeer, but right after they take their seats, a group of Hogwarts professors walk in—McGonagall, Hagrid, and Flitwick—accompanied by Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic. The bar's owner, Madam Rosmerta, joins their group to gossip about new developments in the hunt for Sirius Black. To avoid being caught outside the castle, Harry ducks under the table and Hermione magically conceals their presence with a holiday tree. The ensuing conversation between the professors, the minister, and Rosmerta reveals a major bombshell of a secret: not only is Sirius Black Harry's *godfather*, but he was allegedly responsible for revealing Harry's parents' location to Voldemort so he could kill them.

Once the professors leave the bar, Harry makes his way back to the secret passage under Honeydukes, half-blinded with rage about what he just learned. Sirius Black was his father's best friend since childhood; at Hogwarts, the professors considered them almost brothers. And Black apparently betrayed his parents by selling them out to Voldemort. Now Harry understands what Malfoy meant when he said he would want revenge. He understands why Mr. Weasley told him not to go *looking*for Black. And they were both right; Harry *does*want to find Black and kill him himself.

Harry sleeps until noon the next day, and when he finally comes down to the common room, he finds only Ron and Hermione there. Everyone else has left for winter break. Ron and Hermione try to lift Harry's spirits, but he is in no mood to be cheered up. Immediately, his friends launch into a speech about how he *should not*go after Sirius Black. They understand they he wants revenge for what Black did to his parents, but if he went after him now, it would be a suicide mission, and that's exactly what Sirius Black wants. Ron suggests they visit Hagrid for some Christmas cheer, and Harry quickly jumps on the opportunity to confront Hagrid for never telling him about Black's history with his parents.

However, when they arrive at Hagrid's house, Hagrid is inconsolable, weeping about the possible fate of his Hippogriff, Buckbeak. Thanks to Dumbledore, Hagrid's job is safe as a professor at Hogwarts, but because of Malfoy's father's connections inside the Ministry of Magic, it seems inevitable that Buckbeak's trial will end in execution for his "attack" on Malfoy during their first lesson. Harry was all prepared to confront Hagrid about Sirius Black, but seeing how miserable he was over the news of Buckbeak, he leaves the issue alone. They promise Hagrid they'll testify on behalf of Buckbeak and do some research on the defense of magical creatures.

A few days later, on Christmas morning, Harry and Ron wake up to a small mound of presents in the common room. They receive the usual from the Weasleys, a homemade knit sweater from Molly, and a variety of treats. Harry finds a long, slender, package under the tree, unmarked except being addressed to him. Inside, he finds a Firebolt broom—the newest, highest-end broom on the market. Professional grade, used by the best quidditch players in the world. Ron is beside himself with excitement, and Harry can hardly believe his eyes. They both theorize who could've sent it. Ron suspects it was Dumbledore, or maybe Professor Lupin. Harry can't imagine *who*would send it, but thinks it surely couldn't have been either of them. When Hermione comes down from bed, she eyes the broom with grave suspicion. She thinks that if Harry doesn't know who sent it, he definitely shouldn't fly it. Harry and Ron disregard her concerns. But after Christmas dinner, Professor McGonagall comes back to the Gryffindor common room with Hermione and confiscates Harry's broom. She assures him that after she and Madam Hooch strip it down and make sure there are no hexes or curses on it, he can have it back. Harry and Ron are furious.

With the tensions running high between Hermione and the boys, they are all relieved for break to be over and their classmates to rejoin them around Gryffindor tower. When Harry's Quidditch captain approaches him about the possibility of having to replace him as seeker, Harry assures him that he is learning how to combat Dementors from Professor Lupin. Ron tells Wood that Harry got a Firebolt for Christmas, but it was unfortunately confiscated to be checked for hexes. This sends Wood straight to McGonagall's office to plead for Harry to be able to use the broom in their upcoming match against Ravenclaw. McGonagall responds with a resounding *No*.

Meanwhile, Harry and Lupin begin their private lesson on how to ward off the foul Azkaban guards. The spell required to do so is called the Patronus Charm, and the incantation is *expecto patronum*. Lupin warns Harry that it is very advanced magic and tells him not to be discouraged if he can't produce a full Patronus. A Patronus looks different for every witch or wizard, taking the form of a different animal for each of them. The way to produce a Patronus is for the person casting the spell to think of the happiest memory at their disposal and use those warm feelings to combat the hopelessness and misery upon which Dementors feed. After a few lessons, Harry is able to produce a partial Patronus, which Lupin assures him is quite impressive. A few days before the match, McGonagall returns Harry's broom to him; it was not hexed or cursed in any way. Harry extends an olive branch to Hermione, and the tension seems like it has almost fully lifted. Then, the same evening Harry's broom was returned, Ron goes up to his room to find a bloody stain on the floor, some ginger cat hairs, and not a trace of his pet rat Scabbers.

Snape's animosity toward Lupin becomes increasingly evident as the novel progresses, while the mystery surrounding his character is further complicated and obfuscated. At the beginning of Chapter 9, Harry, Ron, and Hermione overhear Snape discussing with Dumbledore how Black could possibly have entered the castle. Snape says, "It seems—almost impossible—that Black could have entered the school without inside help. I did express my concerns when you appointed—" but then he is promptly cut off by Dumbledore, who replies, "I do not believe a single person inside this castle would have helped Black enter it" (166). We can deduce that Snape is referring to Lupin because the person he suspects is newly appointed, and between Hagrid and Lupin, Snape is clearly more suspicious of Lupin (he hasn't mentioned Hagrid once). Then, in Chapter 12, it becomes clear that Hermione has solved the mystery of Lupin's dark secret. When Ron wonders to Harry about what's wrong with Lupin, Hermione scoffs behind them and says "Well, isn't it *obvious*?" (236). Unwilling to humor Hermione's sense of superiority, Ron says, "If you don't want to tell us, don't." So, Hermione storms off without revealing what she knows, but the exchange reveals that whatever is wrong with Lupin, it isn't something that marks him as a villain. If it were, Hermione would surely keep Harry informed for his own safety.

A major theme in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* is false incrimination and wrongful conviction. At this point in the novel, most of the active indictments against possible wrongdoers are unresolved, the most major of them being Sirius Black. But there is also the ongoing sideshows of Crookshanks versus Scabbers, Buckbeak versus Malfoy, and Lupin versus Snape. The reader is reminded in Chapter 9 when Harry, Ron, and Hermione visit Hagrid that Hagrid was wrongly incarcerated in Azkaban prison for many months before his name was cleared. He still shudders at the thought of Dementors. Buckbeak's upcoming trial and possible execution prompt Harry, Ron, and Hermione to conduct research about past trials for magical creatures and their outcomes to try and clear Buckbeak's name.

By doing what is essentially the work of a defense counsel, they're putting the reader in a position to question the established authorities in the book. The Ministry of Magic isn't always right, and the Dementors who guard Azkaban, while they do technically work for "the good guys" by keeping dangerous criminals and dark witches and wizards from terrorizing the rest of the world, are themselves foul creatures who feed off of the hope of anyone within their reach—even innocents. When Ron finds what he believes to be evidence that Crookshanks ate Scabbers, yet another trial begins. At this point in the book, the reader is being asked to question which forces are actually *good*and which are *evil*, and what exists in the gray area in between.

Harry learns a great deal about his parents in these few chapters. With every encounter he has with another Dementor, he learns more and more about what he realizes was his parents' dying moments. The woman's scream he first heard on the Hogwarts Express turns out to be his mother absorbing the blow of a killing curse. Later on, when he's practicing the Patronus charm with Lupin, he hears his father James urging Lily to make a run for it with Harry. Then, in the Three Broomsticks, Harry learns that the cause of these distressed final moments was a major betrayal by James' best friend, none other than Sirius Black. But according to Cornelius Fudge, Black was especially impervious to the Dementors in Azkaban, as if their soul-sucking tendencies couldn't break him, as if he had *too*much hope for the Dementors to defeat. Though Harry feels blind rage toward Black, the reader may, in the thematic spirit of the novel, question whether Sirius Black is actually the villain of the story.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

Though [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) knows [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) was trying to help, he's still angry with her. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) is furious. Hermione begins avoiding the common room and Harry and Ron do nothing to try to make her come back. Right before term starts, [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) finds Harry to ask about his progress on the [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) and on ordering a new broom. When he learns that [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) confiscated Harry's brand new Firebolt, Oliver isn't at all concerned that [Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) is out to get Harry and promises to talk to McGonagall.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Harry at least understands why Hermione did what she did, which suggests that he'll be able to forgive her more easily than Ron, who still hasn't fully forgiven Hermione for Crookshanks's constant attempts on Scabbers' life. This indicates that, in terms of maturity, Ron has the most progress to make of the three.

***Summary Part 2:***

The next day, [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/rubeus-hagrid) teaches an enjoyable lesson on salamanders that love fire, while [Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-trelawney) introduces palmistry and tells Harry his life line is very short. After Defense Against the Dark Arts, Harry asks [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) if they can start their anti-[dementor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) lessons. Lupin asks Harry to meet him Thursday evening. As Harry and Ron head for dinner, Ron remarks that Lupin still looks unwell and wonders what's wrong with him. They hear [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) behind them and she says it's obvious what's wrong. Ron won't indulge her and after she walks off, he tells Harry that she's just trying to get them to talk to her.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Note that Ron never considers that Hermione might actually be right—and indeed, she reveals later that she does know what's ailing Lupin. This illustrates how Ron's heightened emotions make him unwilling to listen to or consider any perspectives other than his own, as the most important thing for him right now is making sure Hermione understands how upset he is with her.

***Summary Part 3:***

On Thursday evening, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) meets [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) in the History of Magic classroom. Lupin brings a suitcase containing a boggart. Harry tries to hide his apprehension as Lupin tells him about the Patronus charm, which conjures a positive force that a [dementor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) can feed on. To conjure it, a wizard must think of a happy memory and say, "Expecto Patronum." Harry thinks of his first time on a broomstick and something silvery and wispy comes out of his wand. As Lupin opens the case, Harry tries to think of flying. He shouts the incantation and as he passes out, he hears [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/lily-potter) pleading with [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/voldemort).

***Analysis Part 3:***

As in his other lessons, Lupin walks Harry through the process in a way that builds on previous knowledge and, most importantly, he chooses to work with a boggart since it'll save Harry from most of the danger posed by real dementors. This shows that he understands how to both work within Dumbledore's rules and create an educational situation that offers Harry the best chance for success.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) jerks back awake on the floor, apologizes, and accepts [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin)'s proffered Chocolate Frog. As he eats it, he mutters that he heard [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/lily-potter) and [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/voldemort) louder this time, and when Lupin suggests they call it a night, Harry insists he has to learn to fight the [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors). Lupin suggests that Harry choose a stronger memory, so Harry thinks of winning the House Cup last year. This time, Harry hears [James](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/james-potter) telling Lily to take Harry and run. When he comes to, Harry is crying. Lupin admits that he was friends with James and says that the charm is too advanced.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Lupin's suggestion to stop the lessons suggests that hearing from Harry that he hears his parents, old friends of Lupin's, is hard for Lupin as well as Harry. When Harry learns that his father and Lupin were friends, he's able to connect with Lupin on a more personal level and deepen their relationship further.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) insists on trying again and settles on the memory of learning he was a wizard. [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) opens the case, Harry shouts the incantation, and though he still hears [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/lily-potter) screaming, it's quieter. A shadow bursts out of Harry's wand and after a few seconds, Lupin shouts "Riddikulus" and the boggart [dementor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) vanishes. Lupin praises Harry, gives him a huge bar of chocolate, and asks Harry to come again next week. Before Harry leaves, he asks Lupin if he also knew [Sirius Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black). Lupin looks suspicious, but just says that he didn't know Black as well as he thought he did.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Lupin's suspicion indicates that he might guess Harry knows more about Sirius Black than Harry has let on. When Lupin says he didn't know Black as well as he thought he did, it indicates that when Black betrayed Lily and James, it came as a shock to everyone. Lupin's unwillingness to truly level with Harry, however, indicates that he's not sure if it's his place to give Harry this truth.

***Summary Part 6:***

After the Quidditch match between Ravenclaw and Slytherin, [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) increases practice to five days per week. This leaves [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) one night a week to do homework, though he still doesn't look as tired as [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) does. One evening, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) quietly asks Harry how Hermione is getting all her work done—it seems impossible that she's making it to all her classes, but she hasn't missed one. [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) interrupts to say that he's spoken to [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) about the Firebolt, and that she took great offense when he asked if Harry could have it back. He suggests Harry order a new broom.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Again, it's a step in the right direction that Harry and Ron recognize that there's something strange going on with Hermione. However, their unwillingness to dig deeper to figure out what's going on suggests that they either trust her enough to tell them the truth, that they fear her snappy reaction if they do ask, or that they're simply not curious or interested enough to investigate further.

***Summary Part 7:***

[McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) continues to refuse to give [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) the Firebolt. To make things worse, the [dementor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) lessons with [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) stall and Harry's Patronus never gets distinct. After four weeks, Lupin tells Harry that for his age, his indistinct Patronus is huge. He pulls out butterbeer as a treat for Harry, assuming Harry has never had it. Harry tries to play along, but Lupin still looks suspicious. After a moment, Harry asks what's under a dementor's hood. Lupin says that nobody really knows, as people only see it when dementors administer the Dementor's Kiss, which sucks the soul out of a victim and leaves them an empty shell. Lupin says that [Sirius Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) will suffer this fate if the dementors catch him. Harry spits that Black deserves it and wants to tell Lupin about what he heard in the Three Broomsticks, but he doesn't want to admit he snuck into Hogsmeade.

***Analysis Part 7:***

When Harry wants to share what he learned in Hogsmeade with Lupin, it shows that he desperately craves an adult perspective on this information, preferably from an adult he trusts so much. However, his desire to not disappoint Lupin by admitting to sneaking out of school shows that Harry also wants to make sure that Lupin will continue to think highly of him. At this point, Harry believes that the only way to remain in Lupin's good graces is to pretend that he's being a model student and following all instructions.

***Summary Part 8:***On his way back upstairs, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) runs into [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) and is surprised when she gives him his Firebolt. She tells him to try to win on Saturday before she walks off. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) finds Harry in the hallway to ask if he can ride it, and Harry suggests they make up with [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger). When they get to the portrait hole, they find [Neville](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/neville-longbottom) pleading with [Sir Cadogan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sir-cadogan). Apparently, Neville wrote down the passwords for the week and lost his list. Harry gives Neville the password and as soon as they get into the common room, Gryffindors swarm to look at the Firebolt. After ten minutes, Harry and Ron finally approach Hermione. Ron offers to take the Firebolt upstairs and Harry sits with Hermione.

***Analysis Part 8:***McGonagall's request that Harry do his best to win shows that she's not entirely impartial when it comes to her students, but she keeps her moments of impartiality to a venue where it's entirely appropriate—Quidditch, where the whole point is for one House to win and the others to lose. This again shows that McGonagall is a far superior teacher to Snape, who plays favorites all the time and not just in appropriate instances.

***Summary Part 9:***[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) looks at all of [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger)'s books and suggests she drop a few subjects. Hermione looks scandalized and suddenly, they hear a yell from the boys' dormitory. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) races downstairs with a bed sheet and an angry expression. There's a spot of blood on it, and he throws ginger cat hairs onto Hermione's essay.

***Analysis Part 9:***Harry's suggestion shows that he cares deeply for Hermione and sees that what she's doing is having negative effects on her mental health. With this, he's able to show that he's growing up and becoming more empathetic.