

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is set in England. The story begins with the focus being centered on the Dursley family and the strange things happening on Privet Drive. We learn from Albus Dumbledore that Lily and James Potter (Harry's parents) were killed by Voldemort, but he could not kill Harry making him an [orphan](#). Dumbledore leaves Harry in a basket on the front doorstep of his aunt and uncle, the Dursley's, home with a letter explaining everything. Harry grows up living with his cousin Dudley, Aunt Petunia, and Uncle Vernon. The living conditions are [dysfunctional](#) and abusive. At school Harry is [bullied](#) by his Dudley and his [gang](#).

One day, nearly ten years after Harry was left on the Dursley's doorstep, Harry received a letter in the mail. Uncle Vernon confiscates the letter and does not allow Harry to read it. The letters keep coming and the Dursley family flees. On Harry's eleventh birthday Hagrid hunts down the family and breaks into their shack. Hagrid gives Harry an acceptance letter to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Hagrid also tells Harry what happened to his family and that he is a legendary wizard. Naturally Harry wants to go to Hogwarts and escape the torment inflicted on him by the Dursley's. Harry goes to London with Hagrid to get the appropriate school supplies.

At Hogwarts Harry is revered as a legend. When the students arrive at school they go through a sorting ceremony to determine in which house they will live. Harry is assigned to live in the [Gryffindor house](#) with his friend Ron Weasley, whom he met on the train ride to Hogwarts. At school Harry makes friends with Hermione and Neville. Harry quickly learns that he is not liked by Professor Snape or by Draco Malfoy. One day during flying class Malfoy steals Neville's toy (a Remembrall) and with it he flies off. Harry goes after him. Malfoy drops the Remembrall and Harry speeds toward it on his

broom stick and makes a remarkable catch. This spectacular grab earns Harry a spot on the Gryffindor [Quidditch team](#), which is a huge honor because freshmen are almost never allowed to play. Harry, Ron, and Hermione work together to put the puzzle pieces of mysterious happenings at Hogwarts. Along the way Harry and his friends encounter a troll, a group of centaurs, a three-headed dog, and aided the harboring and distribution of an illegal dragon. This book is full of cliff-hangers that make readers plow through chapter after chapter.