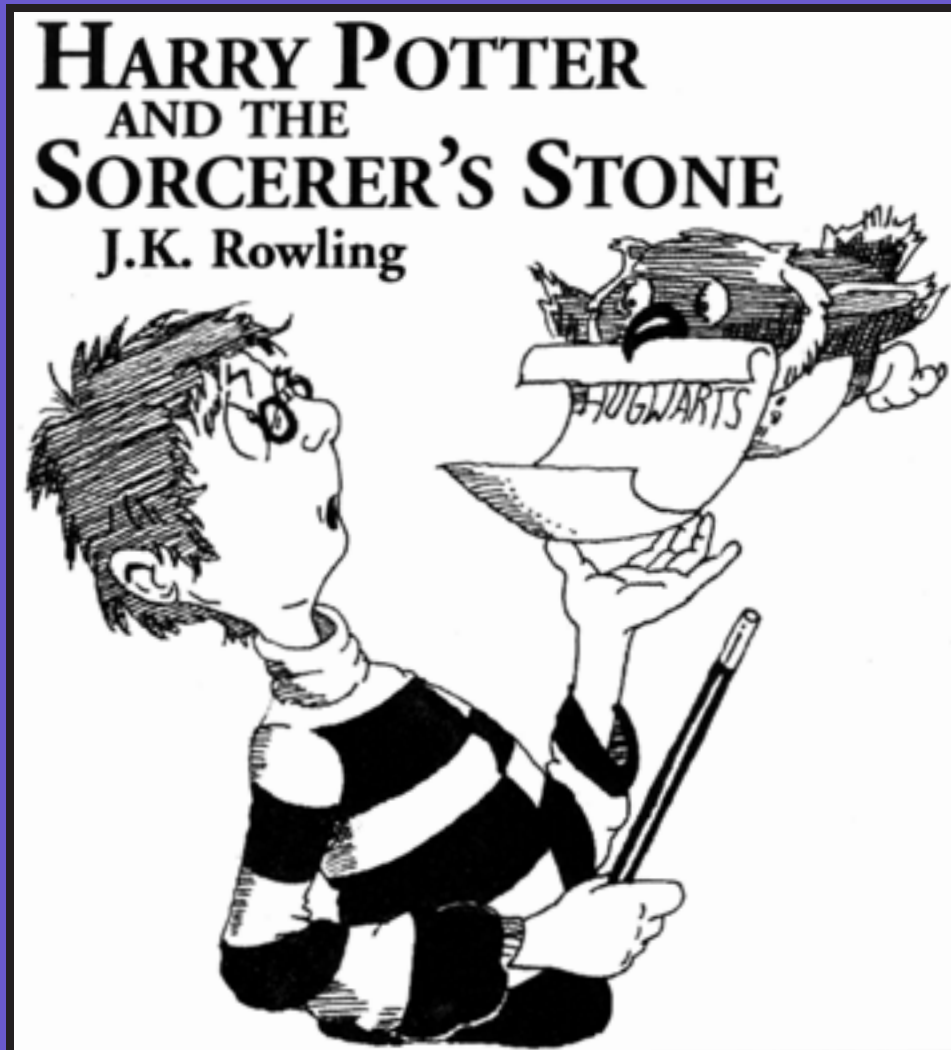


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of lessons to use in conjunction with the book *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. The Harry Potter books have taken England and the United States by storm: millions of children as well as adults are reading this book. Take a few minutes and jot down what you already know about Harry Potter, his friends, his enemies, and his school.
2. J.K. Rowling is a British author who wrote this book while living in Scotland. Although the English language is used in both the United States and Great Britain, many words and phrases have different meanings in the two nations. Keep a chart, such as the one below, to note any language differences you notice as you read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

British – English Word	American – English Word
underground	subway
cupboard	closet
sweet	candy
carousel	merry-go-round

3. The Harry Potter books are classified as fantasy rather than fairy tales or science fiction. In your opinion, what important differences exist among these three types of literature? Support your position with examples drawn from books that you have read.
4. Harry Potter is a celebrity for something he did while he was still a baby. Make two lists in which you describe some of the advantages and the disadvantages of being so famous that everyone knows your name. What problems might this celebrity status cause? How might it change a person's life?
5. Consider other fantasy books and films such as *The Wizard of Oz* or *Peter Pan* where the story begins with a realistic situation—Dorothy on her aunt and uncle's farm in Kansas and the Darling children in the nursery. Have you read or seen other fantasies that had realistic beginnings? Why do you think fantasies often begin and end in the real world?
6. Fantasies usually have a hero and a villain as central characters. A hero is a person of courage who is admired for brave deeds and noble qualities. This person is regarded as a model or an ideal. A villain is a character who is devoted to wickedness. List some heroes and villains that you know from stories, films, or television programs. Create a web around each character in which you record words that describe each individual's personality and character. As you read the book, notice the heroes and the villains. Do they possess the same character traits that you recorded in your character webs?
7. Harry makes several good friends when he goes away to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Each of these friends has different interests and strengths that play a critical role at important points in the story. Think of several of your good friends. Have their talents and abilities helped you to accomplish any important goals in your life?

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. cloak | a. draw back from something painful, dangerous, or unpleasant |
| 2. tantrum | b. cut or clipped the hair with scissors |
| 3. quiver | c. laughed at in an insulting manner |
| 4. flinch | d. loose outer garment without sleeves |
| 5. sheared | e. tremble with excitement or fear |
| 6. sniggered | f. outburst of bad temper |

.....

1. Although Harry's aunt frequently took Harry to the barber to be _____, his hair grew back immediately after each haircut.
2. The mysterious cat sat as still as a stone; its eyes did not blink and its whiskers did not _____.
3. Dudley, Harry's ill-tempered cousin, meanly _____ whenever his father or mother yelled at Harry.
4. The wizard draped a long _____ over his shoulders and fastened it at the neck with a large silver clasp.
5. Dudley's parents could always tell when their son was about to have a _____, for he squeezed shut his tiny eyes and wrinkled up his nose before he began to wail.
6. Harry was so used to the spiders who lived with him in the cupboard under the stairs that he did not even _____ when one crawled out of his shoe.

Read to find out why Harry Potter was famous.

Questions:

1. In what ways were the Dursleys "perfectly normal"?
2. What incidents disturbed Mr. Dursley's otherwise ordinary morning?
3. What explanation lay behind the strange occurrences all over Britain one dull, gray Tuesday?
4. Why did Albus Dumbledore decide to bring Harry to live with his aunt and uncle?
5. In what ways was Dumbledore's decision about Harry a mistake?
6. What were Harry's unusual talents?