

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban Study Guide (Optional)

1. What does Aunt Marge say that provokes Harry to risk using magic outside of school?
2. Why does he react so hastily by leaving the house?
3. How has Harry's attitude changed toward his relatives?
4. Why does the Minister of Magic take a personal interest in Harry's welfare when he arrives at the Leaky Cauldron, and why does this surprise Harry?
5. Why do the Dementors affect Harry so strongly?
6. Discuss their method of controlling the prisoners in Azkaban.
7. Why is Dumbledore opposed to the Ministry's use of Dementors?
8. What is the effect of the Dementors' "kiss"?
9. Harry and his friends have three new teachers this year.
10. Compare what they learn in Hagrid's Care of Magical Creatures class, Lupin's Defense Against the Dark Arts class, and Trelawney's Divination class.
11. What are the skills that each teacher brings to his or her subject, and what skills do the students learn best from each of them?
12. Sirius Black has been a prisoner in Azkaban for twelve years. Peter Pettigrew has spent those years hiding in the body of a rat. How have these years affected each of them?
13. How did Sirius survive in Azkaban and how was he able to escape?
14. What does this tell us about his character?
15. Why is Scabbers a good name for Ron's rat?
16. Why is a rat a suitable animal form for Pettigrew to assume? Discuss how all the Animagus forms suit their characters: Prongs, Padfoot, and Wormtail. How does an Animagus differ from a werewolf?
17. What does Lupin's lesson on Boggarts teach about how to face our deepest fears?
18. When Harry tells Lupin his Boggart would take the form of a Dementor, Lupin says, "That suggests that what you fear most of all is – fear. Very wise, Harry." What does he mean?
19. Why is Lupin the only other person besides Dumbledore who will say Voldemort's name?

20. What does the word Patronus suggest?
21. Why does the Patronus only appear if you are concentrating very hard on a happy thought?
22. Why is each one “unique to the wizard who conjures it”? (p. 237)
23. For Harry to summon his Patronus, he tries several memories. What do we learn about Harry’s character during this process?
24. What is the most important thing that Harry learns about his father from Lupin?
25. What does Lupin mean when he tells Harry, “James would have been highly disappointed if his son had never found any of the secret passages out of the castle.”
26. Discuss the feelings that Harry has when he discovers the truth about Sirius Black.
27. Why does Harry stop Sirius and Lupin from killing Pettigrew?
28. Why did Harry’s feelings change from his earlier wish to hunt down Sirius Black for revenge?
29. Why is Snape so unwilling to hear anything good about Sirius Black or Lupin?
30. Why does he continue to be mean to Harry, Ron, and Hermione?
31. Discuss Hermione’s role in saving Sirius and Buckbeak.
32. Why is the Time-Turner necessary in helping Sirius escape?
33. Why is it so important that Harry and Hermione not be seen when they go back in time?
34. What does Dumbledore mean when he says to Harry: “You think the dead we loved ever truly leave us? You think that we don’t recall them more clearly than ever in times of great trouble?”
35. What is the importance of Harry learning to produce the Patronus?
36. Consider some of the new names in this book and discuss what the names suggest about the characters: Cornelius Fudge Sirius Black, Remus Lupin, Wormtail (Peter Pettigrew) Sybill Trelawney, etc.