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

#### **Chapter 8-Flight of the Fat Lady**

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

Lupin quickly becomes the students' favorite professor. All but Malfoy are happy with his class and all Malfoy can say is that his robes are shabby. The rest of Harry's classes are not going as well. Potions is a difficult task, with Snape constantly harassing him and his friends. Divination is boring and odd.

Ron's rat, Scabbers and Hermione's cat, Crookshanks, are fighting constantly now. As a result, Ron and Hermione are fighting as well. The cat is relentless in the pursuit of the rat, who seems to be losing weight and acting oddly.

It is Halloween day and the long awaited trip to Hogsmeade has arrived for the third year students. Harry cannot go along, because he does not have a signed permission slip. He wishes his friends a good time and decides to go get some homework done.

Harry passes Lupin's office and the Professor invites him in for a cup of tea, asking where his friends are today. Harry tells him about Hogsmeade and then asks him why he jumped in front of him and the Boggart. Lupin tells him that he was afraid that the Boggart would turn into Voldemort. Harry is surprised at his honesty and at the fact that Lupin is the only one, besides himself and Headmaster Dumbledore; he has ever heard call the dark wizard by his proper name. Harry tells him that he was not thinking of Voldemort, but of the Dementors. Lupin is impressed by this. He tells Harry that his action indicates that what he fears most is fear itself.

Professor Snape enters the office with a goblet in his hand. He tells Lupin that he should drink it right away. Harry asks why he needs a potion from Snape and he tells him that he has not been feeling well and Snape has been kind enough to make it for him.

After Harry's talk with Lupin, he heads back to the dorm. Ron and Hermione soon come into the common room, dumping sweets on his lap and telling him all about their trip. They all head down to the Great Hall for the Halloween Feast.

When they return back to their dorm after dinner, they find that the fat lady is gone and her portrait has been slashed to shreds. Headmaster Dumbledore comes to the Gryffindor dorm and is very upset by what he sees. Peeves shows up and tells the Headmaster that it was Sirius Black who has shredded the painting, because the fat lady would not let him enter the dorm.

Harry is very forlorn that he does not get to go to Hogsmeade. He is even more upset to see his new favorite professor drinking a potion made by Snape. He fears that Snape is trying to poison Lupin. Harry is proud that Lupin tells him that he is wise to only fear the emotion of fear itself. He's also impressed that Lupin says Voldemort's correct name. There are many hints in this chapter, as it is getting near the midpoint of the book. Even with all the Dementor's outside, Sirius Black has managed to get into the school.

***Synopsis:***

* Defense Against the Dark Arts becomes everyone's favorite class.
* Lupin does lots of practical lessons, which are fun.
* However, Potions become worse than usual: "Snape was in a particularly vindictive mood these days, and no one was in any doubt why. The story of the boggart assuming Snape's shape, and the way that Neville had dressed it in his grandmother's clothes, had traveled through the school like wildfire. Snape didn't seem to find it funny" (8.1.4).
* Trelawney continues to act deranged and manages to make a dire prediction about Harry every class.
* Hagrid lost his confidence after the Buckbeak debacle and his class becomes the most boring thing ever.
* Harry is happy about the kick-off of Quidditch season, at least.
* Team captain Oliver Wood is determined to win the Quidditch Cup, especially since this is his last year at Hogwarts.
* But Harry is bummed out when the first Hogsmeade trip approaches, since he doesn't have a signed permission form.
* In other news, Crookshanks continues to chase Scabbers around, prompting a series of shouting matches between Hermione and Ron.
* And speaking of pets, Lavender hears that her pet rabbit died and she's rather upset by the news.
* She insists that Trelawney predicted that this would happen. Hermione tries to use logic to convince everyone otherwise, but no one listens to her.
* Hermione makes like Agent Brennan on Bones here, and annoys everyone with her skepticism and her blunt delivery.
* Harry goes to see McGonagall about his permission form, but she refuses to let him go to Hogsmeade without one.
* So on Halloween morning, every third year except Harry heads off to Hogsmeade.
* Harry wanders around and ends up in Lupin's classroom.
* The two chat for a while and Harry confesses his concern over the boggart.
* Lupin says that he assumed Harry's boggart would turn into Voldemort and would scare everyone else too badly.
* But Harry says he thought of the Dementors instead. Lupin is impressed since a fear of Dementors implies that Harry is most afraid of fear.
* Snape appears and instantly ruins the mood. The man's like a permanent wet-blanket.
* He gives Lupin some sort of potion and the two have a cryptic conversation.
* Harry instantly assumes that Snape is trying to poison Lupin.
* Later, Ron and Hermione return with tons of candy and stuff for Harry from Hogsmeade. Sigh.
* The Halloween feast is awesome as usual.
* But afterwards, everyone heads to the common rooms and encounter a traffic jam on the stairs.
* Turns out, the Fat Lady portrait is gone and her canvas has been ripped to shreds.
* The Professors quickly appear and Peeves, the school poltergeist, tells everyone that the Fat Lady was cut up by Sirius Black after she refused to let him inside.
* Hogwarts needs a new security system, pronto.

***Brief Analysis(Ch7-8):***

From this point on, defense against the dark arts becomes everybody's favorite class. Nobody dislikes it except for Malfoy, who enjoys gossiping about the shabby state of Professor Lupin's robes. Gryffindor House begins practicing Quidditch in the hope of winning the Quidditch House Cup. Halloween nears, signifying the first visit to Hogsmeade. Harry is still distraught at being unable to go, so his friends promise to bring him back lots of sweets. Ron and Hermione agree in their sympathy for Harry, although the rest of the time they argue venomously about their pets, especially one evening when Crookshanks makes another attack on Scabbers.

During the Hogsmeade visit, Professor Lupin invites Harry for tea in his office. At one point, Harry asks why he was not given the chance to fight the Boggart, and Lupin answers that he didn't want Voldemort to appear in the classroom. This is a surprise to Harry, who explains that he was more concerned about the Dementors. Lupin looks thoughtful and says, "That suggests that what you fear most of all is fear. Very wise, Harry." They are interrupted by Snape, who enters the room bearing a steaming goblet, whose contents Lupin promptly drinks. Harry worries that Snape is poisoning Lupin in order to get his teaching position, but the subtle hints he makes are left unheeded by Lupin.

When the students return from Hogsmeade, Harry receives a bundle of candy from Ron and Hermione. He informs them of what he saw with Lupin. They attend the Halloween feast, and on their walk back to Gryffindor Tower, they are horrified to see that the portrait of the Fat Lady, who guards the entrance to Gryffindor, has been slashed, the Fat Lady herself missing. Peeves the Poltergeist is cackling midair during the commotion as he informs them that Sirius Black had attacked the portrait.

When Lupin wants to know what is on Harry's mind, Harry openly asks why he was not allowed to fight the Boggart, and Lupin answers just as openly. This scene reveals a more adult dialogue between Harry and his teachers, illustrating a new element of Harry's maturity and confidence. Furthermore, it reveals a self- knowledge in Harry. He recognizes his weakness and seeks to remedy it. In previous situations, Harry has learned things that he happens to remember in time to use against foes, but never does he seek out this sort of basic self- improvement. In this situation, Harry is beginning to take initiative. Lupin's honesty with Harry's questions is admirable, as is his kindness in handling the delicate matters of Harry's worrying. We already have a respect for his competency with fighting dark creatures. These chapters show the gradual process of Harry being singled out as different from other students. Snape holds a grudge over Gryffindor House, and much of this grudge has been linked historically in past books to Harry being in Gryffindor. Thus, he loves to pick on Harry's friends, specifically Hermione for being a know-it-all and Neville for being incompetent. This maleficent attitude makes Harry feel helpless in a way that only the Dursleys and Snape have the power to make him feel. In most other classes, Harry gets along with teachers quite well. In Defense Against the Dark Arts, he and Professor Lupin carry on a fine rapport, and the only problem occurs when the class fights the Boggart without any contribution from Harry. This is certainly deliberate, and it makes Harry feel weak and ashamed, as if he were perceived as not strong enough to take a stand against his greatest fear. Harry is singled out a third time when he is the only third-year student who is not allowed to visit Hogsmeade over the weekend. It is significant of Harry's age and fields of concern that when he overheard Ron's father saying that Black was after Harry, Harry's first thought was not fear for his life, but rather a dull realization that he would never be allowed to Hogsmeade in these circumstances. Being included in these sorts of adventures means a great deal to Harry, and his feeling of defeat as he sits down to converse with Lupin must be considered.

***Critical Study(Ch 5-8):***

The morning finally arrives for Harry, Hermione, and the Weasleys to catch the Hogwarts Express to school. The Leaky Cauldron buzzes with anticipation as everyone finishes their last-minute packing. Then, they all pile into two long, green cars sent by the Ministry of Magic to take them to King's Cross Station. Once at the station, Mr. Weasley pulls Harry aside, obviously tense about whatever he is about to share with Harry; however, before Mr. Weasley can say a word, Harry tells him that he already knows [Sirius Black](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list#sirius-black) may be after him. He admits to having overheard [Mr. and Mrs. Weasley](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list#mr-and-mrs-weasley)'s argument the night before. Mr. Weasley, though upset that Harry had to find out that way, is reassured by Harry's confidence and courage. He warns him not to leave Hogwarts castle and to stay constantly on his guard. Right before the train leaves, Mr. Weasley makes Harry promise he won't go looking for Black. Harry doesn't understand why he would ever seek out someone who wants to kill him, but there isn't time to ask for clarification.

Once they're all in the train, Harry, Ron, and Hermione find an almost empty compartment. The only other person in the compartment with them is an adult, likely a professor, and he appears to be fast asleep. According to the embroidery on his briefcase, his name is R.J. Lupin. But given his unconscious state, the three friends speak freely. Harry tells Ron and Hermione about the conversation he overheard at the Weasleys', about how Sirius Black is likely out to find Harry. At one point in their conversation, Harry's Sneakoscope goes off, but Ron dismisses it as a malfunction due to it being a rather cheap Sneakoscope. Ron suggests they get it checked out at the wizard supplies shop in Hogsmeade.

Harry then explains that the Dursleys refused to sign his Hogsmeade permission slip, so he will unfortunately not be able to join them in the village. Ron is devastated by this news, but Hermione takes it rather approvingly. She doesn't think Harry should be leaving the castle with Black on the loose. In the midst of their conversation, the train halts for no apparent reason. The lights go out in all the compartments, and the air turns freezing cold. In the confusion, Neville Longbottom and Ginny Weasley stumble into the compartment, too. Professor Lupin wakes up from his nap and asks them all to quiet down. He illuminates the cabin with a small fire ball, and in doing so, reveals a tall, cloaked figure looming over their compartment with long, black hands that look like they're entirely scabbed over. The figure takes long, rattling breaths, and sucks the life out of the air around it. Faced with this creature, Harry's eyes roll back in his head. Right before he passes out, he hears a bloodcurdling scream...

Upon waking, Lupin informs Harry that the creature was a Dementor, one of the guards of Azkaban. Lupin feeds them all chocolate, a widely known remedy for encounters with Dementors, and they pass the rest of their journey to Hogwarts in tense silence. Once they arrive at Hogwarts, Harry and Hermione are immediately separated from the pack by Professor Minerva McGonagall, head of Gryffindor. McGonagall sends Harry to Madame Pomfrey, who runs the infirmary, and discusses with Hermione mysterious details about her course schedule that are not made clear to the reader. When Harry and Hermione finally arrive at the feast, the new students have already been sorted and Dumbledore is announcing two new professors. The first is Lupin, the new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor. The second is Hagrid, who is taking over the Care of Magical Creatures class.

At breakfast the next day, fellow Gryffindors commiserate with Harry over the horror of the Dementors while the Slytherins hurl insults across the Great Hall. Malfoy, in particular, enjoys imitating Harry fainting on the train. Harry, Ron, and Hermione prepare to attend their first class of the year, Divination with [Sybill Trelawney](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list" \l "sybill-trelawney), when Ron notices the impossible timing of Hermione's classes, many of which seem to take place at the same time. Hermione changes the subject, and they set out for the top of the North Tower, where they find a strange, attic-like classroom full of incense clouds and plush, bohemian armchairs. Once they are seated, Professor Trelawney emerges from the smoke, described as looking like "a large, glittering insect" (102). The first class pertains to reading and interpreting tea leaves. Some students immediately trust and admire Trelawney for her unorthodox methods while others, like Hermione, are highly skeptical. Class ends when Trelawney reads a death omen in Harry's teacup, an omen which she calls "The Grim." The Grim manifests as a large, black dog, the same omen Harry saw on the cover of the book in Flourish and Blotts.

The death omen makes Harry uneasy, despite Hermione's assurance that Divination is not to be trusted. After lunch, the three of them head to Hagrid's first Care of Magical Creatures class, where he tries to teach them the proper way to interact with Hippogriffs, animals that have the body of a horse and the head and wings of an eagle. Hagrid explains that Hippogriffs are proud animals, and they must be approached with respect. Harry successfully rides a Hippogriff named Buckbeak. When he lands, Malfoy wants a try, but when he taunts the animal it attacks him. Class abruptly ends and Malfoy is brought to the infirmary, where he exaggerates his injury in an attempt to have Hagrid fired. Later that evening, Harry, Ron, and Hermione sneak out to Hagrid's cabin to console him and assure him that they will testify on his behalf if there is any sort of hearing. Hagrid appreciates their support and gives them a "bone-breaking hug" (121) until he suddenly realizes that they're breaking the rules by coming to see him after hours. He scolds them and sends them back to the castle.

The following chapter finds Harry, Ron, and Hermione in the dreaded Professor Snape's potions class towards the end of their first week of classes. They are attempting to brew a shrinking potion. It also happens to be the first class [Draco Malfoy](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list#draco-malfoy) has attended since his brush with Hagrid's hippogriff, and he's continuing to exaggerate the injury for dramatic effect. At one point in the middle of class, Malfoy knowingly harasses Harry about Sirius Black being on the loose. Malfoy cryptically suggests that Harry has a reason to seek revenge against Sirius Black, saying, "If it was me, I'd have something before now. I wouldn't be staying in school like a good boy, I'd be out there looking for him" (127). Harry has no idea what Malfoy is talking about, but before he can attempt to clarify, Snape butts in and forces Neville to demonstrate his shrinking potion in front of the entire class.

Later that day they attend their first Defense Against the Dark Arts class with Professor Lupin and are pleasantly surprised to find that it is "practical class," meaning no books, just wands. In that first class, Lupin has arranged for them to fight a Boggart, a shapeshifting creature that takes the form of whatever its beholder fears the most. When it isn't trying to scare people, it lives hidden in confined spaces—this particular Boggart lives in a wardrobe, which Lupin had moved to the staff hall. The only way to defeat a Boggart is with a spell called *riddikulus*, which turns the caster's greatest fear into something comical. One by one, Harry's classmates face the Boggart, and their fears; but once it's Harry's turn, Lupin steps in. When *he* faces the Boggart, it becomes "a silvery-white orb hanging in the air" (138). Neville finishes the Boggart off by putting his greatest fear (Professor Snape) into a lace gown, which causes it to "burst into a thousand tiny wisps of smoke" (139).

Before long, Lupin becomes most of the students' favorite professor. Harry likes him too, but is frustrated and confused about why Lupin hadn't given him a chance to face the Boggart. Harry guessed that if he had faced it, it would've turned into a Dementor. But thankfully, the Quidditch season is right around the corner and will provide Harry with a much-needed distraction from classes and the Sirius Black problem. It's been seven years since Gryffindor has won a Quidditch cup, and with the team captain Oliver Wood in his final year at Hogwarts, the pressure is on to take the title. At their first practice, Oliver gives a bracing and mildly desperate speech about their need to win.

When Harry returns to his dorm from practice, the Gryffindor common room is buzzing with excitement because the first Hogsmeade weekend has been officially scheduled for Halloween. Ron convinces Harry to ask Professor McGonagall at the end of their next Transfiguration class, but much to Harry's dismay, McGonagall firmly denies his request. So that Halloween, while all of the upperclassmen are off enjoying the Village, Harry stays behind and wanders the halls of Hogwarts. He tries to do homework but can't focus; he tries to lounge in the common room but is hounded by eager underclassmen. Just as Harry is being scolded by the caretaker Filch for wandering the halls for no reason, Professor Lupin invites Harry into his office for a chat. There, Lupin confesses that he did willfully prevent Harry from facing the Boggart, not because he thought Harry was incapable of defeating it, but because he assumed that in front of Harry, the Boggart would have taken the form of Lord Voldemort. Harry tells Lupin that he thought it might turn into Voldemort at first, but then he thought he was more afraid of the Dementor. Lupin commends Harry for this, saying it suggests that the thing he fears most is fear itself.

In the middle of their chat, Snape strides into Lupin's office with a cup of potion for Lupin to drink. Lupin explains to Harry that he's been feeling unwell, and that Professor Snape is the only wizard in the building capable of making such a complicated potion, but he never says what the potion is. Once he's alone again with Lupin, Harry suggests that Snape would go to any lengths to be able to teach the Defense Against the Dark Arts class, but Lupin seems uninterested in Harry's accusations.

When everyone returns from Hogsmeade, Harry joins Ron and Hermione at the Halloween Feast in the Great Hall. The food is, as usual, delicious, and all of the third years are glowing from their first excursion to Hogsmeade. Ron and Hermione have brought back a haul of treats from Honeydukes to share with Harry. Over dinner, Harry tells his friends about his curious visit with Professor Lupin and the mysterious potion that he drank from Snape. Harry and Ron seem convinced that Snape is poisoning Lupin, but Hermione has her doubts. After a great feast, Harry, Ron, and Hermione walk back to the Gryffindor dorms with the rest of their house, but when they arrive at the portal into their dorm—a painting of "The Fat Lady"—they find the painting slashed and The Fat Lady nowhere to be found. Alarmed, the head boy Percy Weasley calls for [Albus Dumbledore](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list#albus-dumbledore) to assess the situation. When Dumbledore arrives, Peeves, the mischievous poltergeist, informs them all that the person who slashed the painting is none other than Sirius Black.

In these chapters, Rowling introduces more clues pointing towards major revelations about [Harry Potter](https://www.gradesaver.com/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/study-guide/character-list#harry-potter)'s relationship with Sirius Black; these revelations, known by others, for example Arthur Weasley and Draco Malfoy, remain a mystery to both Harry and the reader, but create tension by simmering just under the surface. An early instance of this occurs right before Harry boards the Hogwarts Express; Arthur makes Harry swear he won't go *looking*for Black. Harry asks, "Why would I go looking for someone I know wants to kill me?" (73), and thus triggers the same question in the reader's mind. Why *would*Harry go looking for Black?

Then later on, in Snape's potions class, Draco Malfoy taunts Harry on the subject of Black. He says, "Thinking of trying to catch Black single-handed, Potter?" (127). Of course, Harry doesn't know what Malfoy is talking about, but he resists engaging him. Then Malfoy suggests that if *he*were in Harry's situation, he would've already taken his revenge on Sirius Black. Still oblivious to what Draco is talking about, Draco says to Harry, "Don't you *know*, Potter?" (127). Harry asks him, now with more urgency, what he could possibly be talking about, but Snape interrupts before any answers are revealed. Once again, Harry and the reader remain in the dark when it seems obvious that there is a major omission staring us in the face that has a significant bearing on the plot. Obviously there is a secret waiting to be revealed, something that explains how Harry's past collides in a significant way with Black's.

One way Rowling achieves this shared consciousness between Harry and the reader is by maintaining a close-third-person perspective on Harry, meaning that though the book is narrated in the third-person, the narration is closest to Harry's mind and slips at times into "free indirect discourse" and rhetorical questioning that makes it seem like we have entered the live consciousness of Harry Potter. For example, at the end of their first lively Defense Against the Dark Arts class with Professor Lupin, everyone in the class is excitedly discussing the lesson, but Harry is obviously disappointed that he wasn't given a chance to fend off the Boggart. He's even more upset by the idea that Lupin doesn't think he has the constitution to face his greatest fear. But instead of simply reporting his feelings through a distanced, omniscient third-person narrator, Rowling writes: "Harry, however, wasn't feeling cheerful. Professor Lupin had deliberately stopped him from tackling the Boggart. Why? Was it because he'd seen Harry collapse on the train, and thought he wasn't up to much? Had he thought Harry would pass out again?" (139). Over time, this pattern of free indirect discourse and rhetorical questioning allows the reader to accept that the narration can, at times, be limited to Harry's mind and the scope of his knowledge. At other times, the narration possesses history, exposition, and world-building capabilities that Harry would not himself have.

Another point of interest slipped into the Defense Against the Dark Arts class is that Lupin, himself, faced the Boggart. When he stood in front of it, it took the form of "a silvery-white orb hanging in the air" (138), but there is no further explanation of what this might mean for Lupin's character. Later on, during Harry and Lupin's chat in his office, Snape delivers a "particularly complex" (157) potion for Lupin to take, of which he has prepared an entire cauldron for Lupin's continued use. Lupin dismisses whatever mystery ailment he has by simply saying he's "been feeling a bit off-color," (157) but odds are this chronic need for a complex potion will figure into a significant revelation about Lupin's character.

Harry's encounters with images and visions of large, black dogs continue in his first Divination class with Professor Trelawney, who reads a death omen in Harry's tea leaves. She refers to the omen as "the grim." Trelawney also makes several other predictions throughout the course of the class, firing off significant dates and portentous claims about the wellbeing of people's family members. But Divination is met with skepticism by some of the more "serious" wizards, including Hermione and Professor McGonagall, who both doubt Trelawney's ability to actually tell the future and scorn her willingness to fill students' minds with fear. This dichotomy of skepticism and, for some students, full acceptance of Divination, introduces a new ambiguity about what we can consider "real" in a world already steeped in fantasy. There is a situational irony about witches and wizards calling Divination and fortune-telling a hack profession when, for the reader, wizardry and magic are already so far beyond the pale of what we consider normal reality. The students' questioning of Trelawney's credibility also puts the reader on guard to validate or disprove her predictions. For example, when Lavender Brown's rabbit dies on the sixteenth of October, it recalls us to that first Divination class when Trelawney told Lavender that something she's been dreading will happen on that date. But Hermione is quick to poke holes in Trelawney's vision, even as Lavender weeps for her dead pet. This scene demonstrates the difficulty of verifying whether a vision has been fulfilled; there may be a certain amount of faith and narrativizing required to believe in Divination, but does that make it false?

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

***Summary Part 1:***

Defense Against the Dark Arts soon becomes everyone's favorite class. Potions, however, gets even worse for [Neville](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/neville-longbottom) once the story of [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-snape)'s appearance as a boggart gets around. [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) hates Divination the most, as [Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-trelawney) starts to cry every time she sees him. Nobody enjoys Care of Magical Creatures much, as [Hagrid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/rubeus-hagrid) decides to teach the class to care for boring flobberworms. Fortunately, in October, Quidditch practice starts in earnest. [Oliver Wood](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood), the Gryffindor captain, holds a meeting one evening to tell the team that this is his last chance to win the Quidditch Cup before he leaves school.

***Analysis Part 1:***

When Snape actively starts to take revenge against Neville for what happened with the boggart, it indicates that Snape has no business teaching—he's not at all fair and cannot empathize with his students. Notice too that when Hagrid loses his confidence, the entire class suffers. This offers two ends of an extreme: while Snape can't teach because he's too confident, Hagrid can't teach (but isn't malicious) because he has no confidence.

***Summary Part 2:***

One evening, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) returns to the common room after practice to find everyone excited. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) explains that the school announced the first Hogsmeade outing on Halloween and Harry throws himself into a chair. Ron suggests that Harry ask [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) for permission, while [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) disapprovingly tells Harry to stay at school. [Crookshanks](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/crookshanks) interrupts the conversation by leaping into Hermione's lap with a dead spider. Ron tells Hermione to control Crookshanks, as [Scabbers](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/scabbers-peter-pettigrew) is asleep in Ron's bag. Without warning, Crookshanks leaps at the bag. Ron swings the bag around, sending Scabbers flying out the top. Crookshanks pursues Scabbers until Scabbers finds refuge under a chest and Hermione manages to catch the cat. Furious, Ron yells at Hermione and then stalks off to the dormitory.

***Analysis Part 2:***

While Ron has every right to be protective of his pet, he could also benefit from understanding that cats chase rats and it's part of their nature. In this way, what's happening here is no different than Buckbeak striking Malfoy when Malfoy insulted him. This indicates that, because Ron has such a personal connection to Scabbers, he's unable to take this wider view that cuts animals more slack for acting in accordance with their species.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) barely speaks to [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) in Herbology the next day. When the class lines up later for Transfiguration, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) notices [Lavender Brown](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) crying. Hermione asks Lavender what's wrong, and Lavender explains that [Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-trelawney)'s prediction came true—it's the 16th of October, and she just got news that her rabbit died. Hesitantly, Hermione points out that Lavender only got the news today; the rabbit didn't die today, and Lavender wasn't dreading his death. Ron says loudly that Hermione doesn't care about other people's pets.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Hermione's unwillingness to accept Trelawney's prediction as fact suggests that Hermione trusts her own version of events and her own interpretations over those of someone who, to her, looks like a fraud. This shows that she doesn't think of Trelawney as an authority figure in the same way that she thinks of McGonagall or Dumbledore as being authority figures—she trusts what they say and takes them at their word.

***Summary Part 4:***

At the end of Transfiguration, [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) reminds the class to hand in their Hogsmeade permission forms. [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) approaches her desk and asks for permission to go. McGonagall apologizes and says that she can't sign. In the hallway, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) calls McGonagall names while [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) looks as though it's for the best. Ron tries to cheer Harry up by reminding him of the Halloween feast, but it doesn't work. To make matters worse, even [Percy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/percy-weasley) admits that Hogsmeade is fun.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The fact that all Harry really wants is to go on a class trip with his friends reminds the reader that for all Harry's other problems, he's still a thirteen-year-old boy before he's anything else. His inability to see Hermione's point of view or take Sirius Black's threat seriously reinforces his youth and lack of maturity.

***Summary Part 5:***

On Halloween, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) feels very morose. [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) and Hermione even put aside their argument over [Crookshanks](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/crookshanks) to promise to bring Harry candy from Honeydukes. [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/draco-malfoy) taunts Harry about the [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) as Harry walks Ron and Hermione to the door and then wanders around the castle. He decides to visit [Hedwig](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) when he hears [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) call his name. When Lupin ascertains that Harry is the only student not in Hogsmeade, he invites Harry into his office to see the class's next creature. He offers Harry tea and, with a twinkle, suggests that Harry has probably had enough of tealeaves. [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) informed him of [Trelawney](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-trelawney)'s prediction and he asks Harry if he's worried. Harry tells Lupin he's not, but decides not to tell him about the dog in Magnolia Crescent.

***Analysis Part 5:***

By inviting Harry in for tea, Professor Lupin begins to move their relationship towards one that's more personal. In doing so, Lupin shows Harry even more that he's someone who can be trusted, while his attitude and comment about Trelawney further discredit Divination as a subject. When Harry thinks of the dog in Magnolia Crescent, it shows that on some level, he is taking Trelawney's prediction seriously, as he appears to believe that the dog is the Grim.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) asks [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) if there's something wrong, so Harry asks why he wasn't allowed to fight the boggart. He's surprised when Lupin doesn't deny it; Lupin explains that he didn't think [Voldemort](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/voldemort) appearing in the staff room would be a good idea. Harry admits that he's more scared of [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) than Voldemort, which impresses Lupin—he says that this means Harry fears fear, and asks if Harry's been thinking that Lupin didn't think him capable of fighting the boggart.

***Analysis Part 6:***

The fact that Lupin tells Harry the truth shows that he believes his students deserve to be treated like adults and have their concerns taken seriously. When Harry is surprised that Lupin does tell the truth, it shows that up to this point, Harry has been able to expect that adults will keep things from him and treat him like a child.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-snape) knocks on the door and lets himself in. He gives [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) a smoking goblet, tells him to drink it now, and [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) notices a strange look on Snape's face. After Snape leaves, Lupin explains that he's been feeling a bit off and this potion is the only thing that helps. He praises Snape's skill as he drinks the concoction. Harry feels tempted to knock the goblet away and says that it's rumored that Snape is willing to do anything to get the Defense Against the Dark Arts job. Lupin expresses little interest in this.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Note that throughout the series, it's common knowledge for everyone—students and staff alike—that Snape wants to teach Defense Against the Dark Arts. This suggests that Harry isn't telling Lupin anything he doesn't already know, while Harry's suspicion indicates that he believes he knows more than the adults around him.

***Summary Part 8:***That evening, [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) dumps an armful of candy in [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter)'s lap and then he and [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) tell Harry all about their Hogsmeade adventure. Hermione and Ron are aghast when Harry tells them about the potion that [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) drank, and they wonder if [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-snape) is trying to poison him. During the Halloween feast, the trio watches Lupin and Snape closely, but Lupin looks normal and Snape looks only a little on edge.

***Analysis Part 8:***The thought that Snape is trying to poison Lupin is of course absurd, but it's easy to see why the trio would suspect this given how Snape treats them and how he seems to treat Lupin—though it is a huge leap to go from poisoning students' pets to hurting fellow teachers.

***Summary Part 9:***After the feast, [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) head back to Gryffindor Tower, but the hallway in front of the [Fat Lady](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters)'s portrait is unusually packed with students. [Percy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/percy-weasley) pushes to the front but drops his pompous attitude when he gets to the portrait hole. He sends for [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/albus-dumbledore), who arrives nearly instantly, and Harry finally sees that the Fat Lady's portrait has been destroyed. Just as Dumbledore asks [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) to find [Filch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/filch), [Peeves](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) floats overhead and cackles with delight. He says that the Fat Lady is hiding on the fourth floor and that [Sirius Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) destroyed her portrait when she wouldn't let him in.

***Analysis Part 9:***The fact that the Fat Lady refused to let Sirius Black in shows how seriously she takes her job and her role as protector of the Gryffindor students. Again, this shows Harry that there are more people than he ever imagined at Hogwarts who are willing to help and protect him. In this case, even Peeves seems willing to play along and act like he's a good guy.