

Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

by
J.K. Rowling

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In this fourth novel of Harry Potter's training as a wizard and his coming of age, Harry wants to be a normal, fourteen-year-old wizard. Unfortunately, he is not normal—even by wizardry standards. In his case, different can be deadly. Book #4

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Main Characters

Alastor Moody (Mad-Eye) a retired Auror who helped capture several Death Eaters; he is renowned for his paranoia and is held captive in a trunk while a disguised Barty Crouch, Jr. takes Moody's place as a teacher at Hogwarts

Albus Dumbledore the powerful and fair-minded wizard who runs Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Arthur Weasley Ron's kindly father, who works for the Ministry of Magic; his appreciation of the Muggle world has kept him from achieving professional success

Bartemius Crouch, Jr. (Barty) the malevolent son of Barty Crouch; he plots to help Voldemort kill Harry by posing as Mad-Eye Moody

Bartemius Crouch, Sr. (Barty) the ambitious and rigid Minister of International Magical Cooperation

Bertha Jorkins the gossipy witch whom Voldemort tortures and kills in order to get information that will help him kill Harry Potter; her mysterious disappearance is a point of concern for many people, but her boss, Ludo Bagman, does not investigate

Bill Weasley Ron's older brother who works for Gringotts, the wizarding bank

Cedric Diggory the handsome champion of the Hufflepuffs, who helps Harry with the Triwizard Tournament after Harry gives him valuable information

Charlie Weasley Ron's older brother who specializes in dragons; he helps maintain the dragons for the first task in the Triwizard Tournament

Cornelius Fudge the superficial Minister of Magic, who allows the dementors to kill Barty Crouch, Jr. and resists Dumbledore's suggestion that Voldemort has returned

Dobby a house-elf who feels indebted to Harry for helping him gain his freedom

Draco Malfoy the spoiled son of a powerful and wealthy dark wizard; he hates Harry Potter and frequently antagonizes him; he is a favorite of Professor Snape and is prejudiced against Muggles, or non-magical people

Fleur Delacour the haughty champion of Beauxbatons Academy of Magic; she warms up to Harry after he saves her sister

Fred and George Weasley Ron's older twin brothers, who delight in practical jokes and want to start a business specializing in magical gags

Hagrid the kindly half-giant teacher and groundskeeper at Hogwarts, who favors Harry and has a penchant for dangerous magical creatures

Harry Potter the famous young wizard who is entered in the Triwizard Tournament against his will; Voldemort is plotting against his life

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Hedwig Harry's loyal owl, who delivers his mail; her snow white feathers make her too conspicuous for Harry to use to deliver letters to Sirius

Hermione Granger a Muggle-born witch who is one of Harry's best friends; she helps Harry practice his magic and campaigns to set the house-elves free

Igor Karkaroff the professor from Durmstrang, who serves as a judge in the Triwizard Tournament and shows his resentment of Harry's admission into the contest by punishing him with low scores; he is a former Death Eater who snitched on other Death Eaters

Lucius Malfoy Draco's sinister and powerful father, who works for the Ministry of Magic but returns to Voldemort when called

Ludovic Bagman the bumbling Head of Magical Games and Sports at the Ministry of Magic, who bets that Harry will win the tournament in an attempt to win enough money to pay off his gambling debts; he may have been affiliated with Voldemort

Madame Maxime the Headmistress of Beauxbatons, who denies her giant heritage; Hagrid attempts to begin a romantic relationship with her

Molly Weasley Ron's protective mother, who holds a special place in her heart for Harry and has high expectations of her children

Neville Longbottom a schoolmate of Harry who struggles with most magical skills but shows a great deal of aptitude in his knowledge of magical herbs

Percy Weasley Ron's rule-abiding and ambitious older brother who works under Barty Crouch, Sr. at the Ministry of Magic; he greatly admires Mr. Crouch

Pigwidgeon Ron's hyperactive, tiny owl; Harry must borrow him to deliver mail when he is concerned about Hedwig being noticed

Professor Severus Snape the enigmatic professor of Potions, who cannot contain his antagonism towards Harry and has associated with Voldemort in the past

Rita Skeeter a gossip columnist who takes an interest in Harry and complicates his problems by printing sensationalistic stories about Harry and his friends

Ron Weasley Harry's best friend, who sometimes resents Harry's wealth and fame

Sirius Black Harry's godfather, who is in hiding because he was falsely accused of murder and sentenced to imprisonment in Azkaban; he gives Harry advice and risks his freedom to come to Hogwarts to protect Harry

the Dursleys Harry's horrible Muggle family, who resents and fears his magical powers; relatives of Harry's mother, they reluctantly took over Harry's care when his parents were murdered

Viktor Krum the Triwizard champion from Durmstrang Institute, who is known for his Quidditch playing

Voldemort the evil wizard who killed Harry's parents and is now on a mission to kill Harry; he was almost destroyed when he attacked Harry as an infant, but he rises again when two of his followers help him cast a spell

Winky Barty Crouch's devoted house-elf, who accidentally allows Crouch's corrupted son to steal a wand; she is devastated when Barty releases her from her duties

Vocabulary

addled confused, mixed up

apparition a ghost or a vision of someone who is not physically present

cockatrice a mythical serpent that can give a deadly look

culminated ended, topped off

devoid empty, lacking

discord disagreement, quarreling

divination the practice of using signs from the stars or other sources as clues to predicting the future

emanate to come out of, to issue

entity a being, creature, or presence

feigned pretended

fortnight two weeks

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heinous horrid, repulsive
imperiously controlling, domineering
impregnable very strong, able to withstand attacks
limelight center of attention
livid filled with anger
malevolent filled with evil, vicious
mayhem chaos, uncontrolled violence
mesmerized hypnotized
morose depressed, moody, grumpy
mutilated imperfect because of a missing part, crippled
palpable apparent, visible
paranoid overly suspicious, distrustful
phoenix a magical bird that burns into ashes and is reborn from the ashes into its full glory when its powers are waning
pilfering stealing
regurgitated spit out, vomited
riffraff disreputable people
smarmy insincere agreement or obedience
smirk a sneer or a sarcastic smile
snide sarcastic
stifle to suppress or suffocate
surreptitiously sneakily, secretly
sycophant a person who flatters, a lackey
treachery the act of betraying a trust or agreement
unctuous smug, flattering, ingratiating
vagrant a homeless nuisance
vehemently forcefully, strongly, intensely
vendetta an effort to seek revenge against someone
wizened shriveled, dried up

lightning-shaped scar that marks the spot where Voldemort's magic touched him thirteen years ago. Because Harry does not know what to do or how concerned he should be about the pain and the dream, he sends an owl to ask his godfather, Sirius.

Later that day, Harry receives an invitation to join his best friend, Ron Weasley, and Ron's family in attending the Quidditch World Cup finals. After Harry's Uncle Vernon finally agrees to allow Harry to attend, Harry thoroughly enjoys the tournament and is especially awed by a talented Quidditch player named Viktor Krum. Harry's friend Hermione, however, is distracted by a house-elf named Winky, who says she has been sent to save a seat for her master, Barty Crouch, even though it is obvious Winky is terrified of sitting in the lofty Top Box.

Winky's misfortunes are further exacerbated during a frightening episode after the Quidditch match in which the Death Eaters, former followers of Voldemort, make their presence known by torturing a Muggle (non-wizard) family. As Harry and his friends flee into the forest, they see Voldemort's sign, the Dark Mark, reflected into the sky. Barty Crouch finds Winky at the scene of the crime and relieves her of her duties as his house-elf after Amos Diggory accuses Winky of being responsible for the Dark Mark.

When school starts in September, Harry and his friends find out that there are two surprises: one is that the controversial Mad-Eye Moody has been named the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher; the other is that Hogwarts is hosting the Triwizard Tournament, a prestigious contest that has three difficult tasks evaluated by five judges. The contest has been in hiatus for several centuries because of an extravagant death toll.

Synopsis

The story begins with the tale of the murder of the Riddle family and the present day scene of a man named Wormtail speaking with an anonymous figure about a plot to kill Harry Potter. Far away in the Dursley home, Harry awakens from a frighteningly realistic dream with a blinding pain in the

Anticipating that the contest will still be dangerous, Dumbledore, the Headmaster of Hogwarts, declares that a magical Age Line will prohibit all students under the age of seventeen from volunteering to be contestants. At fourteen, Harry and his friends are too young to enter their names. For this reason, a great deal of shock is expressed when the Goblet of

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Fire offers Harry's name after choosing Viktor Krum, Cedric Diggory, and Fleur Delacour to represent the three schools. The attention Harry receives causes a rift in his friendship with Ron, who is jealous of Harry's fame and wealth and disregards Harry's claim that someone put his name in as an assassination attempt.

Harry's first trial in the contest is to steal a golden egg from beneath a dragon. He is assisted by a variety of people concerned for his welfare: Hagrid tells him about the dragons, Sirius tries to tell him how to conquer the dragons, and Hermione helps him practice. Harry kindly tells Cedric about the dragons because he knows all the other champions have already been informed about them. Harry is also offered advice from both Mad-Eye Moody and Ludo Bagman. At the trial Harry earns his egg the quickest by using his broomstick, and Ron realizes how much danger Harry is actually in and makes amends with him.

Within the golden egg, Harry is given a clue to the second task. He finds out that his next task is to recover Ron from the merpeople within an hour, but he cannot find a spell which will enable him to breathe underwater. At the last minute, a house-elf he has befriended brings him a ball of gillyweed, which causes Harry to grow gills. However, Harry is late out of the water because he insists on seeing all the hostages safe before he is willing to return with Ron. Dumbledore feels this earns him extra points, but some disagree, and Harry ends up tied with Cedric for points.

As the story progresses, Harry becomes suspicious that a Death Eater has infiltrated Hogwarts. He is haunted by dreams of evil deeds and flashes of pain in his scar. The final task is to reach the Triwizard Cup at the center of a difficult maze filled with horrific obstacles. Harry worries because he hears screams from his competitors. He finds Viktor torturing Cedric, but he cannot find Fleur. Harry stops Viktor and reaches the Triwizard Cup at the same time that Cedric does. Since they have helped each other, they agree to share the Cup and, claiming it together, they are suddenly transported

through a Portkey into a graveyard where Voldemort, Wormtail, and Nagini await.

Cedric is instantly killed, and Harry is forced to be a part of a ritual that restores Voldemort to full power. Harry witnesses the return of many Death Eaters and battles Voldemort for his life. Their wands lock in the battle, and Harry sees the reversal of the last spells cast by Voldemort's wand. Not only does a vision of Cedric reappear but also forms of Harry's own father and mother. They assist him in escaping Voldemort. Harry uses the Triwizard Cup to return to Hogwarts with Cedric's body and collapses as Dumbledore and the organizers of the tournament rush to his aid.

Even though the three tasks are completed, there is one more horror left for Harry: Mad-Eye Moody takes him from the maze into Hogwarts and tells him that he is the Death Eater who has been plotting against Harry. Harry is shocked not only because Mad-Eye has helped him but also because he is renowned for his hatred of the Death Eaters. As Mad-Eye raises his wand to kill Harry, Dumbledore appears and stupefies him. Dumbledore forces Moody to confess his conspiracy with Voldemort and that he is actually Barty Crouch's son magically transformed to appear as Moody.

Dumbledore commends Harry for his bravery after hearing his part of the story, but he is enraged when he finds out that Cornelius Fudge, Minister of Magic, has caused a dementor to kill the impostor before a trial can be arranged. Fudge refuses to believe that Voldemort has returned, and Dumbledore recognizes that he must work behind Fudge's back to ensure that Voldemort does not triumph. The school year ends with Dumbledore paying tribute to Cedric Diggory and informing the students of what actually happened the night he was killed. As the story draws to a close, Harry is returning home pondering what trials may lie ahead for him.

Open-Ended Questions

Use these open-ended questions as the basis for class discussions, student presentations, or extended writing assignments.

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Initial Understanding

Why does Barty Crouch, Jr. want to be informed about Voldemort's treatment of the Death Eaters who return after Voldemort's powers have been restored?

Barty's reasons are somewhat complex. On a basic level he wants to know that Voldemort punished those who had betrayed him. Barty also feels that Voldemort is a father figure for him -- he wants to be reassured that Voldemort values him above all other Death Eaters. For this reason he needs to hear that Voldemort does not forgive the Death Eaters who have been living comfortably while he and Voldemort have been suffering.

Literary Analysis

The revelation that Mad-Eye Moody is the Death Eater hiding in Hogwarts comes as quite a surprise to both Harry and the reader. How does the author make the reader suspect many characters, but never consider Mad-Eye as a possible traitor?

The reader is told that Snape, Karkaroff, and Bagman all were associated with Voldemort. Suspicions about these characters deepen as Snape and Karkaroff display a great deal of hostility towards Harry and Bagman is seen speaking with goblins. Bagman is also remarkably unconcerned with the disappearance of Bertha Jorkins. On the other hand, Mad-Eye seems to go out of his way to help Harry. He also expresses disdain for Death Eaters who managed to avoid imprisonment. No one ever questions the credibility of Mad-Eye's identity, and his eccentric behavior is attributed to his experiences as an Auror.

Inferential Comprehension

How does Harry's skill as a wizard change over the course of this story?

Harry does not seem to take his lessons in school very seriously throughout the book. He does not apply himself to learning Summoning Charms; he thinks that Professor Trelawney's class is a joke; and he spends more time hating Professor Snape than he does listening to the lesson. However, he is forced to face many challenges in this story that cause him to realize the importance of his lessons. His friends Ron and Hermione help him learn things he should have learned in class and help him search for and practice new charms in order to compete in the Triwizard Tournament. The Summoning Charm not only helps him beat the dragon, it ultimately saves his life. At the end of the story, Harry has to apply great powers of concentration to defeat Voldemort's magic, and he is able to do so mainly because he has spent so much time practicing his magic in order to survive the Triwizard Tournament.

Constructing Meaning

What clues does the reader have that Ludo Bagman is not doing his job properly?

Ludo does not know how to handle difficult situations. He is unaware of the attack on the Muggles at the Quidditch World Cup until Ron tells him of it. He seems overwhelmed when he has to deal with the problem of Harry's name coming from the Goblet of Fire. He also pays no attention to the many suggestions that he should find out what happened to his employee, Bertha Jorkins. Finally, he shows little concern about security during the Quidditch World Cup.

Teachable Skills

Describing Actions or Events Each of the champions has a different approach to the task of capturing the egg from the dragon. Have the students choose one champion and draw a diagram of the action during the completion of the first task.

Comparing and Contrasting Harry's mother

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protected him from Voldemort by leaving traces of her sacrifice on him before she was murdered. Many cultures have spells or talismans that are used to protect against evil spirits. Some use bottles in trees to catch spirits; others dress children in specific colors that are supposed to ward off evil; still others use dream catchers that are meant to catch bad elements before they can reach a sleeper. Have each of the students research a method of protection and present their research to the class. Have them discuss the differences and similarities among the spells. Discuss how each of the studied spells provide protection and compare them with the way Harry's mother protects him from Voldemort.

Understanding the Author's Craft When Mad-Eye Moody turns out to be Barty Crouch's son in disguise, the meaning of many of his statements changes dramatically. Have the students identify a passage where Mad-Eye's words take on a different meaning if the reader looks at the situation from the younger Barty Crouch's point of view. Have them tell what they think was really meant by the passage.

Making Predictions There are many questions that go unanswered in this story, such as the nature of the mysterious task that Professor Snape had to perform for Dumbledore, what happened to Igor Karkaroff, and what people like Malfoy and Crabbe will do now that Voldemort has returned. Have the students make an outline of what they believe might happen in the next Harry Potter book.