

[Harry Potter](#) lives with his abusive uncle and aunt, [Vernon](#) and [Petunia Dursley](#), and their bullying, spoiled son, [Dudley](#). On Harry's 11th birthday, he learns that he is a wizard when a man named [Rubeus Hagrid](#) invites him to attend [Hogwarts](#), a school of magic. Hagrid explains that when Harry was an infant, a [Dark](#) wizard named [Voldemort](#) murdered his parents and tried to kill him as well. However, Voldemort's [killing curse](#) rebounded and seemingly destroyed him, leaving a lightning bolt-shaped scar on Harry's forehead.

Hagrid takes Harry to [Diagon Alley](#), where the latter discovers his fame among wizards while buying a [wand](#), an owl named Hedwig, and other school supplies. A month later, Harry takes the [Hogwarts Express](#) to Hogwarts. He befriends [Ron Weasley](#), a first-year student, during the journey. He also meets [Hermione Granger](#) and has a confrontation with [Draco Malfoy](#). At Hogwarts, a magical [Sorting Hat](#) assigns each first-year student to a [House](#). Harry, Ron, and Hermione are assigned to Gryffindor, although the Hat considers putting Harry in Slytherin.

Harry's [broomstick flying](#) ability earns him a place on the Gryffindor [Quidditch](#) team as the Seeker. He develops a dislike for the [Potions](#) professor [Severus Snape](#), who seems to hate Harry. Harry and Ron discover a gigantic three-headed dog guarding a trapdoor one night. The two boys later save Hermione from a [troll](#) and begin a friendship with her. During Harry's first Quidditch match, his broomstick attempts to throw him off. Snape's strange behaviour during the match convinces Hermione that he jinxed Harry's broom. On Christmas, Harry receives an anonymous gift – his father's [invisibility cloak](#). While using the cloak to explore the school undisturbed, he discovers the [Mirror of Erised](#), which shows the viewer what they most desire. Harry sees his family in the mirror.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione learn that the three-headed dog is guarding a magical object called the [Philosopher's Stone](#), which grants its user immortality. A centaur named [Firenze](#) warns Harry that Voldemort is plotting to steal the Stone to restore his body. When the headmaster, [Albus Dumbledore](#), is lured away from Hogwarts, Harry and his friends fear the theft is imminent and descend through the trapdoor to retrieve the artefact. Various obstacles force Ron and Hermione to remain behind while Harry approaches the Stone. He encounters [Professor Quirrell](#), the [Defence Against the Dark Arts](#) professor, who explains that he serves Voldemort and that it was he who jinxed Harry's broom; Snape was trying to save him during the match. Quirrell attempts to retrieve the Stone from the Mirror of Erised, but cannot figure out how. When Harry looks in the Mirror, he feels the Stone drop into his pocket. Quirrell then reveals that Voldemort has possessed his body, and shows Harry Voldemort's face on the back of his head. Quirrell attempts to seize the Stone, but his flesh burns upon contact with Harry. As Harry and Quirrell struggle, Harry's scar begins to burn, and he passes out.

Harry awakens in the school's infirmary. Dumbledore explains that Harry survived because he is protected by a magical charm created when his mother died trying to protect him. Quirrell's hatred and greed caused him to burn upon contact with Harry, and Voldemort abandoned him to die. Dumbledore also reveals that the Stone has been destroyed. During the school's year-end feast, Gryffindor is awarded the House Cup. Harry then returns to the Dursleys for the summer.