



2003

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

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Fry, Emily (2003) "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 1 , Article 27.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol24/iss1/27>

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Rowling, J.K.. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone*. Illustrated by Mary Grandpre. Arthur A. Levine, 1998. ISBN 0590353403. \$16.95. 309 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Fry

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Adventure stories;

Subject: Wizards--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; England--Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

Harry Potter has spent the last ten years of his life living with the Dursleys. Though Harry is their nephew, the Dursleys let Harry know how much of an inconvenience he is and how little he is wanted. Harry's dreary life all changes on his eleventh birthday when he receives a letter informing him of his acceptance into the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. In the Muggle's world (those who are non-magical), Harry is an outcast; however, in the magical world, Harry is considered one of the most famous wizards because he survived being killed by an evil wizard while still just a baby.

There is much for Harry to learn and he jumps right into Hogwarts and right into adventure. What do a dragon egg, a three-headed dog, and Devil's Snare add up to? It is with the help of Harry's new friends, Ron and Hermione that he is able to figure out the clues and save the day.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone is the first in an anticipated seven volume series by Rowling and is a thoroughly enjoyable read. The language is easy to read and the action is fun to follow for those who enjoy stories that incorporate the magical world into the plot. The wonderful illustrations by Mary Grandpre are a delightful addition and help the reader to visualize the world that Harry finds himself in. It can become frustrating when Rowling doesn't provide answers to all of the questions that are raised in Harry's and the reader's mind, but these minor set backs are not reasons to avoid this book. This is a book best suited to middle school and older readers, because there are some dark parts.