

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

CHAPTERS 1-5

In your discussion groups, choose a few of the questions to discuss. The questions provided below are meant to help keep the conversation going. Feel free to add your own questions, ideas, and thoughts about what we have read so far.

*If you know the story well, answer questions carefully so you do not spoil the book for those who are enjoying it. In other words, stick to the first five chapters that we have read so far.

1. Harry was looking forward to starting his third year at Hogwarts. How do you think he feels now that there are dementors surrounding the grounds?
2. The Minister for Magic, Cornelius Fudge, did not punish Harry for his use of underage magic. Instead, he pretty much ignored what Harry did to Aunt Marge. Why is that?
3. What type of punishment, if any, should Harry have been given for blowing up Aunt Marge?
4. Why do you think J. K. Rowling chose to name the prison "Azkaban"?
5. After the first 100 pages or so of the book, do you believe that Harry has a more positive or negative view of the world around him?
6. The Hogwarts Express is full of students on their way to school in September. Why is Harry more strongly affected by the dementors than other students?
7. Why are there so many apostrophes in the writing when Harry is on the Knight Bus?
8. Like everyone else, Harry faces many problems in the book. What problems do you and Harry have in common?

9. What is a dementor? Think of a time when you or someone you know was in distress, as Harry was with the dementor. How did you or this person react?
10. When Harry and Hermione see Professor Lupin on the train, they are not sure what to think of him. Have you ever misjudged someone because of their appearance?
11. At the end of chapter four, Professor Lupin gives Harry some chocolate to make him feel better. What is your “chocolate” when things aren’t going well?
12. In chapter 5, Harry discusses how he finally feels calm once he is in the presence of Professor Dumbledore. Who helps you feel calm after a difficult day or experience?