

2001

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone*. Scholastic, 1997.

SUMMARY:

Harry Potter is an orphan who lives with his horrible aunt, uncle and cousin. On his eleventh birthday, he finds out that he has been accepted into Hogwarts, a school for witches and wizards. Suddenly his life changes. While living in the Gryffindor house, he becomes best friends with Ron and Hermonie, takes a transfiguration class, becomes the seeker for the broom stick-flying game of Quidditch, and battles the evil Voldemort, who killed Harry's parents.

QUESTIONS:

How would Harry's life have been different if the sorting hat had put him in Slytherin?
Which House would you have wanted to be in and why?
Why wasn't Harry with someone other than the Dursleys, when they were so cruel to him?
Why did the Dursleys treat Harry so badly?
What would your reaction be to seeing Hagrid for the first time?
What do you think Hagrid's special talent is?
What would you desire if you could look in the mirror?
How would you feel if you discovered that you are a wizard?

JOURNAL STARTER:

If I were a student at Hogwarts, I would choose to live in _____ House, because.....

ACTIVITIES:

Sing the Hogwart's school song. (p. 128)
The authors of the books on Harry's list (pp.65-66) have interesting names. How do they relate to the title of the book?
Draw a candy wrapper for some of the candy the students eat.
Get a choosing hat and divide up your class into four houses.
Learn some magic tricks.
Learn about poisonous plants.
Choose the kind of owl you would want for your messenger.
Play Quidditch (on the ground).
Decorate brooms like the Nimbus Two Thousand.
Have students come up with trivia questions from the book for a jeopardy-style game.
Design a poster for each character in book.

INTEREST LEVELS: Grades 5-8

BOOK TALK:

Did you know that we are Muggles? At least I think all of you are. Unless you collect wizard cards from chocolate frogs, fly on broomsticks to play Quidditch, or have a magic wand in your pocket, then maybe you don't know that you have magical powers. Harry Potter didn't, not until he received a letter on his eleventh birthday telling him he was accepted at Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. And that's where his adventures begin. The Sorcerer's stone? Just something that could let you live forever. Voldemort? The wizard who killed Harry's parents is after it. Can Harry stop him? Read this book and find out.

READ-ALIKES:

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter Series* (8 volumes). Arthur A. Levine Books, 1997-2007.
Dahl, Ronald. *James and the Giant Peach: A Children's Story*. Knopf, 1961.
Ibbotson, Eva. *Secret of Platform 13*. Dutton, 1998.
Ibbotson, Eva. *Which Witch?* Dutton, 1999
Wrede, Patricia. *Enchanted Forest Chronicles* (4 volumes). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990-1993.

RELATED WEB SITES:

J.K. Rowling: www.jkrowling.com
Owl Mail: Harry Potter Resources for Teachers: <http://midgefrazel.net/owlmail.html>
Scholastic Discussion Guide:
http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/books/guides/sorcerers_stone.htm
Spark Notes: <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/harrypotter>

OTHER RECOGNITION:

Winner of the National Book Award (UK)
Winner of the Gold Medal Smarties Prize (UK)
Winner of a Children's Choice Award in each of the following states:
Arizona, 2000; Colorado, 2001; Delaware, 2001; Hawaii, 2000; Indiana, 2001; Louisiana, 2001;
Massachusetts, 2000; Nevada, 2000; New Hampshire, 2000; New York, 2000; South Carolina,
2001; Washington, 2000; West Virginia, 2001; Wisconsin, 2000; Wyoming, 2000.

MOVIE TIE-IN: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Warner Brothers, 2001.