

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

J.K. Rowling

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Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling is the second book of the Harry Potter series. It is after *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and is preceding *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. It is a fantasy fiction novel like the rest of the six books in the novel. Harry, who has to stay with the Dursleys only during summer, escapes from their clutches with the help of Ron and his two older twin brothers Fred and George. They all go to Ron's slightly crowded but very homely and comfortable house. From there, Harry, Ron, and Hermione go to Hogwarts together as second years. They find the curriculum more challenging this year and on top of that, Harry's archenemy Draco Malfoy and Harry feel more animosity and enmity towards each other as Malfoy displays a loathsome hatred towards Muggle born witches/wizards such as Hermione because he believes that they are inferior to all magical families like Malfoy's. He calls the Muggle born witches/wizards a very offensive and discriminatory term, Mudblood. This discrimination takes present throughout Harry's year at Hogwarts and is very apparent. Suddenly attacks on the students, the Muggle borns specifically,

are being done. This leads to Hogwarts almost being closed down to ensure that no other students

get hurt. After Hermione is the latest victim, Harry and Ron decide to figure out who the attacker is and stop this attacker from doing any more harm. In Hermione's hand they find a crumpled paper that explains how there is a basilisk living in Hogwarts that can kill anyone with its look. The students however only accidentally look at the reflection of the basilisk which petrifies them. Harry, a new discovered Parselmouth, uses his power to get into the Chamber of Secrets where Ginny, Ron's younger sister is left to die. The two go down there to find Tom Riddle Jr. who is the memory of Voldemort preserved by his diary. They find out that Ginny had been possessed by Lord Voldemort for long periods of time, doing tasks that Voldemort delegated her to do. Voldemort sets the basilisk on Harry who in return kills it and using the basilisk's tooth, kills Tom Riddle Jr., once again forcing Voldemort to vanish and struggle to come back in some other way to usurp his magical evil powers to its fullest.

Something I really like about *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is how Harry and Ronald fight to get their best friend Hermione back and make Hogwarts once again safe by defeating Voldemort and compel him to vanish once more. The strong friendship that the trio has with each other is an invaluable relationship and demonstrates one of the many themes of the Harry Potter series. This book is appropriate for ages 8-14. This book should definitely be given as a gift along with the rest of the books of the novel series. It is certainly a series to cherish and keep as a prized possession forever. The books that come after this book are *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

