

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: J.K. Rowling

Winner of the Hugo Award for Best Novel

Entertainment Weekly listed Goblet of Fire in second place on their list of The New Classics: Books – The 100 best reads from 1983 to 2008.

#### The Turning Point

In J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, we get a deeper glimpse into the dimensions of the wizarding world, and we get to explore the constituents of the magical community even further. This novel is perhaps the most symbolic of the first four, as Harry's horizons are widened both figuratively and metaphorically. We see a true blend of light and darkness in this blockbuster, thus making it a transition for the ages.

We see tangible examples of love... and even some jealousy from several of the primary characters. This symbolizes that some of the characters we have grown so fond of over the years are beginning to mature. The maturation of the characters and the overall character development taking place in this novel helps to foreshadow several potential romantic relationships.

The Goblet of Fire is centered around one main event; the Triwizard Tournament. Students from the Beauxbatons Academy and the Durmstrang Institute (which are other wizarding institutions) will travel to Hogwarts for the entire duration of the semester in hopes of being chosen to compete. The only requisite for entering one's name into the Goblet is that you must be at least 17 years of age...something that Harry is not.

At Halloween, the Goblet of Fire chooses three names; one student from the Beauxbaton Academy, one student from the Durmstrang Institute, and finally one student from Hogwarts. However, the Goblet also mysteriously spits out a fourth name; the name of a student that neither entered his name nor is of age to compete. Unfortunately, every name that the Goblet reveals is magically bound to compete in the Tournament. It is not only extremely strategic, but it is also extremely dangerous. It has several "rounds," and each "round" becomes increasingly more difficult. The first round revolves around going head-to-head with a live dragon. As the plotline progresses, so do the stakes for its competitors.

This critical juncture reveals that Hogwarts may not be as invincible as we once thought. Several events take place throughout the narrative that shows us how vulnerable it can be, and how easily Voldemort and his henchmen can permeate deep into its layers. The fact that all of this is taking place underneath Dumbledore's nose, hints that Hogwarts may not be the same dynamic sanctuary moving forward. <file:///C:/Users/austin25/Pictures/dragg.jpg>

It starts dark and ends even darker. From the reunion of the DeathEaters, which attack the muggles at the Quidditch World Cup, to the much anticipated "resurrection of evil", the book continues to twist and darken. As a reader, you will also be introduced to Voldemort in an entirely different form than you are accustomed to.

"Goblet is to the Potter series what *The Empire Strikes Back* was to the original *Star Wars* trilogy - it puts a darker spin on everything that came before, changes the roles of the game and reveals what's really at stake for the heroes." (Andrew Johnston, *US Weekly*, 2000)



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