

Harry Potter II E (Chs.15-18): Discussion Questions

A. WHO? (Characters)

1. Which new characters or creatures appear in this section of the novel? How are they presented and what significance do they have?
2. How are Dumbledore and Voldemort presented here? What significance do they have in the story as a whole (or in the whole series of Harry Potter stories)?

B. WHERE? (Places)

3. Where is the Forbidden Forest and how is it described? What function does it have in the story?
4. Where is the Chamber of Secrets and how is it described? What function does it have in the story? Is there any connection between the forbidden forest and the secret chamber?

C. WHEN? (Times)

5. The phrase 'fifty years ago' recurs several times in the second half of the novel. What happened then? Why is it important?
6. Are there any indications towards the end of this story of what the future holds for Harry Potter and his friends? Any hints of how the next story in the series will develop?

D. WHAT? (Events)

7. Which characters/creatures reappear in the story after a long absence? What is their function in the final chapters of the story?
8. What are the main events that occur leading up to the climax of the story? What happens after the climax, in the final chapter of the story? What sort of ending is this.

~~~~~

E. HOW? (Style and Tone)

9. Like the other stories in the series, *Harry Potter II* often seems crowded with so many different characters and event? Why is this? Is it a strong or a weak point of the novel?
10. How important is dialogue in the novel? Why do you think are the most important dialogues in the final chapters? Why?

F. WHY? (Context and Theme)

11. Think about the rules of Hogwarts and the laws of the wizard world. Who makes them and who breaks them? What attitude does the story take to the rule of law?
12. Do you think that Joanna Rowling's view of the world religious (Christian) or secular (rationalist)? What evidence would you cite to support your opinion?