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Harry potter and the chamber of secrets book summary

Keep up with the latest daily buzz with the BuzzFeed Daily newsletter! Sign up to the BuzzFeed Quizzes Newsletter - Binge on the latest quizzes delivered right to your inbox with the Quizzes newsletter! Just when you thought J.K. Rowling’s ubiquitous boy wizard couldn’t conquer new territory, Harry Potter is making his official Broadway debut this weekend with the opening of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. The show was a huge hit on London’s West End, and it’s already crashing ceilings in New York: In previews, it just set a weekly box-office record for a nonmusical.Personally, I’m not a fan of the franchise, which is to say, I don’t really know what a Muggle is and have never bothered to Google it. But given that the Potterverse has endured for more than two decades—and has a dedicated fan base that now spans generations—I was still curious about its capacity as a money-generating enterprise. How much is it actually worth? The most recent estimates seem to have been calculated last year, which marked the 20th anniversary of the first Harry Potter book. The Financial Times reported that Potter Inc. was a \$25 billion business.That’s a broad estimate, though. What’s really interesting about the Potter franchise is how it’s managed to dominate every possible medium—from books, movies, and live events, to the more recent stage show—and fans can be very particular about which they most prefer.So maybe the better question is: How much is Harry Potter worth to you? That’s a question I can’t answer, but for fun, I’ve rounded up a few stats below to help you think about it. Harry Potter fans around the world (Potheads if we’re going by your official title), get ready to celebrate, as it has been revealed that JK Rowling is releasing an EIGHTH Harry Potter book in July. It was announced not long ago that Harry Potter was coming to the stage as a West End London play, and this afternoon we learnt that the script is being published as a book! So for those of us unlucky enough to miss out on tickets to the show there’s still a chance to get our dose of the most famous wizard in the world - hooray! MORE: THE HARRY POTTER CHILD STARS THEN AND NOW Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I & II will be published on the 31 July following the opening of the play of the same title, but you can already pre-order your copy online. This content is imported from Twitter. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may be able to find more information, at their web site. MORE: 11 TIMES J.K. ROWLING WAS THE QUEEN OF TWITTER 'Pottermore is proud to be a key part of the multi-platform effort that will allow the epic eighth Harry Potter story to be read and enjoyed by a wider, global audience,' says Pottermore's CEO Susan L. Jurevics. 'With the script eBook of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child helping to lead the way, 2016 will be one of our most exciting years yet.' Understandably, and unsurprisingly, the world has gone into meltdown about the exciting news, and we have no doubt the book is going to be a bestseller on its first day! This content is imported from Twitter. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may be able to find more information, at their web site. This content is imported from Twitter. You may be able to find the same content in another format, or you may be able to find more information, at their web site. But will this finally be the last book, or will there be still more of Potter to come? MORE: J.K. ROWLING PROVES JUST HOW MUCH SHE CARES ABOUT HER FANS This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Some first editions of one of J.K. Rowling's popular "Harry Potter" books have a typo that could fetch the lucky book owners more than \$25,000. Wan Fahmy Redzuan / Shutterstock.com If you have a set of J.K. Rowling's immensely popular Harry Potter books sitting on your bookshelf collecting dust, listen up: A rare first edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" contains a typo that makes it worth a lot of money. In case you're wondering how much money is at stake, a copy of one of the first edition books with the mistake — which was released in 1997 — is expected to bring in up to \$25,760 at auction, according to this press release from Bonhams Auction House. So get out your first Harry Potter book, turn to page 53 and check out the list of required supplies for Hogwarts' students. If it erroneously lists "1 wand" two times, that's the book that's worth a lot of money. Unfortunately, if you have an American version of the first book in the series — retitled "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" — you won't be able to cash in. The book publisher printed just 500 copies of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" with the mistake, so now it's become a rare, highly prized collector's edition book. According to Bonhams: The first edition comes in various formats, but the most valuable is the first impression of the hardback, which must carry the number sequence 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 on the reverse of the title-page. The second impression of the hardback is also of some value, as is the first impression of the paperback Bonhams is selling one of the books, which it lists as being in "exceptionally fine condition," at an auction on Nov. 9 in London. It's expected to fetch between 15,000 and 20,000 British pounds, or roughly \$19,320 to \$25,760. Learn more about collectibles by reading, "Want More Return on Your Savings? Try Trading in Collectibles." Are you a fan of Harry Potter, either the movies or the books? Share your comments below or on our Facebook page. Disclosure: The information you read here is always objective. However, we sometimes receive compensation when you click links within our stories. Like Article Add a Comment In Harry Potter's magical world, nothing is as it seems—and that goes for the books themselves. Master storyteller J.K. Rowling wove in all kinds of mysterious meanings, surreptitious signs, and cloaked clues that, when deciphered, illuminate the themes of the story.For example, everyone knows that students are sorted into the four houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry based on their personalities—but did you know the house colors have a deeper meaning? "The four Hogwarts houses have a loose association with the four elements, and their colors were chosen accordingly," Rowling wrote on the official Pottermore site. "Gryffindor (red and gold) is connected to fire; Slytherin (green and silver) to water; Hufflepuff (yellow and black, representing wheat and soil) to earth; and Ravenclaw (blue and bronze; sky and eagle feathers) to air." For each book's 20th anniversary, new U.K. editions are being released in all the house colors and crests, with special house-specific content inside. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (the U.K. name for the first book in the series) and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' house editions are out now and available on Amazon; Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban releases this month.Harry has two contrasting father figuresColors also come into play with orphaned Harry's father figures in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: Rubeus (or "red") Hagrid and Albus (or "white") Dumbledore. Rowling points out that red and white are complementary colors in the mystical science of alchemy, and represent different stages of spiritual transformation. "Where my two characters were concerned, I named them for the alchemical colors to convey their opposing but complementary natures: Red meaning passion (or emotion), white for asceticism; Hagrid being the earthy, warm, and physical man, lord of the forest; Dumbledore the spiritual theoretician, brilliant, idealized, and somewhat detached," she wrote on Pottermore. "Each is a necessary counterpoint to the other as Harry seeks father figures in his new world."Names reveal who—or what—people really areSeveral of Rowling's characters' names have hidden meanings—and in many cases, if you know what they are, you can uncover the plot. For example, in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, beloved teacher Remus Lupin is discovered to be a werewolf, and Harry's godfather Sirius Black is revealed to transform into a dog. Remus's name refers to the Roman myth of Romulus and Remus, two brothers who were raised by wolves; and Lupin comes from the Latin word "lupinus," meaning "wolfish." Sirius, on the other hand, is the name of the "dog star" in astronomy, part of the Canis (i.e., canine) Major constellation. Check out more surprising Harry Potter details you may have missed the first time you read the books.Lupin's condition is a metaphor for HIVSpeaking of Lupin, Rowling revealed a deeper layer to his werewolf disease and the secrecy surrounding it. "Remus Lupin's affliction was a conscious reference to blood-borne diseases such as the HIV infection, with the attendant stigma," Rowling wrote on Pottermore. "The potion Snape brews him is akin to the antiretroviral that will keep him from developing the 'full-blown' version of his illness." Unfortunately, the discrimination Lupin unfairly faces when his condition is made public is the reason he has to leave Hogwarts. "The sense of 'apartness' that the management of a chronic condition can impose on its sufferers was an important part of Lupin's character," Rowling wrote. In the Prisoner of Azkaban movie, the filmmakers wanted to present Lupin's condition as an illness, so he appears pallid, unwell, and sad.Names also reveal the characters' true naturesSome characters' names give readers clues to their hidden motivations and feelings. J.K. Rowling is proficient in French, and that shows in her naming of Draco Malfoy and Voldemort. In French, mal foi means "bad faith," fitting for a character whose family follows the evil wizard He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. Voldemort's name comes from the French vol de mort, or "flight of death," which makes sense as he fears dying and does everything in his power to gain immortality. Of course, as Chamber of Secrets reveals, "I am Lord Voldemort" is also an anagram of the Dark Lord's original name, Tom Marvolo Riddle. Rowling assured fans she had no "anti-French feelings" in naming Voldemort. "I needed a name that evokes both power and exoticism," she said while receiving the French Legion of Honor. (Fun fact: In accordance with French pronunciation, Rowling revealed the last "t" in Voldemort is silent, meaning we've been saying it wrong all these years.)Hedwig symbolizes the comforts of childhoodAlthough Rowling herself hasn't elaborated on the meaning behind Harry's pet owl, the Catholic St. Hedwig had seven children and took care of orphans. Who does this sound like? Harry's best friend Ron's mother, Mrs. Weasley, mother of seven who sheltered Harry whenever he needed somewhere to go, sure fits the bill. Hedwig the owl likewise cared for Harry: In Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, he said she was "the only friend he had at number four, Privet Drive [his Muggle relatives' home]." And perhaps that's why fans were so saddened when she was killed in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. "The loss of Hedwig represented a loss of innocence and security," Rowling said. "Voldemort killing her marked the end of childhood." With meanings this deep, it's no wonder Harry Potter is one of the 10 young adult novels grown-ups secretly love.Dementors personify depressionThe soul-stealing dementors, creatures that suck hope and happiness out of anyone they're near, first appear in Prisoner of Azkaban. According to Rowling, they're a physical manifestation of what it's like to experience depression. "It's so difficult to describe [depression] to someone who's never been there, because it's not sadness," Rowling said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey. "I know sadness. Sadness is to cry and to feel. But it's that cold absence of feeling—that really hollowed-out feeling. That's what dementors are." For Harry, dementors also cause him to relive the trauma of his mother's death at the hands of Voldemort: When dementors are near, he hears her screams. If you're going through a difficult time, these J.K. Rowling tips can motivate you through any slump. And if you just need to read something silly, check out these Harry Potter jokes.Harry bears a resemblance to another "chosen one"A sword with magical powers that only can be summoned by a special someone...nope, we're not talking about the legendary King Arthur's Excalibur, but the sword of Gryffindor. If Harry's sword bears resemblance to Excalibur, though, does that mean Harry is King Arthur? Arthur, after all, was also an orphan from humble beginnings who was chosen to possess a powerful sword and become a leader. (Not to mention Dumbledore could be Arthur's wizard mentor, Merlin, and Hogwarts could be Camelot.) "Gryffindor's sword owes something to the legend of Excalibur, the sword of King Arthur, which in some legends must be drawn from a stone by the rightful king," Rowling said on Pottermore. "The idea of fitness to carry the sword is echoed in the sword of Gryffindor's return to worthy members of its true owner's house." Rowling included another intentional throwback to the Arthurian legend. "There is a further allusion to Excalibur emerging from the lake when Harry must dive into a frozen forrest pool to retrieve the sword in Deathly Hallows," she says. "In other versions of the legend, Excalibur was given to Arthur by the Lady of the Lake, and was returned to the lake when he died."Bathrooms are another kind of "room of requirement"Rowling hasn't revealed exactly why this is, but bathrooms are really, really important to the Harry Potter books. Nearly everyone has a major scene taking place in the "loo," as the British call it: the troll fight in Sorcerer's Stone; the home of ghost Moaning Myrtle and the entrance to the Chamber of Secrets; Harry solving a Trivizard Tournament clue in a bathtub in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire; Harry's wand battle with Draco in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. Plus, one of the first hints of the hidden Room of Requirement, which changes to fit the seeker's needs, is Dumbledore mentioning coming across a room full of chamber pots when he had to go the bathroom in Goblet of Fire. Perhaps this potty preoccupation exists because, before bathrooms, wizards apparently went wherever they pleased, cleaning it up with a flick of the wand. "Hogwarts didn't always have bathrooms," revealed Pottermore in a tweet that caused a fan frenzy. "Before adopting Muggle plumbing methods in the eighteenth century, witches and wizards simply relieved themselves wherever they stood, and vanished the evidence."Snape's first words to Harry were about his motherAs Pottermore explains, the Harry Potter books often employ florigraphy, or conveying meaning through flowers, a pastime popular with the Victorians. So, the first words cold Professor Snape says to Harry in Sorcerer's Stone—"What would I get if I added powdered root of asphodel to an infusion of wormwood?"—aren't just a way to humiliate Harry by asking him about a potion he hasn't learned yet. Asphodel is a type of lily and means "my regrets follow you to the grave"; wormwood is also associated with regret and bitterness. Snape, who was in love with Harry's mother, Lily, is telling Harry he bitterly regrets her death. (By the way, the answer to the question is the Draught of Living Death, which Professor Slughorn's class attempts to make in Half-Blood Prince.) Dive deeper into Snape's first words to Harry here.Seven is the most powerful numberIn numerology, numbers have mystical meaning, as they do in Harry Potter. Lucky number seven, for example, pops up everywhere: seven Potter books, seven children in the Weasley family, seven players on a Quidditch team, seven years at Hogwarts, seven Horcruxes containing pieces of Voldemort's soul, and more. In Hogwarts lore, a 13th-century witch named Bridget Wenlock was the first to discover the magical properties of seven. Another number that pops up often? The trinity, or number three: three Deathly Hallows, three unforgivable curses, the three-headed dog, three tasks and three schools in the Trivizard Tournament, and the core trio of Harry, Ron, and Hermione.Wizards like Starbucks?The books aren't the only places secret messages turn up. Look closely in the Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix film, and you'll see what looks like a Starbucks logo in the Black family tapestry at Sirius' former home and current Order of the Phoenix safe house, 12 Grimmauld Place. (Check it out on the bottom left side of the tapestry in this photo on Pottermore.) Could the filmmakers be paying homage to the coffee shops where J.K. Rowling wrote the early books? In truth, Rowling favored Edinburgh's The Elephant House, not Starbucks, as the spot to craft her tales—one of the offbeat places where the most famous books were written. Perhaps the tapestry's creators at graphic design firm MinaLima were just really in need of caffeine.There's a secret Daily Prophet characterThe cheeky artists at MinaLima didn't stop there: There's subliminal advertising for a wizard perfume called Divine Magic in the Half-Blood Prince and Potter spin-off Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them movies. But perhaps the designers' boldest move is the creation of a whole new character who appears in the Daily Prophet and New York Ghost newspapers throughout the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts movies: a mischievous criminal called the Ginger Witch. Could this be a long-lost relative of the red-haired Weasley clan? According to MinaLima's Eduardo Lima, she's based on a friend of theirs named Debbie.Mirrors are the window to the soulEven in the Muggle world, mirrors seem enchanted, but they take on an even greater significance in the wizarding world, reflecting crucial truths about the characters. First in Sorcerer's Stone, Harry becomes entranced by the image of himself with his parents in the Mirror of Erised ("desire" spelled backward). But the lesson the mirror represents, Rowling says, is that "life can pass you by while you are clinging on to a wish that can never be." In Goblet of Fire, Harry comes across a Foe-Glass, which reveals your enemies. Then in Order of the Phoenix, Sirius gives Harry a two-way mirror for them to communicate—only to meet his own death soon after. But even after Harry shatters the mirror in frustration, he sees an eye staring back at him in a shard: Harry later discovers it's Aberforth, Dumbledore's brother, who helps him to safely using the mirror in Deathly Hallows. If you picked up on these meanings already, try our Harry Potter quiz that only diehard fans can ace.Every product is independently selected by our editors. If you buy something through our links, we may earn an affiliate commission.

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