

Harry Potter II C (Chs.9-11): Discussion Questions

A. WHO? (Characters)

1. Crabbe, Goyle, Harry, Hermione, Malfoy, Ron: what are the relationships between these six characters?
2. How does our view of Dobby and Lockhart and change during this section? Are they friends or enemies of the hero?

B. WHERE? (Places)

3. What sort of game is Quidditch? Where is it played? What are the differences between flying on broomsticks in this story and in other stories about witches that you know?
4. There are four 'houses' at Hogwarts School. What does this mean? What are they called? What characteristics do the four houses have?

C. WHEN? (Times)

5. What do we learn in this section about the HISTORY of Hogwarts School or of the wizarding world in general?
6. How many scenes occur outside in these chapters? How is the weather described? What is the season?

D. WHAT? (Events)

7. How many different spells are cast during this section? How are they cast? What other types of magic are used here? How?
8. During this section of the story, many of the pupils at Hogwarts come to suspect that Harry is the 'heir of Slytherin'. Why? Which pupils? What effect does this have on Harry?

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

9. What other stories do you know that are set in schools, and particularly in boarding schools? How are they similar or different to *Harry Potter II*?
10. Do you know of any other stories concerning secret or hidden rooms? Why are secret rooms interesting and what can they mean?

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

11. The Harry Potter stories are in many ways typically 'English'. Yet both the novel and film versions have proved extremely popular in many different parts of the world. Why?
12. How important is it that the author of the Harry Potter stories is a woman? Which are the most important female characters in the story? Is it important that the hero is male?