

# HARRY POTTER



# PATHFINDER



## About this Pathfinder...

The purpose of this pathfinder is to assist moguls with learning about the wizarding world of Harry Potter. Oh, I almost forgot, most of you probably don't know what a mogul is. A mogul is the term used in the series to describe people who are non-magical; people like you and me. Unfortunately, we moguls will never be able to enter this world in person. However, we can enter into the wizarding world by reading the Harry Potter Series and thru visiting other resources. This pathfinder is designed to assist young adults between the ages of 10-13 who already know of the Harry Potter series find more information on the series and other books like them. It is also designed to arouse the interest of those who have not yet read the Harry Potter series into reading it or other books of interest.

The Harry Potter series is a very popular series for children, young adults, and yes, even adults love the series. The series is so popular that if you do a search in [google.com](http://google.com) for "Harry Potter" you will find over 89 million websites. WOW...what a number! This pathfinder is necessary to help organize some of that information so you can learn more about the series and related topics as well as the author. It will also point you to other information with similar themes. Themes are topics within a book or story. The Harry Potter series has several themes that are present, but we will only take a look at a few of them. There are also suggested readings listed in the pathfinder for additional books that fall in the same theme as we discuss. Once you become more familiar with the Harry Potter series, try picking out some themes not on this pathfinder and then look for more information online. You may want to ask your librarian or teacher to assist you with this process.

There are several sections to this pathfinder. Each section is marked at the beginning with the



image.



## About the Author



J. K Rowling

J.K. Rowling began writing the Harry Potter series in 1990 and published the first of the seven novels, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, in 1997. Eleven years later the last book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was published in 2007. Readers are introduced to *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* in the last novel of the Harry Potter series and gained so much popularity that Rowling published a collection of these stories in 2008, thus completing the series to date.

Websites for finding more about J.K. Rowling:

<http://www.jkrowling.com/en/>

This is the official website for J.K. Rowling. Once you enter the site you can click on various images to get more information. For example, clicking on the hair brush will get you information on “extra stuff.” Other sections include a Diary, News, Rumors, Biography, and a Scrapbook.

<http://www.kidsreads.com/HP07/content/rowling.asp>

Kidsreads.com is a website designed for children to get to know more about J.K. Rowling and the Harry Potter series. Once you enter the site, look to the left for specific book topics as well as information on Rowling.



## About the Publisher

The Harry Potter series has publishers for different countries. The paperback book series is published in England by Bloomsbury. In the United States the paperback publisher is Scholastic Publishing. There are also audio books of the series available in the United States that have been published by Random House, Inc.

Websites for finding more information on the publishers:

<http://www.bloomsbury.com/>

Go to the top of the page and click on Harry Potter to get to more information on the series and author J.K. Rowling. Other information available at the top of the Bloomsbury Publishing website includes Authors, What's New, Events, Trade, Reading Groups, and a Bookshop. At the bottom of the page you can select Bloomsbury USA which features a children's section on its homepage.

<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/index.asp>

The link provided will direct you to the website dedicated to children from Scholastic Publishing. Once you enter the website you can select topics that you want to look at, including

GAMES! I also recommend trying The Scene link...simply click on it. Once you are in The Scene you can read postings from other kids from all over the United States. To be able to write messages you will have to become a member, which is easy to do. First, go to the MyProfile and click on it. Once there click on the Join Now button. Another good feature about this site is there are resources for your librarian, teachers, and parents to use as well.

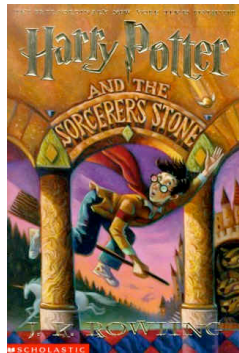
<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/index.pperl>

When you enter into the Random House website you will go into the Kids page. Random house has designed this page for younger children, so you will need to click on Teens up towards the top of the page. Once there you will be able to do searches for Harry Potter or other books published by Random House. There are also tabs for finding Books, Authors, Fun, Buzz, and News. Like Scholastic Publishing, Random House also provides resources for teachers and librarians.



## *The Harry Potter Series*

Book One:

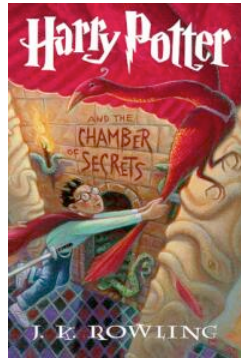


*Harry Potter and the Sorcerers Stone*

*By*

*J.K. Rowling*

Book Two:



*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

*By  
J.K. Rowling*

Book Three:



*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

*By  
J.K. Rowling*

Book Four:



*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

*By  
J.K. Rowling*

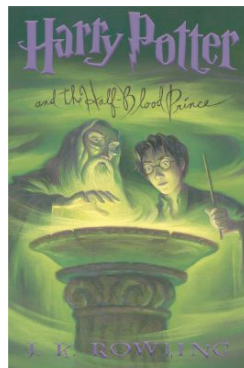
Book Five:



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

***By  
J.K. Rowling***

Book Six:



***Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince***

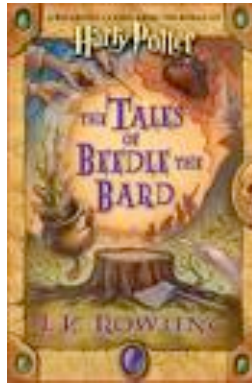
***By  
J.K. Rowling***

Book Seven:



***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows***

***By  
J.K. Rowling***



*Tales of Beedle the Bard*

By

*J.K. Rowling*



## About the Series...



Harry Potter is an orphaned boy who discovers he is a wizard on his eleventh birthday. After learning that he is a wizard, Harry leaves his aunt and uncle Dursley's home to live at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. While at school he befriends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. He also learns that Lord Voldemort, the wizard who murdered his parents and tried to use the killing curse on Harry when he was only one year old, wants to come back to finish him off for good. Over the next seven years, with the help of Headmaster Dumbledore and several others, Harry, Hermione, and Ron have many adventures trying to defeat Lord Voldemort for good and rid the wizarding world of his evil. Complete with dragons, flying brooms, potions class, a whomping willow tree, crystal balls, trolls, and goblins, this adventure is sure to capture your imagination.

Websites for finding more information on the Harry Potter series:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Potter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter)

Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia that is a good starting point to find information on just about anything. Keep in mind that anyone can go in and add to, delete, or edit the information, so it's not the best way to conduct research for class. However, if you are looking for a good overview, the Wikipedia page for Harry Potter goes into great length about many of the topics covered in this pathfinder.

<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/>

The Leaky Cauldron is a social networking website designed for Harry Potter fans. Browse through the tabs at the top to find information about the books, movies, art gallery, news, and many other topics related to Harry Potter. Make sure you visit the For Fun! section as well! Once you become a member of the site you can post messages or even submit art inspired by the Harry Potter series that you have created.

<http://www.MuggleNet.com>

MuggleNet.com is another social networking website for Harry Potter fans. It too, contains all sorts of news about the Harry Potter series, including J.K. Rowling's plan to publish an encyclopedia about the series and video clips from the movies. To join this page, look in the left column on the homepage and click on MuggleSpace. From this page you will be able to create an account and post comments.



## Setting



The Harry Potter series is set in present day England and in the city of London. Harry has been raised in a fictitious town of Little Whinging in Surrey County, England. Surrey is located just south of London. Take a look at the following websites to learn more about England and the counties and cities within England.



Websites for finding more about England and London:

[www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)

Hotstuffworks.com is a website dedicated to explaining how things work in the world. To learn more about England using howstuffworks.com, go to the “Geography of England” webpage at: <http://geography.howstuffworks.com/europe/geography-of-england.htm>. This page contains a map of England and quick facts about the country. There are also tabs at the top of the page that will allow you to locate information on a variety of topics other than England. Click on the tab you are interested in and then select a topic from the list to find more information on that topic. For example, you can select the Geography tab and then select North America from the list on the left hand side. From there select United States to find out more information on the United States of America.

[picturesofengland.com](http://picturesofengland.com)

Picturesofengland.com is a website that contains a lot of information about England and has plenty of pictures to look thru. To learn more about the counties of England, go to the link provided and then select the England Map tab at the top of the page. From there you will be able to look up London and Surrey as well as other English counties mentioned in the Harry Potter series. There are lots of tabs that you can select to find more information on counties, towns, attractions, pictures, and lots more. Make sure to explore the list of topics on the left hand side of the webpage for additional option.



## Themes

### School



Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is a boarding school that magical children go to once they turn eleven years old. The school was founded over a thousand years ago by four founders, Godric Gryffindor, Salazar Slytherin, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Helga Hufflepuff. The school is broken into four houses, or dormitories, named after each of the founders. Each year the new students are sorted by a sorting hat that, once placed on their heads, can determine their values.



The Gryffindor mascot is a lion and values chivalry, daring, courageous and nerve. Their colors are red and gold. Harry Potter and his friends Ron Weasley, and Hermione Grainger are all in the Gryffindor house. Harry's parents as well as Headmaster Dumbledore also belonged to this house. Gryffindor's and Slytherin's rival each other in everything they do.



The Hufflepuff mascot is a badger. Hufflepuff values hard work, loyalty, tolerance, and fair play. Their colors are yellow and black.



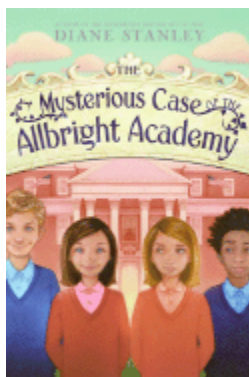
The Ravenclaw mascot is an eagle. Ravenclaw values wisdom, creativity, wit, and wisdom. Their colors are black and canary yellow.



The Slytherin mascot is a serpent, or snake. Salazar Slytherin was a parselmouth, meaning he could speak to snakes. Slytherin values cunningness, ambition, and resourcefulness. Tom Riddle, later to become Lord Voldemort belongs to the Slytherin house. He too could speak parselmouth. Harry struggles with this because he himself is a parselmouth.

Hogwarts Headmaster is Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, a former professor at the school who has dedicated his life to teaching the students of Hogwarts. Years before Harry Potter arrives at Hogwarts Professor Dumbledore taught a pupil by the name of Tom Marvolo Riddle. Tom would later use the letters from his name to create a new name for himself, thus becoming Lord Voldemort and the most evil wizard ever known. As long as Professor Dumbledore remains at Hogwarts, Harry and the school are kept safe from Lord Voldemort and his followers, called death eaters.

Suggested readings for other books that set at a boarding school:



The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy, written by Diane Stanley, c. 2008

This is a sequel to "The Mysterious Matter of I.M. Fine" written by Diane Stanley. After Zoe is accepted to Allbright Academy, a well to do school founded by two famous scientist, she refuses to go unless her twin sister J.D. and older sister Franny can come along. Franny soon discovers that the school is not as perfect as it appears to be after her new friend Cal becomes ill.



Spying on Miss Muller, written by Eve Bunting, c. 1995

Set in Belfast just before the start of WWII, Jesse Drumm and her friends at Alveara boarding school are carefree until they discover their German teacher climbing on the roof one night. Could their teacher be a spy for the enemy? Spying on their teacher seems to be the only option in solving the mystery.

Websites for finding more information on boarding schools:

<http://www.studyusa.com/boarding/>

Boarding Schools in the USA is a great website to find boarding schools, summer camps, arts/music camps, and other programs young adults may be interested in. Click on the program that you are interested in learning more about and you will see a map of the United States and a list of all the schools that are available. There is also a View Only section that you can select criteria to see programs available that meet those criteria.

<http://www.boardingschoolreview.com/>

Boarding School Reviews is a website that provides more detailed information about boarding schools. There are tabs at the top of the page for Articles, Find Schools, and Application Help. There are several schools to get information about as well as steps to take for choosing a boarding school.



## **Magic**



Harry discovers that he is a wizard after Rubeus Hagrid, a half giant from Hogwarts, breaks down the front door at precisely midnight on the morning of his eleventh birthday. We get to learn about the magical world as Harry and his friends learn about it, from the first time Harry holds a wand to his battles with Voldemort.

Suggested readings for other books that contain magic:



Elemental Magic, written by Sharon Shinn, Rebecca York, Carol Berg, and Jean Johnson. c. 2007

Four short stories including Shinn's "Bargain with the Wind," York's "Birthright," Berg's "Unmasking," and Johnson's "Huntress Moon" are offered in this magical romance anthology.



Wizard Sword, written by William Hill. c. 2001

Dragons, dryads, and many other creatures populate this novel as Brin Williams, the chosen one, fights to save his home.

Websites for finding information on performing magic tricks:

<http://www.lanceburton.com/learn/>

If you are interested in learning some magic tricks, this is the site for you. Magician Lance Burton created this website and shares secrets for conducting magic tricks. Go into the website and look at the tabs at the top. There is a tab for Magic Secrets Revealed. Click on that tab and you will get a page that gives you the tips for a single magic trick. On that same page towards the bottom is a link to an archive of Lance Burton's secrets. Click on that link to get a lists of the magic tricks complete with secrets.

<http://www.learningmagic.co.uk/>

This website is designed to help you find resources on performing magic. It also provides other tips for buying magic tricks. Go to the link and check out the tabs at the top. Be sure to look thru the tabs The Basics, Resources, and Links tabs.



## Sports



Quidditch is the most popular sport in the wizarding world. Imagine combining soccer and football together, only with 3 goals on each end, and add flying on broomsticks and you have the basis for Quidditch. There are two teams each with 3 hoop shaped goals to defend. Four balls are used in Quidditch, two bludgers, a quaffle, and a golden snitch. Bludgers fly around by themselves and try to hit players indiscriminately. The quaffle is the ball used to score in one of the opposing teams three hoops. The golden snitch is a very small ball with golden wings. Whoever catches the snitch receives 150 points for their team and the game ends. The person on the team who chases the golden snitch is known as the seeker. Harry Potter starts playing Quidditch as a seeker in his first year at Hogwarts at the age of eleven, making him the youngest player on a Hogwarts team in two centuries.

Suggested readings for other books that are based around sports:



Tangerine, written by Edward Bloor, c. 1987

Paul, a legally blind teen, gains confidence as he faces the toughest soccer team in the county. His new confidence helps him stand up to his evil brother.



Winning, written by C.S. Adler, c. 1999

Vicky has made it onto the eighth grade tennis team and she couldn't be happier. That is until she discovers that her new tennis partner Brenda is obsessed with winning and will do anything, including cheating, to do so.

Website for finding more information on sports:

<http://www.quidditch.com/index.htm>

Quidditch.com is a website dedicated for online games, primarily Quidditch. From the homepage there is a directory on the left hand side that you can select the topics and activities that you want to explore. Selecting Quidditch Games will take you to a page that contains links to various online and downloadable Harry Potter games.

<http://myquiz.coolquiz.com/myquiz/myquiz.asp?QuizNum=38484>

Cool Quiz has designed a quiz to test your knowledge of Quidditch. You can take the quiz once you go to the link provided. At the top of the page are tabs for other Quizzes, Puzzles, Trivia, Humor, Fun Pages and Connect. You can also create your own quiz by selecting Make a Quiz. This would be a good way for you and your friends to study before a test. Each of you can create quizzes and then give them to each other to test your knowledge.



## **Dragons**



Dragons play a big part throughout the Harry Potter series. We are introduced to dragons in the first book of the series when the loveable Hagrid wins a dragon egg. After the dragon egg hatches, though, Harry and his friends convince Hagrid that the dragon should live in Romania with the other dragons. In the fourth book of the series Harry battles a fire breathing dragon in the Triwizard Tournament. And in the final book of the series Harry, Ron, and Hermione ride on the back of another dragon to escape being caught by Lord Voldemort.

Suggested readings for other books that have dragons:

Calling on Dragons, written by Patricia C. Wrede, c. 1993



This is the third book in “The Enchanted Forest Chronicles.” Kazul the dragon king, Telemain the magician, and the witch Morwen accompany Cimorene to retrieve King Medanbar’s stolen sword from Society of Wizards. The sword maintains the protection in the enchanted forest and must be retrieved to keep wizards from attacking.



Dragon’s Plunder, written by Brad Strickland, c. 1992

Teenage orphan Jamie Falconer has a talent for whistling up a strong wind. He welcomes the day that he is kidnapped by pirates and escapes the difficult life as a potboy in the Pirate’s Rest Inn. Jamie agrees to help the crew of the pirate ship find the dragon’s plunder that will release their captain from his captivity in a dead body.

Websites for finding more information on orphans:

<http://animal.discovery.com/>

Animal Planet has provided information on dragons on their website. Once you go to the Animal Planet website you will need to type into the search box Dragons. From the list of results go to the second on the list titled “Animal Planet Dragons The Dragons” or go directly to that page at <http://animal.discovery.com/convergence/dragons/profiles/profiles.html>.

<http://www.chinapage.com/dragon1.html>

Dragons have been very popular in ancient China. This website is dedicated to how dragons have been used in ancient Chinese culture, architecture, and paintings.

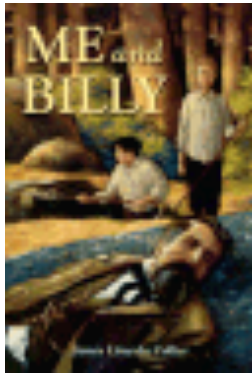


## Orphans



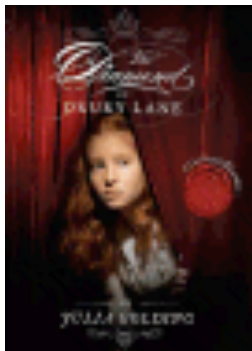
As stated above, Harry Potter was orphaned when he was only one year old. After being orphaned he was sent to live with his aunt and uncle, Vernon and Petunia Dursley. Harry's Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon want everything in their lives to be completely normal and perfect. Their knowledge that Harry is anything but normal in their eyes causes them to mistreat and neglect him. Harry is not even allowed a bedroom, but must sleep in a closet under the stairs while their son Dudley has two bedrooms. Showering their son Dudley with all their love and affection, Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon have little room in their hearts for Harry Potter.

Suggested reading for other books about orphans:



Me and Billy, written by James Lincoln Collier, c. 2004

Set in the old west, Billy Foster and his friend possum are two orphans living in a orphanage. The boys leave the orphanage to help the Professor in his search for gold in a nearby lake. Tension between the two boys keep you wondering what will happen next!



The Diamond of Dreary Lane, written by Julia Golding, c. 2008

Set in London, England in the 1790's, Cat has been abandoned by her family and now lives in the Theatre Royale. After a riot breaks out in the theatre, Cat discovers that the owner started the riot to have a secret meeting where he acquires a valuable diamond.

Websites for finding more information on orphans and orphanages:

<http://orphan.childrenshope.net/Orphan-History.266.0.html>

Children's Hope is an organization dedicated to providing "physical, medical, and humanitarian help to orphans at risk and in need." From this page you will learn a little bit about orphans.

Towards the bottom of the page you can click on Famous Orphans, Famous Adoptees, Orphans in Literature and Film, Orphans in Religious Studies, and Famous Quotes About Orphans.

<http://ech.cwru.edu/ech-cgi/article.pl?id=O3>

The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History provides a good overview of the history of orphanages. There are several links to find information on many of the orphanages mentioned in this page.



## Fantasy



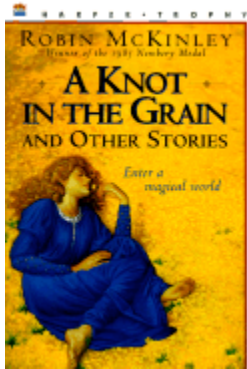
One of the most important components of fantasy literature is that it contains magic or some other supernatural force. Fantasy literature often takes place in another world or another dimension of this world. Harry Potter is a prime example of fantasy because it takes place in the wizarding world, which is in another dimension of this world, and muggles cannot see or take part in that world.

Suggested reading for other books about orphans:



12 Again, written by Sue Corbett, c. 2002

Set in Long Island, N.Y., Bernadette McBride accidentally drinks a potion and makes a toast to youth. The next morning she awakes to find herself twelve again. Adjusting to middle school again can prove to be more difficult than returning to her home and children.



A Knot in the Grain, written by Robin McKinley, c. 1994

“The Healer,” “The Stagman,” “Touk’s House,” “Buttercups,” and the title story “A Knot in the Grain” make up this collection of five fairy tales. Each of the five stories features an adventurous heroine.

Suggested websites to find more information on fantasy literature:

<http://www.uleth.ca/edu/currlab/handouts/genres.html>

The University of Lethbridge, located in Alberta Canada, has a nice handout that defines many of the types of books that are available for you to read. The definitions are written in a manner that should make them easy to understand. For each genre of book defined there are links to recommended readings for children and young adults. They also provide a list of authors that you may want to check out from your local library. This is a great list for you to take a look at to see what types of books you may be interested in addition to fantasy.

[http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/blogs/Childrens\\_Books\\_Blogs.htm](http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/blogs/Childrens_Books_Blogs.htm)

About.com is a website that is a part of the New York Times Company and provides online information about a variety of topics. The website suggested here provides a list of literature blogs and websites on some of the most popular children’s and young adult literature. There are tabs at the top for age brackets that will allow you to select the age bracket that you want to view. Selecting ages 9-12 will take you to a page that provides recommended reading lists for both fiction and non-fiction. There is also a link for Harry Potter!



## Discovering Additional Books

A lot of material has been covered and many book suggestions made. But you may want to find more books, or different books, than what has been discussed. A good place to start your search is through a website called Fiction Connection. Fiction Connection will help you find books that are similar to other books you enjoyed. You can also browse by topics to find books that you may want to read. You can access Fiction Connection at

<http://www.fictionconnection.com/welcomeclouds.asp>. Once you have entered this site, you can search Topic, Genre, Setting, Character, Location, and Timeframe. Click on the tab that you

want to search by and a box of descriptive words will appear. You can then click on one of those words to find books that are about or deal with that topic.

You can also search by a title of a book that you enjoyed. Type in Harry Potter in the search box and click search. You will find a list of 34 books that are about Harry Potter or similar to it. Also look to the left of the results. You will find what is called a concept map for you to use. A concept map will help you find description words that are closely related to your topic.

The next thing you should try to do is find books that are similar to Harry Potter. To do this, click on the Harry Potter book from the list of results. Once you have done that, look over to the right and you will see a box that says Find Similar. Click on that box and you will find books that are similar to the Harry Potter book you selected. Now try a different title of a book that you have read that you liked. Did you find anything else that looks interesting to read? If not, you may need to have your teacher or librarian help you until you get used to using this search tool.



### **Additional Search Terms:**

Now that you have gone thru this pathfinder, you may want to explore more on your own. Try using the following search terms in any search engine:

- “Harry Potter,” also try some combining searches with “Harry Potter” and anything about the series such you are interested in like “Quidditch” or “Hogwarts”.
- “J.K. Rowling”
- “England” or “London,” you can also try combining either of those search terms with a search term like “Maps”, “Government”, or “History”
- “Orphans” or “orphanages”
- “Sports” and/or the name of a sport such as “Rugby” or “Baseball”
- “Fantasy” and “Young Adults”
- The possibilities are endless...let your mind wonder! If you get stuck talk to your teacher or librarian to get help brainstorming for some search terms.



### **Additional Harry Potter Information and Activities to Try**

Each of the Harry Potter books has either been made into a movie or is in the process of being made into a movie. When a book has been made into a movie, you should try reading the book before watching the film. After reading the book, watch the film and see what information from the book is missing from the film. Try this with a friend who has also read the same book and then talk about it after you watch the film. You will be amazed at what your friend will notice is missing compared to what you notice.

The Harry Potter series is also available in audio book format. Try listening to an audio book while you get ready for school in the morning or just before going to bed. Another option is to listen to an audio book while you clean your bedroom or do other chores around the house. It's a great way to enjoy a good book while you do those things you don't really like to do, but have to.



## Create Your Own Timeline

Time Line Maker is a website that allows you to create your own timeline. You can access the Time Line Maker at: [http://www.teach-nology.com/web\\_tools/materials/timelines/](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timelines/). From this page you will have a choice of two time lines, a horizontal or vertical time line. The horizontal time line will allow you to enter six items and the vertical timeline will allow you to enter 9 items.

The screenshot shows the Time Line Maker website. At the top, there are navigation links: "View Samples" and "Become A Member". Below these are links for "Printable Worksheet Makers", "Rubric Makers", "Math & Language Arts", "Puzzle Makers", "Graphic Organizer Makers", and "Teacher Time Savers".

**Directions:**  
This generator can be used to make time lines of up to 9 events of your choice.

**STEP #1: IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF TIME LINE YOU WOULD LIKE**  
Time Lines can run horizontal or vertical. Choose the type of card you would like to make below.

**Horizontal Time Line (Up to 6 Events)**  
A horizontal timeline card is shown with a grid of dates: 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905.

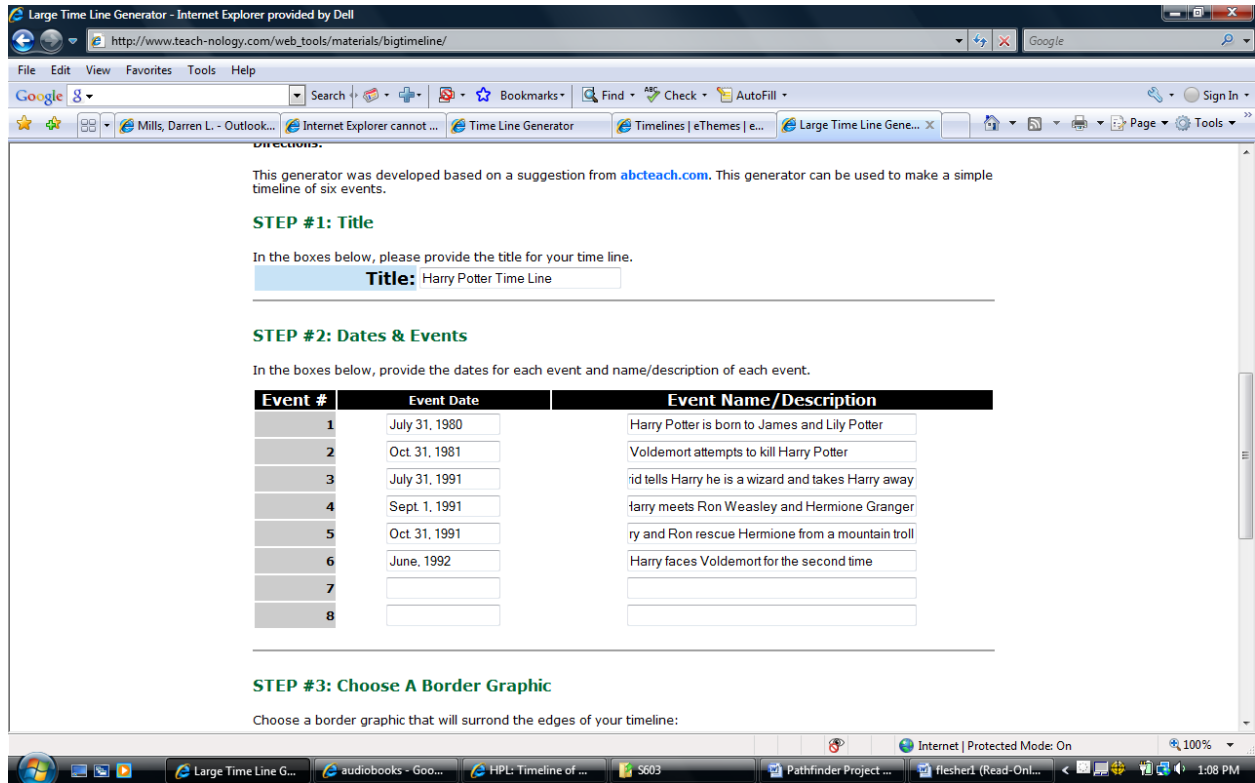
**Vertical Time Line (Up to 9 Events)**  
A vertical timeline card is shown with a list of dates and event titles:

Date	Event Title
2000	Event 1
2005	Event 2
2010	Event 3
2015	Event 4
2020	Event 5
2025	Event 6
2030	Event 7
2035	Event 8
2040	Event 9

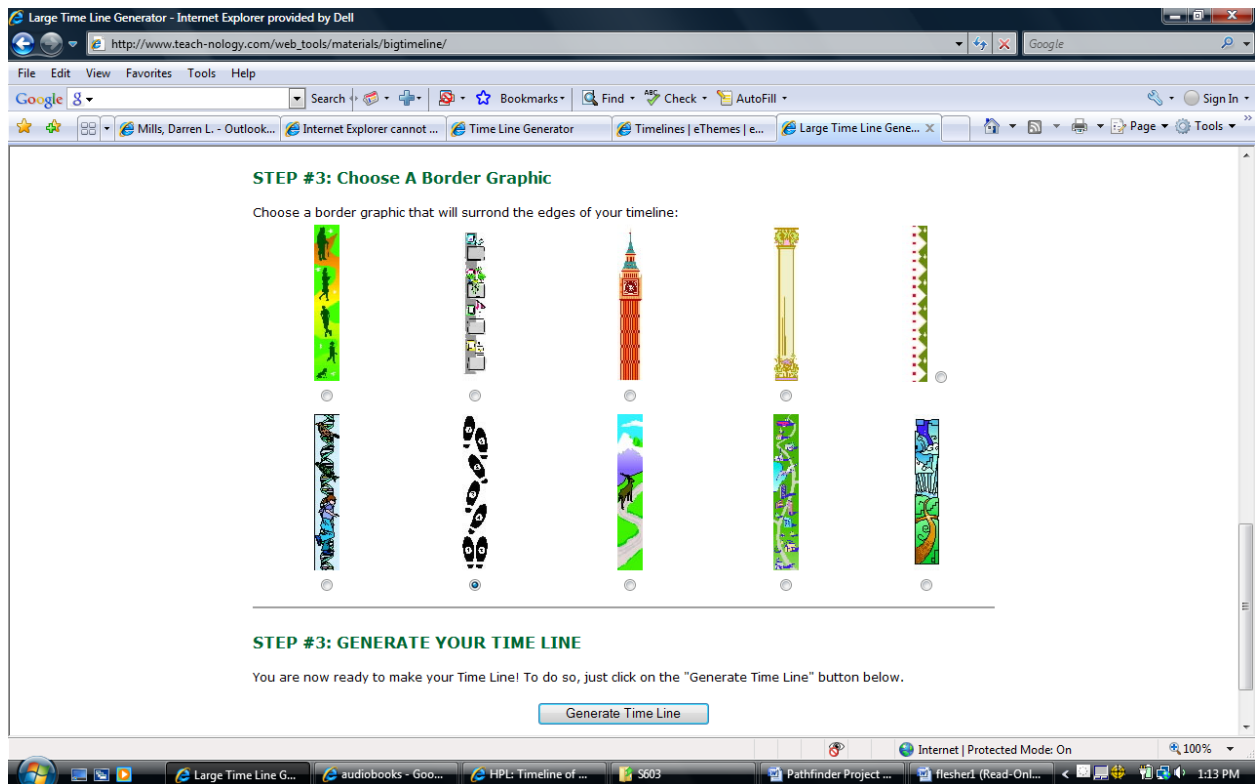
Below the cards are links: "Click Here to Make A Horizontal Time Line" and "Click Here to Make A Vertical Time Line".

At the bottom, there is a link to "View the teacher message board: Grades K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle Level | High School" and a footer with "About Us | Advertising | Best Sites | Help | Privacy | Site Map".

I have selected the Vertical Time Line to show you as an example. There are four steps to creating your own timeline and the directions are simple to follow. Step One is to provide a title for your timeline. Step Two is to enter the date and name the event.



In Step Three you can select the boarder that you want to use in your timeline. In Step 4 you create your time line by selecting the Generate Time Line button. (There is a typo on the website and this is labled as Step 3 as well, but it is really Step 4)



Here is an example of what my time line looks like. Try one for yourself!

Harry Potter Time Line	
July 31, 1980	• Harry Potter is born to James and Lily Potter
Oct. 31, 1981	• Voldemort attempts to kill Harry Potter
July 31, 1991	• Hagrid tells Harry he is a wizard and takes Harry away
Sept. 1, 1991	• Harry meets Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger
Oct. 31, 1991	• Harry and Ron rescue Hermione from a mountain troll
June, 1992	• Harry faces Voldemort for the second time
Aug, 1992	• Ron and his brothers rescue Harry from the Dursleys

Once you have your time line completed you can print them out. You can use this tool for both fun and for homework. Try creating one for your next Social Studies unit!



## Uses for this Pathfinder

Children and young adults who want to read the Harry Potter series or find more books to read that are similar in style will find this pathfinder useful. They can find out what title is next in the series, or possibly find a new series or book title to read from the suggested readings. They may also find using [fictionconnection.com](http://fictionconnection.com) or the publisher websites useful in searching for books that have similar themes to the Harry Potter series. Finding additional information on topics that they enjoy should be somewhat easier by using some of the websites provided such as [geography.howstuffworks.com](http://geography.howstuffworks.com). The social networking sites for the Harry Potter series can also connect young fans with other fans for discussing the series and related themes.

Parents can use this pathfinder for reviewing the materials their children are reading by using the [fictionconnection.com](http://fictionconnection.com) site. They can also use this pathfinder to find titles that they think their children will enjoy reading or to learn more about topics that their children are interested in. Or they can use it to learn more about the Harry Potter series and some of the themes within the series. Doing so will allow parents the opportunity to open discussion on some of the various themes and then do some research with their children. Some of the themes can even turn into family projects. For example, after learning more about the history of orphanages using The Encyclopedia of Cleveland website, the family may decide to get involved with the Children's

Hope International organization by using their website to make donations or to do volunteer work.

Teachers can use this pathfinder to learn more about their students in an effort to promote free inquiry. Allowing the student to use this pathfinder to research some of the themes mentioned, or themes not mentioned, will provide the student with the opportunity to freely learn about a topic that they are genuinely interested in learning about. Trying to connect the variety of themes that are mentioned in this pathfinder with class material will take effort on the part of teacher. Making the individual connections will be the easy part. Obviously, England is the setting for the series and that can be tied in with world geography. Using the HowStuffWorks.com site is an easy way to learn more about the geography and some quick historical facts about England. Dragons can be tied in with science and evolution using the Animal Planet website. One suggestion is to allow the students the freedom to select a single theme from this or another book or series and to connect that theme to one subject area discussed in class. This could be assigned at the beginning of each semester (or term) and would allow the student free reign to learn about whatever they want, and not what they are told that they have to learn to meet a standard.

Libraries can use this pathfinder to promote their children and young adult literature sections. They can use the various themes to pull titles that they have and arrange them in a display to demonstrate the variety of books available within their collection. Or they can use it to promote one singular them such as fantasy fiction and create a display based off that theme. Sponsored discussion sessions could also be incorporated where each session discusses one singular theme discussed in this pathfinder. One suggestion I would make if doing so would be for that library to create another pathfinder for materials within in their library for each of the themes discussed.

Children and young adults who use this pathfinder should use it for fun more than anything else. This pathfinder is designed to provide brief examples of the variety of themes that are found in the Harry Potter series that a child or young adult might connect with. If a child or young adult has read one or all of the Harry Potter books, they can use this pathfinder to find more books that are similar in nature that they might enjoy. Using the websites listed in this pathfinder will also help the child discover even more information on any singular or combination of topics. It should be seen and used as a starting point, not a finish line!

All book images that are not from the Harry Potter series came from <http://www.fictionconnection.com/welcomeclouds.asp>.

All other images came from the following website: <http://gallery.the-leaky-cauldron.org/default>.

Created February, 2009

By Darren Mills