

**Student Name**  
**Summer Reading Assignment #1**  
**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**  
**By J.K. Rowling**

1. **Theme** - One of the themes in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is Good versus Evil. This theme can be seen throughout the novel and shapes the ways in which Harry sees the world around him. In the beginning, Harry's family represents "evil" as they do everything in their power to make him feel inferior. The "good" comes when Harry realizes that he is a wizard and is taken to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, a new home where Harry feels loved and accepted for the first time in his life. At Hogwarts, Harry meets new friends who become like family and help him defeat the ultimate representation of evil in the novel: Lord Voldemort.
2. **Characterization** - In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry is described as being very humble. Although he is famous in the wizarding world, he never allows the fame to get to his head. This can be seen when he introduces himself saying, "I'm...Harry. Just Harry." He does not want people to assume that they know him based on his last name. Rather, he wants people to be his friends for the right reasons. He is also extremely brave throughout the story. He uses this bravery to overcome troubles at home, fears of the unknown, and ultimately the violence inflicted on him by Lord Voldemort.
3. **Climax** - The climax of the story comes when Harry Potter fights Lord Voldemort. Harry realizes that in order for Voldemort to maintain his powers, he must acquire the Sorcerer's Stone. Voldemort has been using Professor Quirrel to get to the Stone and must fight Harry in order to access it. Realizing this, a battle ensues in which Harry tries

to run from Voldemort and Quirrel. This is described in the book as a very scary scene:

“Harry sprang toward the flame door, but Voldemort screamed, ‘Seize him!’” Ultimately, Harry defeats Lord Voldemort.

4. **Conflict** - There are many examples of both internal and external conflict in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. Internally, Harry struggles with whether or not he is a good enough wizard. Although he is famous in the wizarding world, he lacks confidence in his abilities several times throughout the novel. He also has an internal struggle about his family. His parents were killed when he was just a baby and their absence greatly affects his confidence and self-esteem. Externally, Harry struggles against his aunt and uncle and the living conditions that they force him to survive under. He also struggles physically against Lord Voldemort. These conflicts helped me to relate to Harry more and also made me realize just how much my words and actions can impact someone else’s feelings of self-worth.
5. **Resolve** - I loved the novel’s ending! It was extremely action-packed and suspenseful. It also helped resolve the confusion surrounding who Professor Quirrel really is. While it did resolve a lot of questions that I had, it also raised many more such as what happened to Voldemort. By ending the book in this way, J.K. Rowling creates even more suspense and motivation to read the next book.