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### Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

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Rowling, J.K.. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Illustrated by Mary Grandpère. Arthur A. Levine Books, 1999. ISBN 0439136350. \$19.95. 435 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Fry

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Adventure stories;

Subject: Wizards--Juvenile fiction; Harry Potter (Fictitious character)--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

Harry enters his third year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry with some trepidation. He has just "blown up" his Aunt Marge, is on the run from the Ministry of Magic, and then finds out that the demented wizard, Sirius Black, who killed Harry's parents, has escaped from the wizard prison Azkaban and has decided that Harry is to be his next victim. Harry's third year at Hogwarts proves to be just as exciting as his previous two years as Ron's rat and Hermione's cat face off, Professor Trelawney's predicts ominous omens of death, Hermione mysteriously balances a heavy class schedule, and they discover the shocking secret that the new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor is hiding. With the help of his trusty friends, Harry is able to survive the attacks, figure out the truth, and save two lives.

This is an exciting thrill ride for avid Harry Potter fans. Unlike the first two books, the third book does not drag at the beginning, but begins with a bang and just continues from there. Rowling does not disappoint her fans in her third novel of Hogwarts. The action is fast paced and the intrigue keeps the reader on the edge of his/her seat. Definitely not a book to read at night to younger children, it is more appropriate for older children and those interested in the magical world.