

Harry Potter II A (Chs.1-4): Discussion Questions

A. WHO? (Characters)

1. Make a list of all the characters appearing so far in the story. Divide them into three groups: Children; Adults; Other Creatures. Why are there so many? Which seem likely to be Major and which Minor characters?
2. Who is the hero of the story? Try to divide the characters into Friends and Enemies of the hero. Which characters are difficult to place?

B. WHERE? (Places)

3. What different specific settings are found in the opening four chapters? How are they described?
4. There are two worlds in the Harry Potter stories: the world of wizards and witches, and the world of ordinary people (muggles)? How generally are they presented and how do they interact?

C. WHEN? (Times)

5. At what time of the year is the opening of the story set? Why do you think the author chose this time setting?
6. The story was published in 1998. Is the setting of the story contemporary with the time of writing? How can you tell?

D. WHAT? (Events)

7. What are the main events which take place in the opening chapters? Which of these events remain mysterious (unexplained) at the end of the section?
8. Which events described in the opening of the story are natural and which supernatural? How is magic used in the story so far?

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### E. HOW? (Style and Tone)

9. What kind of story is this: a comedy, a love story, a thriller, a horror story, etc?
10. What kind of person is the narrator (the person telling the story)? What kind of people does he or she seem to be telling the story to?

### F. WHY? (Context and Theme)

11. This is the second of the series of Harry Potter stories by J.K. Rowling. Find out something about the other stories in the series. When were they written? What are they about?
12. What values do Harry Potter and his friends seem to represent? What values do the various enemies of Harry Potter seem to represent?