

## UNIT OVERVIEW

### *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

#### OVERVIEW

This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts, as students develop a love for reading longer materials, like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach, eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections:

1) Chapter Questions

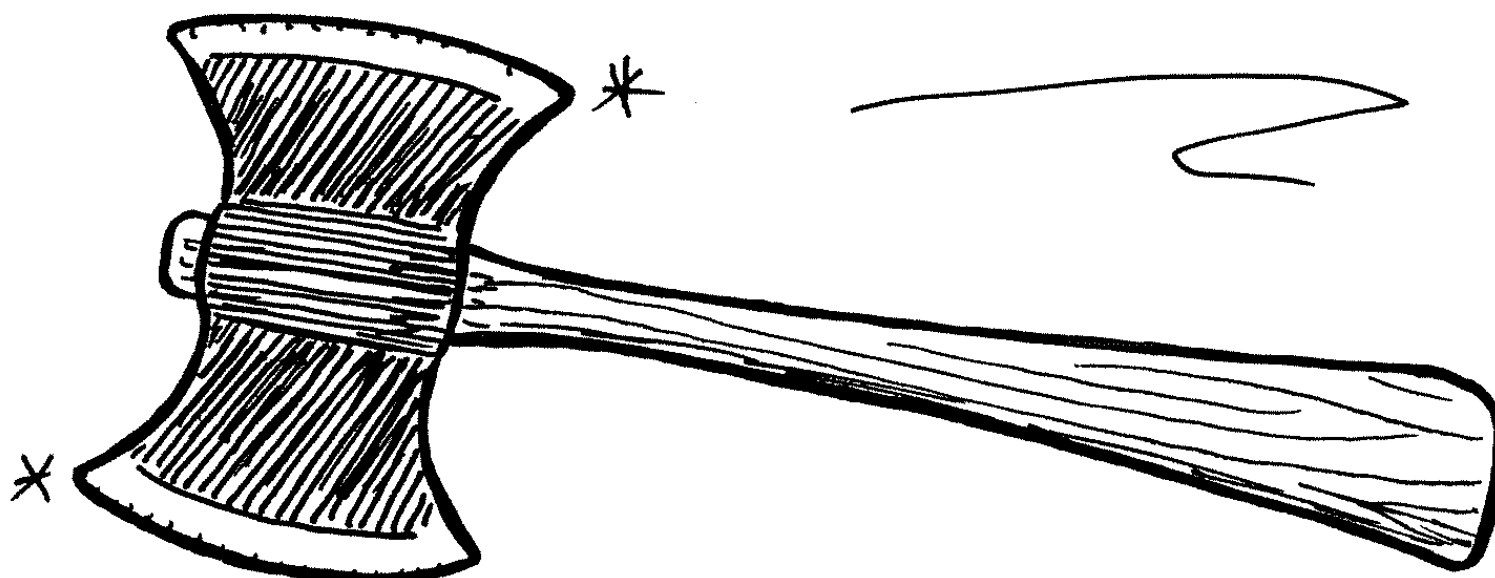
For each chapter, students answer a thorough set of questions requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is key as students must read and understand the *entire* book, in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students *must understand* the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments.)

2) Vocabulary and Language

Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary, spelling, parts of speech, antonyms, punctuation, and grammar.

3) Writing and Creativity

In this section, students apply what they have learned about language and grammar skills to write more effectively. Creative writing is the focus of this less-structured segment, allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills.



### READING STRATEGIES

A variety of reading approaches seems to work best. One proven method is for the teacher to read the book out loud to the entire class the first time through, stopping after a chapter or two. In answering the questions, students will essentially be required to reread the chapter on their own. Not only does this “out loud” method insure that students are read to daily, but it also helps all students to understand the book, regardless of reading level.

Having students read sections silently by themselves, out loud with partners or in small groups, are all possible variations that will help keep student interest high.

#### \*\*\*Note\*\*\*

One way to gain a measure of the effectiveness of the novel study and to gauge student interest, is to instruct students *not* to read ahead on their own. Basic reverse psychology dictates that students will invariably be slouching down into their desks to sneak in a chapter, while the teacher knowingly turns a blind eye.

### ASSIGNMENTS

With the assignments, teachers can photocopy entire booklets for each student or only the portions that the teacher wishes to use. One possible method of reducing this large amount of photocopying is to have the students write down the chapter questions and answers in their notebooks.

Teachers are free to pick and choose assignments as they see fit, as well as adding in any optional lessons they develop.



### STORY SUMMARY

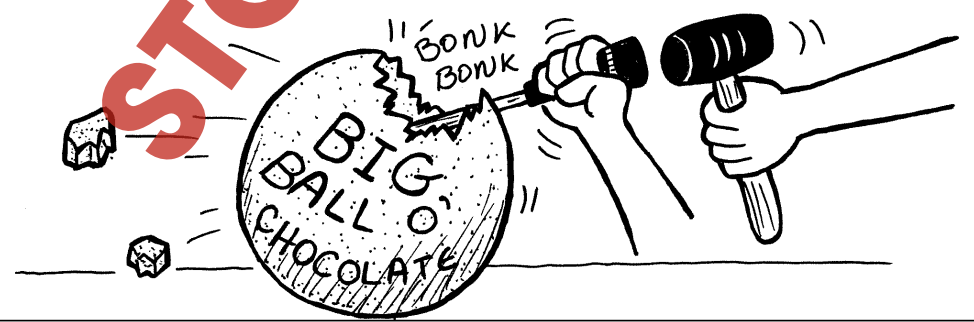
#### *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Young Harry Potter is a very unusual boy. Besides being a wizard and having just turned thirteen years of age, he becomes involved in the capture of a mass-murderer named Sirius Black.

Harry and his two best friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, are looking forward to going back to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Attending Hogwarts has been an “awesome” experience for all three students. This will be their third school term there.

Throughout the countryside, the media has been warning the public that a mass-murderer, Sirius Black, has escaped from the Azkaban Prison. Black is on the loose in search of his next victim - Harry Potter. Harry is the orphan son of John and Lily Potter who had been victims of Black twelve years ago.

The atmosphere at Hogwarts School and the surrounding area is very tense and frightening. Life proves to be challenging and uneasy for Harry and often times for his two close friends. Harry tries to function as a normal student but he becomes “wrapped up” in a world of magic, mystery, charms and suspense - a world where there are creatures like werewolves, hippogriffs, unicorns, and trolls. A book of wonder!



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

#### *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

#### J. K. Rowling

Ms. J. K. (Joanne Kathleen) Rowling was born on July 31, 1965. She is presently a single parent with a daughter named Jessica (who was born in 1993). The two of them live in Edinburgh, Scotland. J. K. Rowling has been quoted as saying, “My life’s ambition has been to write full time. This is all I have wanted from the age of six.”

**Education:** Joanne graduated from Exeter University, England with a degree in Languages. She majored in the French language. She also studied the Classics. She has taken teacher-training courses at colleges in England as well.

**Careers:** Secretarial work in a large business. In 1991, Joanne moved to Portugal to teach English. She later taught French in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is now a full-time writer.

**Awards:** Ms. Rowling, has to date, won numerous literary awards for the “Harry Potter” series. These awards include: Nestle Smarties Gold Medal Winner; British Book Awards’ Children’s Book of the Year; Scottish Arts Council Children’s Book Award; Sheffield Children’s Book Award. She has been shortlisted for the Guardian Fiction Award and the Carnegie Medal (received “Commended”) among others.

#### **Other Books by Author:**

“Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” (Book 1)  
- 1997

“Harry Potter And The Chamber of Secrets” (Book 2)  
- 1999

“Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” (Book 4)  
- 2000

### CHAPTERS 1 - 3

#### Questions



#### Chapter 1 “Owl Post”

1. Name two assignments that Harry was given to write by the College professors over the summer months.

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2. Name two of Harry’s best school friends and write three interesting facts about them and their families.

Friend # 1: \_\_\_\_\_

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #2: \_\_\_\_\_

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was today a special day for Harry? How had the day been made even more special?

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**CHAPTERS 1 - 3**  
**Vocabulary and Language**



**A) NOUNS**

There are three different kinds of nouns as follows:

1. **Common Noun** - a person, place, or thing that is not capitalized. For example: hiker, horse, love, news
2. **Proper Noun** - a specific person, place, or thing that begins with a capital letter (capitalized). For example: John, Toronto, Mrs. Brown, Toronto Star Newspaper
3. **Collective Noun** - a single word which names a group or collection of people, places, or things. For example: jury, herd, crowd

Search through Chapter One (Owl Post) and locate these three kinds of nouns. Place the required number of nouns under each specific category listed below:

COMMON NOUNS

PROPER NOUNS

COLLECTIVE NOUNS

- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. _____  | 1. _____  | 1. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 2. _____  | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 3. _____  | 3. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 4. _____  | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 5. _____  | 5. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 6. _____  | _____    |
| 7. _____  | 7. _____  | _____    |
| 8. _____  | 8. _____  | _____    |
| 9. _____  | 9. _____  | _____    |
| 10. _____ | 10. _____ | _____    |

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary. Discussion - why? was a triple-decker, purple bus with large golden letters that spelled out "The Knight Bus". If you had been a lost or stranded witch or wizard that night on the street, you would have seen the bus also. When Harry got off the Knight Bus, he met Mr. Fudge, the Minister of Magic. Harry learned that he will not be punished for his use of magic on Aunt Marge. He also learned that she is quite normal now. She has been deflated and much of her memory of the ordeal has been removed.

**1 - 3 Vocabulary and Language**

- NOUNS** - answers can vary - check!  
**Common** - pyramid, shoulder, letter, fly, wizards, attitude, age, owls, magic, quills, pillow, roper - Harry Potter, Dursleys, Adalbert Waffling, Privet Drive, Dudley, Muggles, Hogwarts, Hedwig, Flame-Freezing Charm, Fourteenth Century, Egypt, Wendelin the Weird  
**collective** - company, family, people, pile, week, year  
**VERBS** relating to green-covered book:  
 napped, scuttled, shuffled, struggled, flipped, toppled off, was hiding, shuddered  
**Nouns** - Colonel Fubster, book, Christmas  
**Pronouns** - her  
**Nouns** - bag, shelf  
**Pronouns** - they, it  
**Nouns** - Aunt Marge  
**Pronouns** - you, me  
**Nouns** - Uncle Vernon, form  
**Pronouns** - he  
**Nouns** - contest  
**Pronouns** - she

**1 - 3 Writing and Creativity**

- RESEARCH ACTIVITY** - information and illustrations will vary.  
**SCOPE**  
 kaleidoscope - a long tube consisting of mirrors and pieces of coloured glass.  
 microscope - an instrument with lenses for magnifying objects or details.  
 periscope - a tube equipped with mirrors or prisms that enables an observer in a submarine, trench, or crowd to see what is above them.  
 telescope - an optical instrument using lenses or mirrors to magnify distant objects.  
 sneakoscope - definitions will vary.  
 Illustrations of a sneakoscope will vary. Look for good imagination.

