

# Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

by JK Rowling

## Sizzling Start

The novel starts at a moment of change: Harry is neglected, lonely and badly treated by his relatives, the Dursleys. On his 11th birthday a giant appears to tell him he is a wizard and will leave soon for wizarding school.

## Exciting Ending

(Action climax)

Harry discovers that Voldemort is back! He has a huge battle with Voldemort in the cellars under the school. Dumbledore arrives just in time to save Harry's life.

## Character Wrap-up

(Emotional resolution)

Harry, Hermione and Ron are celebrated at Hogwarts for their heroic efforts. Harry goes back to the Dursleys' house for the summer, but he feels that he belongs at Hogwarts.

Gradual build-up of tension

Interest level

## Backfill

WHO: Harry Potter, Hermione, Ron and others at Hogwarts.  
WHAT: Harry starts school and gets into all sorts of adventures.  
WHERE: The Dursleys' house and Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

## Pebble (Small problem)

Ron and Harry have various adventures. They start a fight with a troll, who attacks a fellow student, Hermione. The three students defeat the troll and become best friends.

## Rock (Medium problem)

The friends discover there is a vicious three-headed dog guarding a trapdoor in the school. They surmise that something very valuable is hidden at Hogwarts and want to get past the dog to find it.

## Boulder

(Main tension scene)

One of the professors is acting very strangely, and Harry, Hermione and Ron think he is trying to steal the Philosopher's Stone (which grants immortality).