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## A HARRY POTTER BEGINNER'S GUIDE

Let's start at the beginning for those who are largely unfamiliar with the two Wizarding World of Harry Potter lands and the source material behind these lands. If you know the books and/or movies well, feel free to skip ahead to the next chapter.





## WHO IS HARRY POTTER?

In short, **Harry Potter** is a wizard who is the star of an extremely popular series of 7 novels and 8 movies based on those novels. When the story starts, Harry is an English orphan — living with his cartoonishly cruel Aunt, Uncle, and spoiled cousin — who only finds out about his wizarding heritage on his 11th birthday after spending his life to that point among **Muggles** (that's non-wizard folk — get used to that word). Upon finding out about his wizard parents, he also discovers that they were murdered by the most evil wizard that has ever lived: **Voldemort**.

Voldemort also attempted to kill Harry Potter, despite his being only a baby, but it didn't work (or these novels would have been



shockingly short). Rather, it destroyed Voldemort, who hasn't been seen since and is believed to be dead. I won't spoil too much of the story in these pages, but it is a very minor spoiler to say...he isn't. Because Harry survived this encounter, many wizards refer to him as The Boy Who Lived.

Harry is whisked off to what quickly becomes his favorite place in the whole world: **Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry**. There he meets his new best friends, **Ron Weasley** and **Hermione Granger**, along with a cast of many other friends (and enemies), and together they experience many magical mischiefs, misfortunes, and maladies.

The basic arc of the rest of the series is that Harry — assisted by many people, some of whom are listed in following sections — defies and battles Voldemort and his cronies. Throughout this journey Harry visits many interesting places and meets many people, some of which show up at Universal Studios.

For the significance of this book see *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.







## HOGWARTS SCHOOL OF WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY

If you are unfamiliar with the books and/or movies, lots of the people and place names found later will make as much sense as Parseltongue (snake language, which Harry and Voldemort both speak). The actual plot particulars won't help you much as you amble through the Wizarding World, so here's a quick glossary of terms that you can refer to when we later unintentionally confuse you (don't worry, no major spoilers if you're planning to read or watch later).

**Hogwarts Houses:** Most of the places found in The Wizarding World will be discussed in later chapters, but the four houses of





The Hogwarts crest, with the four houses and the school motto, which translates as “never tickle a sleeping dragon.” Advice to live by.

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry will be mentioned repeatedly, so we may as well start there.

Hogwarts, the ancient school of magic, is in a castle deep in the mountains of Scotland. It was founded by the four greatest wizards of the era: Godric Gryffindor, Rowena Ravenclaw, Helga Hufflepuff, and Salazar Slytherin. They each established their own house within the school and sought to include students who exhibited qualities similar to the founders themselves.

**Gryffindor:** Students of Gryffindor house are brave, daring, and chivalrous. They tend to be upstanding individuals who act in defense of others, sometimes without thinking it all the way through. Most of the stars of the Harry Potter universe are current or former Gryffindors including Harry, Hermione, and Ron. The Gryffindor symbol is a lion and its colors are scarlet and gold.

**Hufflepuff:** Those that find themselves sorted into Hufflepuff house are loyal souls who are patient, hardworking, and honest. Hufflepuffs rarely seem to excel, but remain dedicated and steadfast all the same. The Hufflepuff symbol is a badger and its colors are yellow and black.