HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE

Great Britain/USA 2001, 152 min.

German certification: minimum age 6 recommended for 8 years and older

Language: English with German subtitles

**Director**  
Chris Columbus

**Script**  
Steve Kloves, based on the bestselling novel by J.K. Rowling

**Cinematography**  
John Seale

**Editing**  
Richard Francis-Bruce

**Music**  
John Williams

**Cast**  
Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, John Cleese, Robbie Coltrane, Warwick Davis and others

**About HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE**

Since the death of his parents Harry Potter has lived with his aunt and uncle. But he doesn’t like it there. His room is a closet under the stairs. On his 11th birthday he receives a letter from the famous Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He’s been accepted as a student. He learns that he actually comes from a family of wizards! At Hogwarts Harry and his new friends Ron and Hermione soon learn that someone is planning to steal the philosopher’s stone, believed by some to give mortality.

This is the film adaptation of the first novel in the popular Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. Her loveable main characters Harry, Ron and Hermione, who are always there for each other, as well as the film’s colourful and imaginative setting, enchant the viewer. The audience enters a world a fascinating and dangerous world of wizardry from the perspective of the children. A wonderful modern fantasy-adventure film that blazed a trail for seven more Harry Potter films.

The worksheets address the following themes

- The qualities of the main characters
- The fantastic setting of the film and how this is shown
- How expectations are raised of certain characters (for example, the alleged villain Severus Snape)
- English terms relating to wizardry

**Publishing information**

**Publisher:**  
AG Kino – Gilde deutscher Filmkunsttheater  
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10789 Berlin

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**Photo credits:** Warner Home Video  
(All the stills are from the DVD HARRY POTTER UND DER STEIN DER WEISEN, released in Germany by Warner Home Video. They serve as image quotations, to enable study of the film’s content, and not as illustrations.)
A fantastical film with fantastic settings
The film brings us to many exciting places. Choose from the list below a place you found the most exciting.

- Platform 9 3/4 at London’s King’s Cross Station
- Diagon Alley
- The moving staircase and the talking paintings at Hogwarts
- The large dining hall at Hogwarts
- The forbidden corridor on the third floor at Hogwarts

Describe as accurately as possible what this place looks like and what is so special about it.

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Sketch a picture of this location. Pay attention to the colours. With cool colours (blue, black, grey) you can make a location appear sinister, and with warm colours (orange, yellow, red) bright and friendly.

In small groups, come up with another imaginary room that could be hidden away at Hogwarts. In a short text describe the space and make a model of it using different types of material (cardboard, papier-mâché, wood).

Harry Potter and Severus Snape
In the beginning Harry, Ron and Hermione are afraid of their teacher Severus Snape. Take a look at the stills below and answer the following questions.

- From what perspective is Harry Potter shown? And Severus Snape?
- What impact does this have on how the character is perceived?
- What adjectives could describe harry in this scene? And Severus Snape?
- Why does Harry Potter seem more likeable? Pay attention to the camera’s angle and distance.
**Harry, Ron and Hermione**

Harry, Ron und Hermione are the heroes of the HARRY-POTTER series.

Choose your favourite character and compose a personal description of him or her. In it describe,

- How he/she looks
- What his/her negative qualities are
- Something typical he/she might say
- What he/she thinks about the other main

Present your favourite character to the class. Explain what you like so much about this character and why you find him/her interesting.

**The beginning of a long story**

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE is the first of eight films. For that reason, many secrets in this film are just touched upon in order to stir the viewer’s curiosity.

What is left open at the end? What secrets have to be explained in the sequels? Make a list.

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**Learning about magic**

Everything is about magic and sorcery in the HARRY POTTER films. Translate the following terms into German:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the magic wand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the spell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the spell book</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>the witch</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>the wizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the curse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the magic potion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>the magic cauldron</td>
<td></td>
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