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

#### **Chapter 9-Grim Defeat**

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

The night after Black's break-in, all the students sleep in the Great Hall, while the professors, led by Dumbledore, search the castle for Black. They find nothing. Sir Cadogan replaces the Fat Lady as the Gryffindor entrance portrait, and he spends the days making up complicated passwords and challenging students to duels.

The weather takes a turn for the worse, and Gryffindor House approaches its first game against Hufflepuff, who has always been an unformidable opponent; still, Oliver Wood, the Gryffindor captain, warns his team to take Hufflepuff seriously. The day of the match, Harry enters his Defense Against the Dark Arts class to find Snape substituting, snarling at students, and scrapping Lupin's lesson plans in order to teach the class about werewolves.

Harry and the Gryffindor team take the field, and through the rain and wind it is impossible to see anything. Harry and Cedric Diggory, the Hufflepuff seeker, circle around each other looking for the Snitch, but with no avail. All of a sudden, Harry catches sight of a large black dog silhouetted against the bleachers; the next moment he spies the Snitch, and finally, as he pursues it on his trusty Nimbus 2000 broomstick, he looks down to see hundreds of Dementors milling around alongside the field. Harry feels intensely cold, hears the scream of his mother as Voldemort murdered her, and falls out of the sky. He wakes in the hospital wing to find that Cedric caught the Snitch, the Hufflepuffs won the game. Harry's Nimbus had landed in the Whomping Willow, an angry thrashing tree in the Forbidden Forest, and had been ruined.

***Synopsis:***

* Dumbledore sends all the students to the Great Hall to spend the night.
* The Professors spend the night searching the school for Black and making sure that things are secure.
* No one can sleep and everyone stays up late at the world's largest slumber party, talking about Black.
* Much later that night, the trio overhear Snape, Percy, and Dumbledore talking about Black too.
* No one knows how Black got in, but Snape hints that he has a theory. Dumbledore seems to shut him down, though.
* Things slowly go back to normal. But while the Fat Lady gets restored, the Gryffindors have to put up with her replacement: Sir Cadogan.
* Percy begins following Harry around and McGonagall informs Harry about Black being after him, which he already knows, of course.
* She tries to get Harry to stop going to Quidditch practice but he protests, and she finally agrees to let him practice as long as he has teacher supervision.
* The Quidditch team faces a setback when they learn that they'll be playing Hufflepuff rather than Slytherin in their first match of the year. Malfoy claims that his arm is still busted and that he can't play. Right.
* It's the day before the match, and Harry is late to Defense Against the Dark Arts due to Oliver Wood, who waylays him in the hall with last-minute Quidditch advice.
* Unfortunately for Harry, Snape is the substitute teacher that day.
* Snape proceeds to insult and infuriate the entire class, and then assigns them a crazy essay on werewolves.
* Ron loses his temper, as usual, and ends up with detention.
* The day of the match is very stormy and windy. Quidditch is so hard core that they play in any weather.
* Harry's day gets off to a crappy start too, when Peeves wakes him up at the crack of dawn.
* The team is nervous and miserable in the rain. Oliver shakes hands with the Hufflepuff team captain and Seeker, Cedric Diggory.
* And the game begins.
* Harry can't see on account of all the rain on his glasses, but Hermione puts a water-repelling spell on them during a time-out.
* The game is intense and Harry and Cedric spy the snitch at the same time.
* But as Harry goes to grab it, he feels cold and starts hearing his mother's murder again.
* He starts to fall and blacks out.
* When Harry comes to, he's in the infirmary, surrounded by his friends and teammates.
* He learns that the Dementors crashed the game and caused him to pass out again.
* Dumbledore saved Harry and ran the Dementors off. He was furious, which seems to freak everyone out nearly as much as the Dementors do.
* The bad news is that the Gryffindors lost the game since Diggory grabbed the snitch before he realized Harry had fallen.
* And it gets worse: Harry's broom flew over into the Whomping Willow, which ate it for lunch.
* Harry might just be the unluckiest person alive.

***Brief Analysis:***

All the students are rounded up into the Great Hall. The staff needs to do a complete search of the school. The students will be spending the night in the Hall and Dumbledore sets them all up with sleeping bags before leaving.

Later on in the night, Harry, still awake, overhears Dumbledore and Snape talking. Snape reminds the Headmaster that he thought Black could have outside help getting into the school. Dumbledore cuts the conversation short and leaves the Hall. Snape seems angry.

Classes get back underway and Harry arrives late to Lupin's class, only to find Snape in his place. Harry asks where Lupin is and Snape tells him that he is too ill to teach today. Snape decides to cover werewolves for the lesson, although the subject is not to start for weeks. He then assigns them a long essay on the subject of werewolves, due on Monday.

The following day is a big Quidditch match, Gryffindor against Hufflepuff. It is very windy and the rain is coming down fast, covering Harry's glasses. Hermione puts a spell on them to make them waterproof. The game starts and as Harry spots the Snitch and flies towards it, he sees many Dementors enter the playing field below him. Suddenly, he feels very cold and hears screaming inside his head as he begins to fall off his broom to the ground below.

He wakes in the hospital wing with the entire Quidditch team, Ron and Hermione around him. They are all drenched and muddy. They lost the game to Hufflepuff when Harry fell and the other teams Seeker caught the Snitch. Hufflepuff wanted to re-match, but Gryffindor declined, feeling they had won fair and square.

Dumbledore had chased the Dementor's away and was very angry that they had been on the field at all. Harry's broom was smashed to bits by a Womping Willow tree.

There are more hints in this chapter, leading to the middle of the book. Snape obviously has a suspect in mind that he feels is giving Black inside help. He also seems to have a dislike for Lupin that goes beyond his desire to take over his class. He assigns them a very long essay on werewolves. The entire class hopes that Lupin will return soon. Harry thinks that Lupin is ill because of something Snape has done to him.

The Dementor's are pulling memories out of Harry that he could not distinguish before. He realizes that it is his mother screaming in his head. He is hearing the memory of the night his parents were killed at the hands of Voldemort.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/albus-dumbledore) summons the entire school to the Great Hall. He announces that the students will sleep there while teachers search the castle, and he conjures sleeping bags. [Percy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/percy-weasley) shouts that the lights will go out in ten minutes, so [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) drag sleeping bags into a corner. Hermione and Ron note that they're lucky [Sirius Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) tried to break in tonight, since nobody was in the tower for him to hurt. They hear a Ravenclaw suggesting that Black Apparated into the castle, which annoys Hermione: according to Hogwarts: A History, a person can't Apparate in, and the [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) see through disguises.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Keep in mind that Sirius Black isn't actually after Harry and doesn't want to murder him. With this information, it becomes clear that Black specifically chose to sneak in tonight when there was nobody there, as people aren't his goal. Hermione's derision about the Ravenclaw student shows that she believes that what she reads in books is entirely true and doesn't question information when it comes from that kind of a source.

***Summary Part 2:***

At about three in the morning, [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/albus-dumbledore) finds [Percy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/percy-weasley) near [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). They pretend to sleep so they can listen. Dumbledore whispers to Percy that he's found a temporary guardian for the portrait hole, and [Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-snape) arrives to say that [Sirius Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) is nowhere to be found. Snape asks if Dumbledore has any theories as to how Black got in, and reminds Dumbledore of a conversation they had in which Snape expressed "concerns." Dumbledore, in a tone of finality, says that nobody in the castle would've helped Black get in. Percy asks if the [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) wanted to help search the castle, but Dumbledore replies that dementors won't enter the castle while he's around.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Dumbledore's reply to Snape implies that Snape thinks someone is helping Black enter the castle, which shows that Snape is just as suspicious of people as Harry, Ron, and Hermione are of him. Remember though that in the Shrieking Shack, Lupin will admit that he did inadvertently help Black by keeping it secret that he's an Animagus. However, because the trio distrusts Snape, they won't take him seriously here even though, in a way, he's right to be suspicious of Lupin.

***Summary Part 3:***

Over the next few days, the rumors about [Sirius Black](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) get wilder and wilder. [Sir Cadogan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sir-cadogan) replaces the [Fat Lady](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters), which annoys all the Gryffindors—he changes passwords all the time and challenges people to duels. Much to [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter)'s annoyance, teachers start to walk with him in the corridors and [Percy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/percy-weasley) trails him as well. Then, [McGonagall](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-mcgonagall) summons Harry to tell him first that Black is after him, and second that she doesn't think Harry should be practicing Quidditch in the evenings. Harry is distraught, but McGonagall agrees to let him practice if [Madam Hooch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) supervises.

***Analysis Part 3:***

When she insists that Harry be under adult supervision at all times, McGonagall shows that she takes her responsibility as a teacher and as Harry's Head of House very seriously. In the same vein, it's also worth noting that while McGonagall's lessons are hard, it's implied that, like Lupin, she has reasonable lesson plans. This suggests that being a good teacher and a caring teacher go hand in hand.

***Summary Part 4:***

A few days before the first Quidditch match, [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) tells the team that they won't play Slytherin as planned since [Malfoy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/draco-malfoy) is still "injured." They'll play Hufflepuff instead. He's worried because their new captain and Seeker, [Cedric Diggory](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/cedric-diggory), is very good. At the mention of Diggory, [Angelina](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters), [Alicia](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters), and [Katie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) giggle that he's handsome. Oliver is distraught, but [Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/fred-weasley) assures him they'll take Hufflepuff seriously. Oliver tries to talk strategy to [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) every chance he gets over the next few days. This makes Harry late to Defense Against the Dark Arts.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Because Malfoy is able to create the reality that works for him (by pretending his arm still hurts), he's able to change how events happen in a very meaningful way. This again reminds the reader of the power that some people have to turn things into reality, even when that "reality" isn't actually real at all.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Snape](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-snape) greets [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) instead of [Lupin](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin), docks points from Gryffindor for Harry's lateness, and explains that Lupin is ill. He tells the class that Lupin's lesson plans are disorganized and tells [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) to be quiet when she lists the creatures they've already studied. Both [Dean](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) and [Parvati](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) try to help Hermione and defend Lupin, but Snape menacingly tells the class to turn to the chapter on werewolves. Nobody except Hermione raises their hand when he asks how to distinguish between a werewolf and an actual wolf and when Hermione tries to answer, Snape docks more points because she's "an insufferable know-it-all." [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) asks why Snape even asked the question, which earns him detention, and they spend the rest of class silently making notes on werewolves. At the end, he asks for a long essay on werewolves, due Monday.

***Analysis Part 5:***

When the class chooses to stand up to Snape, it shows that Lupin's teaching and the way he treats them has given them confidence to stand up for themselves and advocate for their education. Further, when Snape calls Hermione names, it shows again that he cares little for his students and cares only for his own agenda. While Snape's choice to teach the class about werewolves seems a strange one, Harry and Ron learn later that he's actually trying to tip them off about Lupin—he's trying to give the class information that would effectively discredit their teacher.

***Summary Part 6:***

The next morning, [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) wakes early to a draft on his neck—[Peeves](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) is blowing in his ear. Peeves zooms away, cackling, and Harry decides to get up. He stops [Crookshanks](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/crookshanks) from entering the dormitory and listens to the noisy storm outside. As Harry thinks of [Cedric Diggory](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/cedric-diggory), who is much heavier than Harry is, he begins to feel apprehensive—Diggory is less likely to be blown off course. Finally, Harry heads down to the locker rooms with the team.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Because Harry is able to look objectively at his strengths compared to Cedric Diggory's, he's then able to come up with a plan to make the game easier for himself. In this way, having more information means that Harry can more clearly see what's going on and deal with what's happening.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) worries he won't be able to see, as the rain covers his glasses. The wind is so loud that he can't even hear [Madam Hooch](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) tell the players to mount their brooms and start flying. Harry is frozen within minutes. He lands when [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) waves at him; Oliver tells him to get the Snitch soon. [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) appears as though on cue and puts a charm on Harry's glasses so they repel water. The lightning and thunder get worse and as lightning lights up the stands, Harry sees an enormous dog. He nearly falls off his broom but refocuses on the game when Oliver yells and points to [Diggory](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/cedric-diggory), who's chasing the Snitch.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Hermione's charm on Harry's glasses brings the novel's exploration of perspective into the real world: she literally makes it so that Harry can see. However, Harry's still not seeing the truth—his fear at seeing the dog suggests he thinks it's the Grim still, when in reality, the dog is Sirius Black, a friend. In this case, the extra information actually has negative consequences.

***Summary Part 8:***As [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) chases [Diggory](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/cedric-diggory), he notices the noise of the storm diminishing and suddenly feels a familiar sense of cold. He looks down and sees a hundred [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) below him. Harry hears a woman screaming and thinks he needs to help her as he starts to fall. He comes to in the hospital wing listening to his teammates talk about things that make no sense. Harry opens his eyes and asks what happened.

***Analysis Part 8:***Harry's desire to help the woman he hears screaming shows that he cares deeply for others and wants to do what he can to protect people from pain and suffering. When he faints after this thought, it indicates that his altruism can also have negative consequences.

***Summary Part 9:***[Fred](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/fred-weasley) and [Angelina](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) explain that [Harry](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) fell off his broom, and [George](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/george-weasley) says that [Diggory](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/cedric-diggory) caught the Snitch right after. Diggory tried to demand a rematch when he realized Harry had fallen, but even [Oliver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/oliver-wood) agrees that Hufflepuff won fairly. Fred and [George](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/george-weasley) talk through Gryffindor's chances of winning the Cup and then [Madam Pomfrey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters) kicks the team out. [Hermione](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) and [Ron](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) stay and tell Harry that [Dumbledore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/albus-dumbledore) was furious with the [dementors](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors). Harry is barely listening; he's thinking about the screaming in his head. Harry asks about his broom, and Hermione and Ron hesitantly tell him that it blew into the Whomping Willow. Hermione dumps broom pieces onto Harry's bed.

***Analysis Part 9:***Diggory's attempts to organize a rematch offer the novel's first suggestion that true justice can really only come from individuals, not large groups or the government. While everyone agrees that this is unnecessary in this situation, this introduces Harry to the idea that individuals have the power to change things and make things right.