

**Discussion Questions for *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling**  
**Designed for the reader who is new to Harry Potter – Some questions adapted from [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)**

1. How many of you just read the book for the first time? How many of you are rereading the Harry Potter series?
2. Did you like the book?
3. The Harry Potter series is the most popular children's book series ever written. Estimates are that as many as 400 million copies of the seven books have been sold. When the last book went on sale, 8.3 million copies sold in the US the first day. Why do you think the series is so popular? Why do you think adults and kids both like it?
4. How did you feel about the characters? Whom did you like or not like and why?
5. Did any of the secondary characters stand out for you?
6. Did you feel that the author parceled out the details of Harry's life in an interesting way, or did you feel confused about what was going on?
7. Sometimes, the very qualities that seem to make a person disagreeable to you, as Hermione was to Harry and his friend Ron at first, become assets to you once that person becomes your friend. What qualities did Hermione bring to the group? What does her integration into the group tell you about the nature of friendship? Why did defeating the troll turn Harry, Ron, and Hermione into best friends?
8. Did any characters undergo change? What brought about these changes?
9. How does the setting figure as a "character" in the story?
10. What did you think of the plot line development? Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable?
11. Professor Quirrell tells Harry that "There is no good and evil, there is only power, and those too weak to seek it." Do you agree with this? Is this the reality of the world? Or if good and evil do exist, what makes them so? Which is more important in the world, power, or good and evil?
12. If you could talk to the author, is there a question you would ask her?
13. Do you want to read the next book in the series?
14. Are there any questions you would like to ask, or additional comments you would like to make?