

1. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

The story of Harry Potter begins on the doorstep of Number 4, Privet Drive, where the infant Harry is left by Albus Dumbledore, Minerva McGonagall, and Rubeus Hagrid. Harry is an orphan, his parents James and Lily Potter having been murdered by the most feared dark wizard of all time, Lord Voldemort. When Voldemort attempted to kill Harry, the curse mysteriously rebounded, destroying Voldemort's body and leaving the infant with only a lightning-bolt scar on his forehead. Harry is left in the care of his only living relatives, the Dursleys: his cruel Aunt Petunia, boorish Uncle Vernon, and spoiled, bullying cousin Dudley. For the next ten years, they treat him with contempt, forcing him to live in a cupboard under the stairs and hiding his magical heritage from him.

Shortly before his eleventh birthday, Harry begins receiving an onslaught of mysterious letters addressed to him. The Dursleys, terrified of the magical world, attempt to prevent him from reading them, culminating in them fleeing to a remote hut on an island. At the stroke of midnight on Harry's birthday, the giant Rubeus Hagrid, Keeper of Keys and Grounds at Hogwarts, breaks down the door. He finally delivers Harry's letter, revealing the truth: Harry is a wizard and has been accepted into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Hagrid explains the history of his parents and Voldemort, introducing Harry to a world he never knew existed.

Hagrid guides Harry through Diagon Alley, a hidden wizarding street in London, where Harry withdraws a fortune from his parents' vault at Gringotts Bank and acquires his school supplies, including a wand that shares a core with Voldemort's. At King's Cross Station, Harry finds Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ and boards the Hogwarts Express. On the train, he befriends Ron Weasley, a boy from a large, kind, but poor pure-blood wizarding family, and Hermione Granger, a brilliant but sometimes overbearing witch born to Muggle (non-magical) parents.

Upon arriving at Hogwarts, the first-year students are sorted into one of four houses. Harry, Ron, and Hermione are all placed in Gryffindor, a house known for its bravery and chivalry. Harry also makes an immediate rival in Draco Malfoy, a sneering, arrogant boy from a wealthy pure-blood family who is sorted into Slytherin. Harry quickly discovers he has a natural talent for flying on a broomstick and is recruited to be the Seeker for the Gryffindor Quidditch team, the youngest player in a century.

As the school year progresses, the trio's friendship is solidified when Harry and Ron save Hermione from a mountain troll that had been let into the castle on Halloween. They soon stumble upon a forbidden corridor guarded by a monstrous three-headed dog. They deduce it is guarding the Sorcerer's Stone, a legendary alchemical substance that can produce the Elixir of Life and turn any metal into pure gold. They suspect that the stern Potions Master, Severus Snape, who seems to harbor a deep-seated grudge against Harry, is trying to steal the Stone for Lord Voldemort.

Their suspicions grow after Snape is seen with a leg injury following the dog's escape and when he referees a Quidditch match in which Harry's broom is jinxed. Convinced that Snape is the threat, the trio decides to intervene when they believe the Stone is about to be stolen. They make their way past the three-headed dog and a series of magical enchantments set up by the Hogwarts professors, including a deadly Devil's Snare plant, a room of enchanted flying keys, and a giant, life-or-death game of wizard's chess, which Ron heroically sacrifices himself to win.

In the final chamber, Harry finds not Snape, but the timid Defence Against the Dark Arts professor, Quirinus Quirrell. Quirrell reveals that he has been serving Voldemort all along; the Dark Lord's weakened, spectral form is attached to the back of his head, hidden beneath his turban. It was Quirrell who let in the troll and jinxed Harry's broom. Voldemort, speaking through Quirrell, attempts to use Harry to retrieve the Stone from the Mirror of Erised, a magical artifact

that shows the viewer their deepest desire. However, because Harry wants to find the Stone but not use it, it magically appears in his pocket. Quirrell attacks him, but his skin burns and crumbles upon contact with Harry. Dumbledore arrives just in time to save Harry, who passes out.

Harry awakens in the hospital wing, where Dumbledore explains that Harry was protected by the lingering magic of his mother's loving sacrifice. This protection lives in Harry's very skin and is what caused Quirrell to burn. Dumbledore also reveals that he and the Stone's creator, Nicolas Flamel, have decided to destroy it. At the end-of-year feast, Gryffindor is awarded the House Cup, thanks in large part to the bravery of Harry, Ron, Hermione, and their friend Neville Longbottom. Harry returns to the Dursleys for the summer, no longer just an unwanted orphan, but a wizard who has found his true home.