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### Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Elizabeth Myers

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Rowling, J. K.. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Illustrated by Mary GrandPré. A. A. Levine Books/Scholastic Press, 1999. ISBN 0439064864. \$17.95. 341 pp.

Reviewer: Elizabeth Meyers

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Adventure stories; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Wizards--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (Imaginary place)--Juvenile fiction;

After completing his first year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry Potter thought his life would be different. But his new friends haven't written to him all summer, and his relatives, the Dursleys, are as nasty to him as ever. When a house-elf named Dobby appears in his room and warns him not to return to Hogwarts, Harry begins a series of adventures that all seem connected to the opening of the Chamber of Secrets. Legend speaks of it as a hidden room in Hogwarts where a dreadful monster lurks, just waiting to kill muggle-born witches and wizards.

The second installment in the Harry Potter series is just as enthralling as the first. Rowling deftly guides readers' exploration of Potter's world at Hogwarts and in the general magical community, as well as skillfully developing old characters while introducing hilarious or disturbing new ones. Any fan of the first book will find *The Chamber of Secrets* an entertaining and satisfying read.