

Harry Potter

READING CLUB



Dear Host,

Congratulations on forming your own Harry Potter Reading Club. While most of us already know the pleasure of falling under J.K. Rowling's spell, the magic truly comes alive when we share the books with a whole new generation of readers.

Whether your members have just begun *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* or are already devoted fans, your club can enrich their reading experience, create a dynamic community, and encourage children to explore the wonder of the wizarding world and the power of their own imaginations.

For each of the seven books there is a unique discussion guide that you can use to help readers engage on an even deeper level: examining themes, sharing observations, and exploring the rich world that has already transformed generations of fans into lifelong readers.

The structure of the meeting is up to you. You may find that members wish to spend the entire session discussing the books. For those looking for more varied ways to participate, we've included a number of activities to add a level of interactivity. New downloadable activities will be available every month at scholastic.com/hpreadingclub.

Introductory Activities

If you'd like, you can welcome members to your first meeting with the following message:

Welcome to the Harry Potter Reading Club. Here is a list of suggested tools:

- An open mind
- An active imagination
- A willingness to work as a team
- A taste for adventure
- An owl, cat, or toad (optional)

Activity 1: Creative Writing

In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry receives his Hogwarts letter despite the best efforts of Uncle Vernon to keep Harry from discovering his magical heritage. As a creative writing exercise, ask your members to imagine what it would be like to receive their own unexpected letter from a unique school. How would their family react? What would the school specialize in?

Prepare ahead:

- 1) Photocopy one worksheet per member.
- 2) Make sure you have plenty of pencils.

During the activity:

- 1) Discuss the topic and have members brainstorm some examples.
- 2) Allow members about ten minutes to craft their responses.
- 3) Decide whether you'd like to ask members to share their responses with the group.

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Activity 2: Wand Making

Have your club members make their own wands using items like straws, paper-towel tubes, or similar. Wands can be displayed as club decorations, or members can test their powers during free play.

Prepare ahead:

- 1) Collect wand-making supplies:
 - One wand base per member
 - Glue
 - Various decorations like feathers, glitter, pipe cleaners, stickers, etc.
- 2) Photocopy one worksheet per member.

During the activity:

- 1) Ask members to imagine which wand would choose them, and sketch it on the worksheet. (If they've already registered on Pottermore, they can sketch the wand they purchased at Ollivanders.)
- 2) Distribute craft supplies so members can build their wands.
- 3) In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Mr. Ollivander explains that each wand gains its power from a magical core, such as a phoenix tail feather, unicorn hair, or dragon heartstring. Encourage members to find an item with special meaning to them and hide it inside their wand to provide the magical core!

Activity 3: Wizard Quick Draw Challenge

One of the joys of beginning the Harry Potter series is discovering the rich details that bring the wizarding world to life. Allow members to place their own imaginative spin on some of the iconic images by playing Wizard Quick Draw Challenge.

Prepare ahead:

- 1) Cut out the 20 cards in the Wizard Quick Draw Challenge handout.
- 2) Secure access to a whiteboard or a large sketchpad.
- 3) Decide what you'll be using as a timer.

During the activity:

- 1) Split members into two teams and flip a coin to decide who goes first.
- 2) Have the first player choose a card from the facedown pile, taking care to hide the word on the other side. When the timer starts, the player will draw the item on the card, and his/her teammates can begin guessing the word. If someone calls it out correctly before time runs out, their team receives a point.
- 3) Continue until everyone has had a turn.
- 4) Members who do not wish to draw can act as referees or timekeepers.



Activity 4: Word Search

Harry, Ron, and Hermione often find themselves searching Hogwarts Castle for hidden treasures and long-lost secrets. Have your club members hone their own observational skills by completing the Word Search.

Prepare ahead:

- 1) Photocopy one worksheet per member.

During the activity:

- 1) This activity can be done individually, or in pairs.
- 2) If members finish quickly, or if you have a number of devoted fans in your club, you can ask them to design their own word search puzzles to challenge their friends. Themes could include:

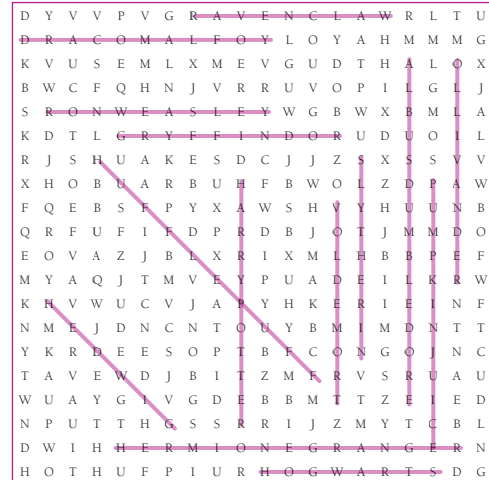
The Weasley Family

Spells and Charms

Hogwarts Students

Magical Plants and Creatures

Answer Key



Share the magic from your club meetings by tweeting about your most successful activities #hpREADS. We'll select a favorite to feature on our site.

We wish you the best of luck with this new adventure!

Yours sincerely,

The Harry Potter Reading Club

p.s. If time permits, give super fans a bit of a challenge and invite members to answer this month's Harry Potter trivia question.

Question: How many of the Weasley children served as Gryffindor prefects?

Answer: 4 (Bill, Charlie, Percy, Ron)



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