

“First is a charm to drain the magical residue from the wound. Blood Quills are a magical object; even though the injury might look like it’s healed over, magic still leaves its mark. If enough of that magic builds up, it can cause problems.” He didn’t want to scare anyone with the full explanation. “This charm should be cast after every detention. If you know anyone else who gets a detention, you can teach it to them, too.”

He demonstrated the charm, and around the circle people began to copy him, wands pointed at their own hands, or their neighbour’s.

“How do we know if it works?” Lavender asked, her wand pointed at Ginny’s reddened hand.

“You can feel it,” Ginny assured her. “It feels like there was something sticky on my hand, and it’s gone now.” Other people nodded, agreeing with her assessment. Harry was glad they could feel it — maybe it would help them feel any other magic cast on them. Just in case.

Next, he taught them a Healing charm, followed by a Numbing charm to apply before detentions so the Blood Quill wouldn’t hurt as much. Harry had never needed that one himself; the pain wasn’t even a blip on his radar.

They were all learning quickly, and Harry was wondering if he had time to go back to his original lesson plan, when Katie Bell cleared her throat. “Hey, Harry; would you teach us that privacy ward thing you’re always putting up in the common room? The sound-muffling bubble one?”

Harry blinked at her; he hadn’t realised people had noticed that.

“You can do privacy wards?”

“And proper Silencing charms?”

Immediately, a flurry of questions came Harry’s way; everyone keen to know what other kinds of magic he could do. He raised his hands to get them to settle down. “I can teach you, yeah,” he said, smiling a little bemusedly. “I’m sure some of you know similar versions, but we can all teach each other. I’m not the only one in this room who knows spells the other don’t,” he added ruefully.

It was an interesting meeting, sat in their circle like that; once Harry had taught his privacy spells, Fred had offered to teach them a Proximity charm he and George used to warn them if someone was coming close, when they were setting pranks. Soon, several people had their own contributions — Blaise even demonstrated a spell that Harry didn’t know, to make something invisible to everyone except the person who had cast the spell.

Loads of them had little snippets of magic to share; things learned from parents, or older siblings, or out of random books. Not all of them were defence-based — Anthony Goldstein proudly shared a spell he used to soothe and stretch his hypermobile joints when they were painful, and all the quidditch players in the room were delighted by the results.