

## Discussion Questions for *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* by J.K. Rowling

(Rowling quotes taken from <http://www.hp-lexicon.org/about/books/tbb/rg-tbb.html>)

### 1. *The Wizard and the Hopping Pot*

What lessons can be learned from this tale?

Did the story surprise you?

What do you think of Dumbledore's commentary? Does the son sacrifice his free will or learn a lesson?

This tale contains a wizard who thinks that "those who could not work magic were ... worthless." No doubt Voldemort never heard these tales, as he was raised in a Muggle orphanage. What about the children of Death Eaters? Do you think they heard this tale?

Are there modern day examples of Mrs. Bloxam, the witch who sanitized the fairy tales? What is Rowling's point?

Rowling's comments about the story:

"...the moral, really, is to teach young wizards and witches that they should be using their magic altruistically."

### 2. *The Fountain of Fair Fortune*

What lessons can be learned from this tale?

Did the ending surprise you?

What do you think of Dumbledore's commentary?

Rowling's comments about the story:

"'Fountain of Fair Fortune' is my favorite one, and that's really about the qualities you need to achieve your heart's desire, and the moral being that magic ultimately is not the best weapon."

### 3. *The Warlock's Hairy Heart*

What do you think of this story? Does it, as Dumbledore says, speak "to the dark depths in all of us"?

Does the warlock remind you of anyone?

What lessons can be learned from this tale?

Did the ending surprise you?

What do you think of Dumbledore's commentary?

Rowling's comments about the story:

"'Warlock's Hairy Heart' is really...quite gothic. It's quite dark, that one. And Voldemort would've done well to know that story before he set out on his campaign of terror."

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4. *Babbitty Rabbitty and Her Cackling Stump*

What lessons can be learned from this tale?

Did the ending surprise you?

What do you think of Dumbledore's commentary?

Rowling's comments about the story:

“‘Babbitty Rabbitty and her Cackling Stump’ is the stupidest title ever written by man or beast...and of course, when I wrote it, I never... I had not, at the point when I gave Ron that title, I didn't imagine for a second that I was actually gonna write the story. And I did have this, there was this kind of margin of time when I could've... where I knew I was gonna write ‘Beedle the Bard,’ and the book wasn't published, we were still editing. I could've gone back and change the titles. And I really like the idea of keeping those titles then finding out what those stories were, so... But ‘Babbitty Rabbitty’ was a challenge. But I did get there, and it's a story about revenge, one witch's sort of cunning way of revenging herself from persecution, from Muggle persecution.”

5. *The Tale of the Three Brothers*

What lessons can be learned from this tale?

Did the ending surprise you?

What do you think of Dumbledore's commentary?

6. Did you like the book? Which story was your favorite, if any? Your least favorite?

7. Do you feel that the stories add to the Harry Potter series?

8. What did you think of the artwork?

9. If you could talk to the author, is there a question you would ask her?

10. Are there any questions you would like to ask, or additional comments you would like to make?