

Harry often overhears mysterious conversations that give clues to the books' final solution. You might use the owl to exchange messages about what you think is the explanation of a conversation, and have your child do the same. Compare your solutions, and then, when you reach the end of the book, see how close you came to guessing the solution to the mystery.



Above all, keep reading to your kids, and have fun. Enjoy the time you spend together as a time to improve your child's reading skills, and as a time to build the connection with your child.

### About Reading Wizards:

*Reading Wizards: Parents and Children Reading Together* is a series of bulletins on reading with children. Bulletins A through D are designed for parents of children as young as 2 years old and include activities based on Dr. Seuss books. Bulletins 1 through 6, based on the Harry Potter book series, were created for parents with children between the ages of 5 and 12. The bulletins will include tips on how to make the most of reading time with your children, as well as activities based on the Harry Potter Books for you and your child to do together.

### For more information contact:

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The Harry Potter books are written by J.K. Rowling and published by Arthur A. Levine Books.

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# Reading Wizards



## Parents and Children Reading Together

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There is great news for parents: Almost every child has the potential and ability to learn to read well. And the most important thing you can do to help your children be good readers is to read to them every day. If you want to “grow” good readers, you have to be a part of their reading experience. In this, the fourth “Reading Wizards” bulletin, we again offer tips<sup>1</sup> for reading with your children, as well as some fun activities based on the *Harry Potter* series.



Many scholars recommend that parents and children keep a book journal. This will help your child begin to express him or herself through writing, and will also bring parents and children closer together, as they write down their thoughts on the book they are reading.



Help your child make a journal. Encourage your child to be creative! Decorate the journal together with beads, glitter, markers, or whatever your child likes. Then after each reading session, use the journal to have a written “conversation” about what you have just read. To get your child going, write down simple questions, like “what did you like best about the story?” “Do you think (a character) should have acted that

way?” Write down your own thoughts on the story as well. Then let your child have the journal to write down how he or she felt about the story. Keeping a book journal will work for any book you and your child are reading together, but the *Harry Potter* books can make a journal especially fun.



Harry and his wizard friends send messages to each other by owl. You and your child can make your own “owl” out of cardboard, construction paper, etc. Make a beak for your owl out of a clothespin (or anything else that will hold papers). Then, take turns writing down your thoughts on what you are reading, and sending them to each other by owl. You might pick a special place for the owl to “land” and take turns surprising each other with new messages.

<sup>1</sup> Reading tips adapted from [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)