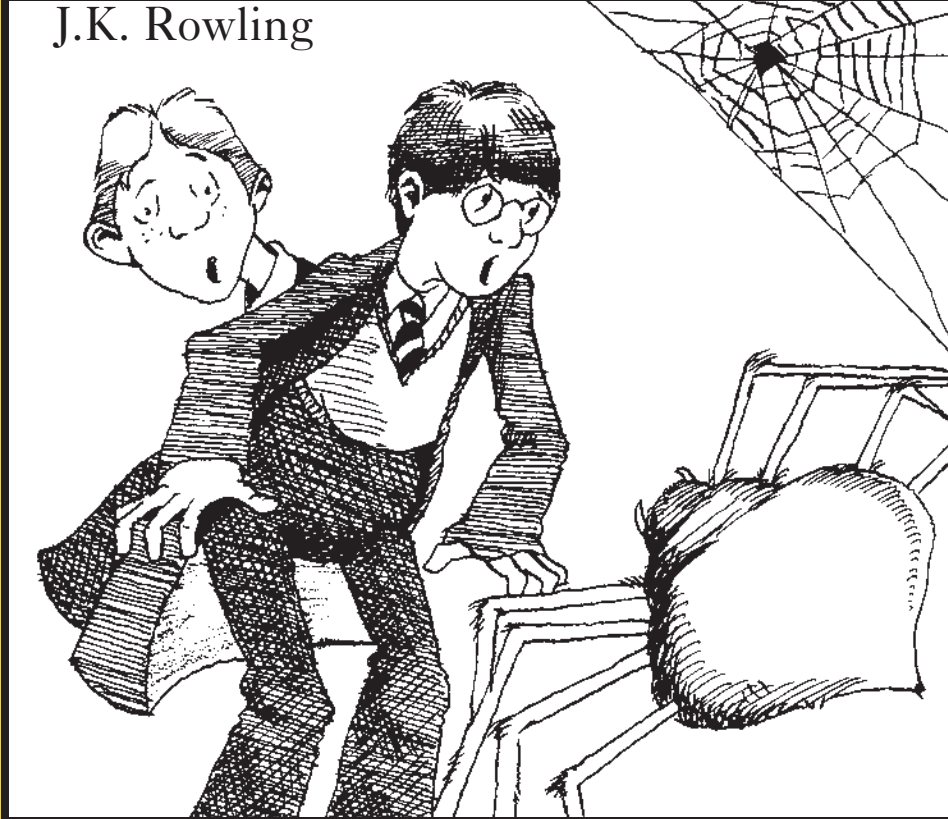


Novel·Ties

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

J.K. Rowling



A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with a specific novel consists of lessons for guided reading. 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.

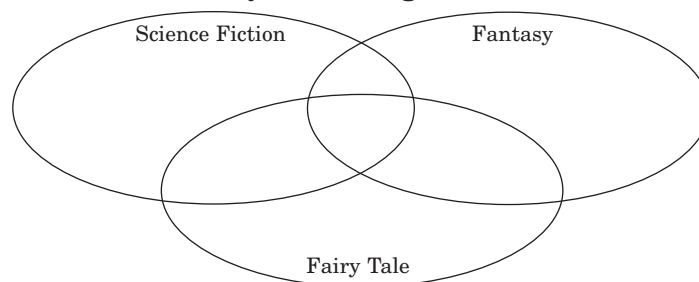
In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel on its reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide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

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for guided reading 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 or group of chapters; 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 AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The *Harry Potter* books have been read by millions of young people and adults all over the world. Jot down what you already know about Harry, his friends Ron and Hermione, and the Hogwarts school. Compare your knowledge with that of your classmates.
2. Because *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is the second book in a series, the author makes the assumption that most readers are familiar with the characters and the setting of the story. If you have not read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, ask someone who has read it to give you a brief synopsis. Alternatively you can find a summary on the Harry Potter Web site, which can be found at <http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter>.
3. Think about some of the advantages and disadvantages of reading books in a series. Then write about some series books that you have previously enjoyed. In your opinion, were all of the books in the series of the same quality? What do you think might be some of the challenges facing the author of a best-selling series?
4. Like other fantasies such as *The Chronicles of Narnia* or *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the Harry Potter books begin with a realistic situation. Instead of an English country house or a farm in Kansas, the author J.K. Rowling has decided to call this real world the land of the Muggles. Why do you think fantasies often begin and end in the real world rather than in the world of make-believe?
5. The Harry Potter books are classified as fantasy rather than fairy tales or science fiction. What key characteristics are used to distinguish each type of book? In what ways are these three types of books alike? Record your ideas about these similarities and differences in a three-way Venn diagram such as the one below.



6. When Harry, Ron, and Hermione are eleven years old, they are sent off to Hogwarts, which is a boarding school. What might be some of the challenges of leaving home at such a young age? What special responsibilities would fall on the teachers and staff at a boarding school who supervise young people this age?
7. Fantasies usually have a hero and a villain as central characters. A hero is a courageous person who is admired for brave deeds and noble qualities. Others see this person as a model or an ideal. A villain is a character devoted to wickedness. List some heroes and villains that you have encountered in stories, television programs, video games, or films. Create a web around each character in which you record words that describe each individual's personality and character. As you read *The Chamber of Secrets*, notice the heroes and villains. What qualities do they possess in addition to those that you recorded in your character webs?

Chapters 1, 2 (cont.)

4. Why did Harry end up doing chores on his birthday?
5. Who was Dobby, and what was the purpose of his visit?
6. Why did Dobby break plates, destroy the pudding, and keep Harry from receiving his letters?
7. How was the Dursley's dinner party ruined?
8. How did Uncle Vernon profit from the note sent by the owl?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Dobby was thinking only of Harry's welfare as he discouraged him from returning to Hogwarts?
2. In your opinion, were the Dursleys at all justified in punishing Harry?
3. Do you think Harry should heed Dobby's warnings?
4. How do you imagine Harry would have celebrated his birthday if his wishes were being considered?

Literary Devices

- I. *Point of View*—Point of view in a book of fiction refers to the person telling the story. Sometimes the author as narrator tells the story. Other times, the story is told by one of the story characters. Who is telling this story?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this point of view?

- II. *Hook*—A hook in literature refers to an element at the beginning of a book that grabs the reader's attention. What is the hook in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*?
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Writing Activity:

Imagine you are Harry and write a journal entry describing your thoughts and feelings on the first night of your "imprisonment" at the Dursleys' home.