

Unfogging the Future

The Independent's Compleat Guide to a Harry Potter Filled Summer

By "Jahboh" L__ and Katie U__

After carefully inspecting the dregs left in teacups, consulting mystical crystal balls, and charting the movement of celestial objects, we have managed to finally juxtapose the most compleat guide to *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the fifth book in a series of seven.

We hope this guide is interesting and leaves you, the reader, muttering, "I never thought of that!" With no further ado, the guide beckons.

General Gist:

Name: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Author: J.K. Rowling

Release Date: June 21, 2003

Price: \$29.99 but most Madison bookstores offer it at 40% off (\$17.99)

Number of Chapters: 38 (one more than *Goblet of Fire*)

Word Count: approximately 225,000 (*Goblet* was 191,000)

Number of Pages: approximately 896

Intriguing Interviews:

Having read countless wonderful interviews of the author, we have come up with quite a lot that relate to the fifth book. The following are essential quotations by JK Rowling.

" 'It is dark,' she said. 'There' s a bad death in it that I haven' t enjoyed writing.'"

(Premiere of the Chamber of Secrets movie, 2002)

This is one of the most highly debated topics for the next book. Possible people suggested have been anywhere from Hagrid to Colin Creevey.

"Lizo: Is there anything that you can tell us about book five? Any new characters? JK: Well, we' ve obviously got a new Defense Against The Dark Arts teacher because Professor Moody wouldn' t want the job again having been locked in a trunk for a year! It' s a woman this time. You may see a little more of Mundungus [Fletcher] and there' s a new sorting hat song."

(BBC Newsaround Interview, 2002)

Finally a female Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher! Some fans believe she will be Fleur Delacour, from Beauxbatons. She had expressed to Harry her desire to have a job at Hogwarts to improve her English at the end of *Goblet of Fire*. Now Mundungus Fletcher... he's not a well-known character, but if you look through the books carefully, you will see that he is mentioned.

"You see Lupin in Book Five. Yes you see a lot of old characters in Book Five."

(BBC Newsaround Interview, 2000)

This statement does certainly not surprise us. Who would not want to read more about Lupin? After all, the werewolf is one of Rowling's favorite characters. There is certainly no doubt that the 'old crowd,' mentioned near the end of the fourth book, is making a debut in *Order of the Phoenix*.

"But also there are places in the world that I've been planning for so long and thinking about for so long that we haven't yet explored, and it's great fun. That will happen in book 5, too; we go into a whole new area physically, an area you've never seen before, a magical world."

(Entertainment Weekly Magazine interview, 2000)

We would love a suspenseful visit into Azkaban, the wizard prison. Or perhaps a better idea would be a field trip to the mysterious St. Mungos hospital? After all, we find it suspicious that Lucius Malfoy, one of the more slimy characters in the book, is one of the biggest donators to the place.

“What’s very important for me is when Dumbledore says that you have to choose between what is right and what is easy. This is the setup for the next three books. All of them are going to have to choose, because what is easy is often not right.”

(Entertainment Weekly Magazine interview, 2000)

“Q: Why do some wizards/witches become ghosts and others don’t? A: Another superb question, and this time I can tell you that you will find out much more about that in book five.”

(AOL chat, 2000)

“Q: If you could travel to Hogwarts for an hour, what would you do there? A: Go straight into a certain room, mentioned in book four which has certain magical properties Harry hasn’t discovered yet!”

(Comic Relief interview)

What room could this be? Some suggestions have been placed on the room Professor Dumbledore mentioned in *Goblet of Fire* with all the chamberpots!

“Ginny Weasley [little sister to Harry’ s best friend, Ron] will play more of a role in Book Five.”

(Philadelphia Inquirer Story, 2000)

“The Dursleys are in the next book, and there’ s stuff coming with them that people might not expect.”

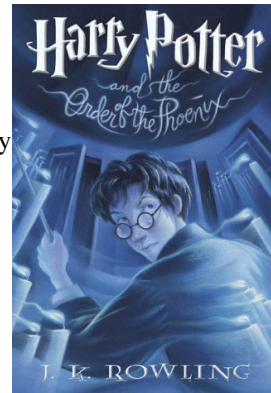
(Philadelphia Inquirer Story, 2000)

We’re hoping this terrible threesome will change for the better. They have certainly come far

from the days of shutting Harry in a cupboard.

Illustrated Insights:

“A picture is worth a thousand words,” certainly applies to the following pictures. Mary GrandPré, illustrator of the Harry Potter books has said to Amazon.com after reading the 5th book, “I think it’ s wonderful. It’ s unique, it’ s different from the rest. I think it’ s a really exciting part of the Harry Potter series”(Amazon.com Interview, 2003). The book cover (shown right/left/above/below) includes an image of a grown-up Harry in a room filled with floating candles. The primary color in the picture is strangely, blue which adds an eerie taste to the scene.



Another interesting drawing was found on a promotional standee for the fifth book and was also drawn by GrandPré. In this drawing (shown left/right/above/below), there are three people huddled in the foreground while a shadow lingers in the back. We are unsure about who the first two people in the foreground are, but some claim that they are Ron Weasley (with spiky hair?) and Mundungus Fletcher. The third is obviously Mad-Eye Moody from the fourth book.



Costly Card:

Near the end of 2002, Rowling wrote a 93 word card which consisted of random words extracted from the fifth book. The card auctioned and the money donated to Book Aid International, a nonprofit organization that provides books to needy children. It was eventually sold to an anonymous US buyer for over \$46,000 or \$485 per word. The words that were revealed to the public consisted of:

“thirty-eight chapters ... might change ... longest volume ... Ron ... broom ... sacked ... house-elf ... new teacher ... dies ... sorry.”

Extracted Excerpts:

On the day Bloomsbury, the UK publisher of Harry Potter, announced a June 21st release, they also included two short, yet crucial excerpts from book 5.

First, the book starts out with:

‘The hottest day of the summer so far was drawing to a close and a drowsy silence lay over the large, square houses of Privet Drive... The only person left outside was a teenage boy who was lying flat on his back in a flowerbed outside number four.’

Sometime later in the book:

‘Dumbledore lowered his hands and surveyed Harry through his half-moon glasses. ‘It is time,’ he said, ‘for me to tell you what I should have told you five years ago, Harry. Please sit down. I am going to tell you everything.’”

Alas, if they could only have told us more. Many fans have started heated debates about what Professor Dumbledore could be saying next. Suggestions have been made from everywhere between Harry being the Heir to Gryffindor, to a hidden secret about his parents.

Scholastic’s Scribbles:

Scholastic released a summer 2003 book catalog to many sellers in the United States just a few weeks ago. Surprisingly, the catalog includes a very interesting glimpse of some major conflicts in *Order of the Phoenix*. We have included a summary:

"Lord Voldemort’s rise has opened a rift in the wizarding world between those who believe the truth about his return, and those who prefer to believe it’s all madness and lies – just more trouble from Harry Potter. Add this to a host of other worries for Harry...

A Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher with a personality like poisoned honey

A venomous, disgruntled house-elf

Ron as keeper of the Gryffindor Quidditch team

And of course, what every student dreads: end-of-term Ordinary Wizarding Level exams

Now, that may look all good and normal, but why is Ron Weasley being the keeper for Gryffindor a worry for Harry?

...and you’d know what Harry faces during the day. But at night it’s even worse, because then he dreams of a single door in a silent corridor. And this door is somehow more terrifying than every other nightmare combined.”

The Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher part certainly scares us. It seems like this woman will not be staying for long, whoever she may be. Also, we rejoice at the fact that Ron is going to be the keeper for the Gryffindor Quidditch team. Yet, it seems strange that Harry is worried about this.

Creative Concoctions:

To finish this off, we asked a few of Memorial’s Harry Potter fans, for their opinions on what will happen in the fifth book. We received a slew of interesting ideas and would like to thank everyone who contributed. Here are the results:

“The Order of the Phoenix is most certainly a large order of something being shipped from Phoenix, Arizona. No, no, just kidding. I really think it’s a group fighting against Voldemort. Also, I believe that Snape is going to teach Harry an important lesson about life. Finally, Harry will probably not end up with a girlfriend and if he gets one, he’ll lose it.”

- A__ F__, Hufflepuff 4th Year

“Harry and Hermione should get together. After all, these books are supposed to get quote-on-quote more mature.”

- I__ S__, Gryffindor 4th Year

“I’m not sure about it, but it would be awesome if Mrs. Weasley is the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher. About deaths, I think it may be Lucius Malfoy or Ron Weasley.”

- L__ D__, Ravenclaw 4th Year

“Personally, I believe that the ‘Order of the Phoenix’ stands for a group of wizards and witches who will stand up and fight Lord Voldemort. There is evidence that supports this on page 560 of the *Goblet of Fire*. Dumbledore sends out a ‘birdlike’ smoke signal and Hagrid responds immediately. This most likely suggests that they existed even before Voldemort’s second rise.”

- J__ L__, Ravenclaw 5th Year

"If someone should die, it should be Dobby. He’s quite annoying and *gasp* a version of Gollum [from Lord of the Rings] gone bad! For the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher I say, give it to Snape! I mean, he’s the only one who wants it. To avoid this one-teacher-a-year idea, just give him the job!"

- Y__ R__, Ravenclaw 5th Year

"Ron and Hermione should be together. In the fourth book Ron was pretty jealous when he found out Hermione was going to the ball with Viktor Krum."

- S__ R__, Gryffindor 5th Year

"[Letter written to us in quill] I’m wondering what will happen with Fred and George and the joke-shop plans since they have all that money. Though, my main concern in this book is whether or not Ron can grow up enough to tell Hermione how he really feels...I hope Sirius gets the ‘bld gang’ together so they can kick some butt against Voldemort!"

- L__ C__, Gryffindor 5th Year

"Fleur [Delacour] will play an important part. I mean seriously, Harry is 15 and he should get a girlfriend!"

- P__ L__, Slytherin 5th Year

"I think that Dumbledore will send Snape to Voldemort. But obviously, Dumbledore isn’t so stupid so, he will probably ask Snape to drink polyjuice potion and turn into Crouch Jr. because Voldemort doesn’t know he is ‘dead’ yet."

- K__-T__ H__, Gryffindor 7th Year

"Harry is going to meet another relative so that he doesn’t have to live with the Dursleys again."

- Anonymous, Ravenclaw 7th Year

Have a magical summer, and while you are rubbing sunscreen on your nose while lying on a tropical beach (our prediction after calculating values using Arithmancy), grab a copy of the book and enjoy it in the sunshine.