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

#### **Chapter 15- The Quidditch Final**

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Harry, Ron, and Hermione stare at Hagrid's note explaining Buckbeak's verdict, and Hermione takes the opportunity to apologize for Scabbers's death. Things return to normal between Ron and her. During the next care of magical creatures lesson, Hagrid speaks sadly about Buckbeak. When Malfoy taunts his tears, Hermione slaps him. Soon after, Hermione misses charms class, and Harry and Ron find her asleep in the Gryffindor common room. She looks exhausted and stressed, and she arrives at Divination late, entering while the class is gazing into crystal balls. Professor Trelawney makes a few misty comments about her predictions for their final exam and then finds yet another Grim in Harry's crystal ball, to which Hermione responds, "Not that ridiculous Grim again!" Hermione leaves the class, much to Harry's astonishment.

Tension escalates as exams and the final Quidditch match approach; Gryffindor and Slytherin are competing for the Cup. In order to win, Gryffindor must defeat Slytherin by at least two hundred points. Harry cannot sleep the night before the game. When he does finally sleep, he has a series of nightmares. Once, he wakes up and sees the large black dog out the window. By the time he can point it out to Ron, it has disappeared. The game day arrives, and the Slytherins play a game ridden with fouls, as usual, but they are still no match for Harry on his Firebolt, as he zooms around, parting crowds, protecting his teammates, and searching for the Snitch. He and Malfoy, the Slytherin Seeker, spy it near the ground and race for it; Harry catches it, winning both the game and the Quidditch Cup. The team is jubilant and teary-eyed. As the chapter closes, Harry thinks to himself that with all the happiness he is currently feeling, he could conjure up a very impressive Patronus.

***Synopsis:***

* Hermione shows them Hagrid's note, which thanks Hermione for her help.
* Harry and Ron are upset and the they finally make up and become friends with Hermione again.
* They get to work on Buckbeak's appeal.
* They talk with Hagrid just outside the castle and Hagrid starts crying.
* Malfoy is there and starts making fun of Hagrid.
* So Hermione marches up to him and slaps him.
* Everyone is stunned and Malfoy stomps off.
* Later that day, Hermione misses Charms class, and the boys find her asleep upstairs in Gryffindor Tower.
* Hermione freaks out and rushes off to apologize to Professor Flitwick.
* The boys can't figure out how in the world she forgot to go to Charms.
* That afternoon they head to Divination and Hermione finally loses it over how stupid the class is.
* She storms out in a huff, stunning everyone.
* Trelawney says that she knew that was going to happen. Of course.
* "Some day Hermione's having, eh? Ron muttered to Harry, looking awed" (15.2.76).
* Easter break is filled with homework and stress over the upcoming Quidditch final.
* The night before the match, Harry spies Crookshanks wandering around outside with a big black dog. Mysterious.
* It's game day and the school is excited. It's like the World Cup and the Super Bowl rolled into one.
* The match is a furious one, and the Slytherins play dirty.
* Lee Jordan yells a lot during his commentary and emotions run very high.
* The entire match hinges on Harry, who has to let Gryffindor rack up enough points before he gets the snitch, to ensure that his team wins the cup.
* Harry and Malfoy race for the snitch and Harry grabs it at the last second.
* Everyone freaks out and the entire team screams and cries and tackles Harry in a giant group hug.
* Harry lifts up the Quidditch Cup alongside Wood and feels like he could make the best Patronus ever right now.

***Critical Analysis:***

Hagrid has lost his case and Buckbeak is to be executed. Harry, Ron and Hermione are very upset. The news has stopped the feud between Ron and Hermione. While the three are outside, they hear Malfoy gloating to Crabbe and Goyle about Buckbeak's upcoming execution. Just as Ron is about to hit him, Hermione walks up to him and slaps him hard in the face. Then, she pulls her wand on him. They take off and head back to the school. Ron is amazed at Hermione's uncharacteristic attack on Malfoy. They head back to classes, but Hermione seems to have disappeared.

They find her sleeping in the common room. She seems confused when they wake her and unaware that she has missed the last class. Ron thinks she's cracking up. They head to Divination and Hermione acts out of character again, telling off Professor Trelawney. She's had enough of the teacher's quackish predictions. She storms out of the classroom.

The tension of the big Quidditch match against Slytherin is building. Everyone is guarding Harry and the Firebolt so Slytherin doesn't try sabotage. Harry must not catch the Snitch until they are up by fifty points, or they will lose their chance at the Cup. On the night before the match, Harry is wakened by nightmares and gets up for some water. When he looks out the window he sees Crookshanks and a black shaggy dog trotting beside her. He realizes that it can't be an omen if the cat can see it also.

The next day, the Gryffindor's head to the field and Harry is wished good luck from Cho. It is a dirty match and Slytherin is trying every rotten trick to win the game. Gryffindor is up thirty points. Several times, Slytherin tries to take Harry out of the game, but the Firebolt is too fast for them. Gryffindor is at over fifty points ahead. Harry spots the Snitch and goes for it, but Malfoy catches the end of his Firebolt and holds him back. This causes a foul and Harry misses the Snitch. Suddenly, Harry sees Malfoy racing downwards toward the Snitch. Harry makes it just in time to knock Malfoy's arm away and grab the Snitch in his hand. Gryffindor has won the Cup.

Hermione is cracking under the pressure of the added classes and Ron and Harry don't understand how she is managing it all. Ron is impressed, however, with the new rule-breaking Hermione and delighted that she has slapped Malfoy and told off Trelawney.

Harry sees a shaggy dog outside with Crookshanks and he wonders what it could mean. He realizes that it must not have been a grim after all. If it were, the cat would not have been able to see it.

In winning the Quidditch cup for Gryffindor, he has found a moment happy enough to produce a spectacular Patronus that would repel an army of Dementors.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) offers [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) the note from [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/rubeus-hagrid). It's spotted with tears and reads that [Buckbeak](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/buckbeak)'s execution date hasn't been decided yet. Hermione says that [Lucius Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/lucius-malfoy) scared the Committee into it, and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) promises to help with Buckbeak's appeal. At this, Hermione throws her arms around Ron's neck and apologizes about [Scabbers](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/scabbers-peter-pettigrew).

***Analysis Part 1:***

It's telling that Ron and Hermione make up after they're forced into shifting their attention to another of their friends. This shows that friendship, in all forms, can be used to encourage other friends to make up and think better of each other.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter), [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley), and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) can only talk to [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/rubeus-hagrid) during Care of Magical Creatures, as security measures don't allow them out of the castle in the evenings. One day after class, Hagrid cries. As the trio walks up to the castle, they see [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/draco-malfoy), [Crabbe](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters), and [Goyle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) inside the castle doors, laughing at Hagrid. Hermione slaps Malfoy across the face and berates him. Terrified, Malfoy runs, and Hermione tells Harry that Gryffindor has to win the Quidditch final against Slytherin. They head to Charms but as Ron and Harry arrive, they realize that Hermione is gone. She doesn't turn up all class and misses the lesson on Cheering Charms.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Hermione's absence for Cheering Charms suggests that the responsibility of having to remember her schedule and move back and forth through time is starting to negatively affect her life. Especially when her compromised mental health seems to instigate her hitting Malfoy, it suggests that there are major consequences to using time travel for personal gain.

***Summary Part 3:***

After lunch, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) find [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) asleep on an Arithmancy book in the common room. She's distraught when she realizes she "forgot" to go to Charms, and Ron tells her that she's doing too much. A bit later she joins the boys for Divination and they sit at a table around a crystal ball. [Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-trelawney) greets the class and says that "the fates have informed her" that they need to start crystal balls early, since they'll be on the exam. Hermione snorts that Trelawney writes the exam, but Trelawney ignores her.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Because Hermione is able to manipulate time herself, she doesn't take Trelawney's predictions at all seriously. Hermione has the privilege of seeing how multiple things play out because she actually is in multiple places at once, and the fact that she takes time travel so seriously makes it seem as though Trelawney's frivolous predictions aren't worth her time.

***Summary Part 4:***

As [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter), [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley), and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) look at their ball, Hermione hisses that she'd be better off using this time to learn Cheering Charms. Ron jokes that the foggy crystal ball means that there's going to be fog tonight, which makes Harry and Hermione laugh. [Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-trelawney) reprimands them and then sits down at their table and breathily says that she sees the Grim in Harry's ball. When Hermione deems this ridiculous, Trelawney angrily tells Hermione that her mind is "hopelessly mundane." Hermione packs up her things and leaves. [Lavender](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) reminds Trelawney that she predicted someone would leave around Easter.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Though in some ways, Trelawney is doing Hermione a favor by basically encouraging her to drop the class—Hermione clearly doesn't like it and finds it a waste of time—it's also worth noting that saying things like this to students isn't entirely appropriate. This moment begins to shift Trelawney more in the direction of Professor Snape and his outright favoritism.

***Summary Part 5:***

The Easter holidays are barely a holiday with everyone's exam preparations. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) works on [Buckbeak](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/buckbeak)'s appeal in his spare time, while [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) has Quidditch practice every evening. [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) reminds Harry constantly that in the coming match against Slytherin, he can't catch the Snitch unless Gryffindor is ahead by at least 50 points.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Ron's choice to take over research for Buckbeak’s appeal shows that now that he understands his friendships with Hermione and Hagrid are more important than anything else, he can show them this by putting in the work and following through on his promises.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) has several bad dreams two nights before the match and finally wakes up before dawn. He goes to the window and sees [Crookshanks](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/crookshanks) on the lawn with the huge black dog. Harry tries to wake [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) and wonders if the dog is actually an omen if Crookshanks can also see it.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Seeing Crookshanks with the dog suggests that the dog is real—it's not just a vision. In this way, Crookshanks starts to act as a voice of reason and as a test for what Harry should take seriously or not.

***Summary Part 7:***

The morning of the match, Ravenclaws and Hufflepuffs wish [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) good luck. The Gryffindor team steps onto the field. [Madam Hooch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) sends the players off and the game immediately turns dirty. Slytherins crash into Gryffindor players, and [Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/fred-weasley) throws his Beater's club at a Slytherin player. Madam Hooch awards a number of penalties and Gryffindor's lead grows. Harry sees the Snitch and races for it, but [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/draco-malfoy) grabs the Firebolt's tail and slows Harry down. Several Slytherin players converge on [Angelina](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters), so Harry flies at them and scatters them all. However, when he turns his attention back to Malfoy, he sees that Malfoy is diving for the Snitch. Harry chases him, knocks Malfoy's arm aside, and catches the Snitch. The Gryffindor supporters scream, and Gryffindor wins the Quidditch Cup.

***Analysis Part 7:***

The fact that both Gryffindor and Slytherin players play dirty during this game shows that though the Gryffindors are cast as the "good guys" throughout the series, they're not above meeting the Slytherins at their level. In other words, the tenor of this match humanizes both teams and shows that they all just want to win the Cup. Madam Hooch's penalties are an attempt to create a sense of justice and fairness for a game that, to an outside observer, looks as though it isn't fair at all.