

# How to Write a Character List

## 3-5 Pages

A Character List is like what you would find for a book on Sparknotes (see example here: <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/lesmis/characters/>) and sometimes on a book or movie's page on Wikipedia. A Character List is a clear list of 1.) each main character with their characteristics and things from the plot or backstory that has shaped their character, and 2.) any secondary characters who are important to the plot, and 3.) any other named character in the book and their role in the book. Below is an example Character List with *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* used as the example.

### Instructions

1. Have 1-inch margins, and use Times New Roman, 12-point font.
2. At the top of the page, put the TITLE OF THE BOOK in bold and in all caps. Below that, put your author name (not in bold).
3. Insert page numbers at the bottom of the page
4. For the body of the synopsis, it should be single spaced, with 6 pt spacing after each paragraph.  
*Instructions: in Word, go to the page layout tab and in the spacing section, select "after" and change to 6 pt.*

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### HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

by JK Rowling

**Harry Potter (11):** an orphan. Scrawny, black-haired, green eyed and bespectacled boy who doesn't know he was a wizard. She developed the series' story and characters to explain how Harry came to be in this situation and how his life unfolded from there. Apart from the first chapter, the events of this book take place just before and in the year following Harry's eleventh birthday. Voldemort's attack left a lightning bolt-shaped scar on Harry's forehead, which produces stabbing pains whenever Voldemort is present. Harry has a natural talent for Quidditch and became the first person in decades to get on their team in their first year.

**Ronald Weasley (11):** Harry's age and Rowling describes him as the ultimate best friend, "always there when you need him." He is freckled, red-haired and quite tall. He grew up in a fairly large pure-blood family as the sixth born of seven children. Although his family is quite poor, they still live comfortably and happily. His loyalty and bravery in the face of a game of Wizards Chess plays a vital part in finding the Philosopher's Stone.

**Hermione Granger (11):** the daughter of an all-Muggle family, is a bossy girl who has apparently memorised most of the textbooks before the start of term. Rowling described Hermione as a "very logical, upright and good" character with "a lot of insecurity and a great fear of failure beneath her swottiness." Despite her nagging efforts to keep Harry and Ron out of trouble, she becomes a close friend of the two boys after they save her from a troll, and her magical and analytical skills play an

important role in finding the Philosopher's Stone. She has bushy brown hair and rather large front teeth.

**Neville Longbottom:** (11) is a plump, diffident boy, so forgetful that his grandmother gives him a Remembrall, although he cannot remember why. Neville's magical abilities are weak and appeared just in time to save his life when he was eight. Despite his timidity, Neville will fight anyone after some encouragement or if he thinks it is right and important.

**Rubeus Hagrid:** (50s) a half-giant nearly 12 feet (3.7 m) tall, with tangled black hair and beard, was expelled from Hogwarts and his wand was snapped in half (resulting in him never to use a wand again), however Professor Dumbledore let him stay on as the school's gamekeeper, a job which enables him to lavish affection, care and even pet names on even the most dangerous of magical creatures. Hagrid is fiercely loyal to Dumbledore and quickly becomes a close friend of Harry, Ron and, later, Hermione, but his carelessness makes him unreliable.

**Professor Albus Dumbledore:** (90-110) a tall, thin old man who wears half-moon spectacles and has silver hair and a beard that tucks into his belt, is the headmaster of Hogwarts, and thought to be the only wizard Voldemort fears. Dumbledore, while renowned for his achievements in magic, shrugs off praise, though he is aware of his own brilliance. Rowling described him as the "epitome of goodness."

**Professor Minerva McGonagall:** (60s), a tall, severe-looking woman with black hair tied in a tight bun, teaches Transfiguration, and is able to transform herself into a cat. She is Deputy Headmistress, and Head of Gryffindor House and, according to the author, "under that gruff exterior" is "a bit of an old softy"

**Petunia Dursley:** (30s) the sister of Harry's mother Lily, is a thin woman with a long neck that she uses for spying on the neighbours. As a muggle, she regards her magical sister as a freak and tries to pretend that she never existed.

**Vernon Dursley:** (30s) the husband of Petunia Dursley, is a heavily built man whose irascible bluster covers a narrow mind and a fear of anything unusual.

**Dudley Dursley:** (11) is an overweight, spoiled bully and Harry's cousin.

**Draco Malfoy:** (11) Antagonist. A slim, pale boy who speaks in a bored drawl. He is arrogant about his skill in Quidditch, and despises anyone who is not a pure-blood wizard – and wizards who do not share his views. His parents had supported Voldemort, but changed sides after the dark wizard's disappearance, claiming they had been bewitched. Draco avoids direct confrontations, and tries to get Harry and his friends into trouble.

**Oliver Wood:** (15) is Harry's Quidditch captain and keeper for the Gryffindor Quidditch team.

**Professor Quirrell:** (30s-40s) is a twitching, stammering and nervous man who teaches Defence Against the Dark Arts. Reputedly he was a brilliant scholar, but his nerve was shattered by an encounter with vampires. Quirrell wears a turban to conceal the fact that he is voluntarily possessed by Voldemort, whose face appears on the back of Quirrell's head.

**Professor Severus Snape:** (30s) who has a hooked nose, sallow complexion and greasy black hair, teaches Potions, but would prefer to teach Defence Against the Dark Arts. Snape praises pupils in Slytherin, his own House but seizes every opportunity to humiliate others, especially Harry. Several

incidents, beginning with the shooting pain in Harry's scar during the start-of-term feast, lead Harry and his friends to think Snape is a follower of Voldemort.

**Argus Filch:** the school caretaker who knows the school's secret passages better than anyone else except, possibly, the Weasley twins. His cat, Mrs. Norris, aids his constant hunt for misbehaving pupils.

### **Other members of Cast of Characters**

**Adrian Pucey** – Slytherin Quidditch team's seeker

**Alicia Spinnet** – fellow Gryffindor and Quidditch team's chaser

**Angelina Johnson** – fellow Gryffindor and Quidditch team's chaser

**Dean Thomas** – a fellow Gryffindor first year, best friends with Seamus

**Dedalus Diggle** – a wizard who greeted Harry in the Leaky Cauldron

**Fat Lady Painting** – the painting that guards the Gryffindor common room

**Firenze** – centaur who lives in the Forbidden Forest and saves Harry's life

**Fred Weasley** – Ron's older brother, George's twin, and a beater on the Gryffindor Quidditch team

**George Weasley** – Ron's older brother, Fred's twin, and a beater on the Gryffindor Quidditch team

**Ginny Weasley** – Ron's younger sister

**Goblin Bank Teller** – goblin who works at Gringotts and helped Harry and Hagrid get to their vaults

**Gregory Goyle** – a Slytherin first year, Draco's friend

**James Potter** – Harry's father

**Katie Bell** – fellow Gryffindor and Quidditch team's chaser

**Lee Jordan** – fellow Gryffindor and Quidditch announcer

**Lily Evans Potter** – Harry's mother

**Madam Hooch** - the Quidditch coach, who is strict, but a considerate and methodical teacher

**Marcus Flint** – Slytherin Quidditch team member

**Molly Weasley** – Ron's mother who helps Harry at King's Cross Station

**Mr. Ollivander** – the wand maker and seller in Diagon Alley who sold Harry his wand

**Mrs. Norris** – Filch's cat

**Nearly Headless Nick** – the Gryffindor ghost

**Peeves** – a poltergeist that wanders around the castle causing trouble wherever he can

**Percy Weasley** – Ron's older brother and the Gryffindor prefect

**Professor Binns**- the soporific History of Magic teacher; a ghost who does not seem to have noticed his own death

**Professor Flitwick** - the tiny and excitable Charms teacher and Head of Ravenclaw House

**Professor Sprout** - Herbology teacher and Head of Hufflepuff House

**Seamus Finnigan** – a fellow Gryffindor first year who has a proclivity for blowing things up

**Sorting Hat** – an ancient hat that sorts first years into the four Hogwarts houses

**Susan Bones** – first year Hufflepuff

**The Bloody Baron** – the Slytherin ghost and the only being Peeves is afraid of

**Vincent Crabbe** – a Slytherin first year, Draco's friend