

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

But Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon were both looking at Harry suspiciously, so he decided he'd better skip dessert and escape from the table as soon as he could.

Outside in the hall, he leaned against the wall, breathing deeply. It had been a long time since he'd lost control and made something explode. He couldn't afford to let it happen again. The Hogsmead form wasn't the only thing at stake - if he carried on like that, he'd be in trouble with the Ministry of Magic.

Harry was still an underage wizard, and he was forbidden by wizard law to do magic outside school. His record wasn't exactly clean either. Only last summer he'd gotten an official warning that had stated quite clearly that if the Ministry got wind of any more magic in Privet Drive, Harry would face expulsion from Hogwarts.

He heard the Dursleys leaving the table and hurried upstairs out of the way.

Harry got through the next three days by forcing himself to think about his *Handbook of Do-It-Yourself Broomcare* whenever Aunt Marge started on him. This worked quite well, though it seemed to give him a glazed look, because Aunt Marge started voicing the opinion that he was mentally subnormal.

At last, at long last, the final evening of Marge's stay arrived. Aunt Petunia cooked a fancy dinner and Uncle Vernon uncorked several bottles of wine. They got all the way through the soup and the salmon without a single mention of Harry's faults; during the lemon meringue pie, Uncle Vernon bored them all with a long talk about Grunnings, his drill-making company; then Aunt Petunia made coffee and Uncle Vernon brought out a bottle of brandy

"Can I tempt you, Marge?"

Aunt Marge had already had quite a lot of wine. Her huge face was very red.

"Just a small one, then," she chuckled. "A bit more than that . . . and a bit more . . . that's the ticket."

Dudley was eating his fourth slice of pie. Aunt Petunia was sipping coffee with her little finger sticking out. Harry really wanted to disappear into his bedroom, but

he met Uncle Vernon's angry little eyes and knew he would have to sit it out.

"Aah," said Aunt Marge, smacking her lips and putting the empty brandy glass back down. "Excellent nosh, Petunia. It's normally just a fry-up for me of an evening, with twelve dogs to look after. . . ." She burped richly and patted her great tweed stomach. "Pardon me. But I do like to see a healthy-sized boy," she went on, winking at Dudley. "You'll be a proper-sized man, Dudders, like your father. Yes, I'll have a spot more brandy, Vernon. . . ."

"Now, this one here -"

She jerked her head at Harry, who felt his stomach clench. *The Handbook*, he thought quickly.

"This one's got a mean, runty look about him. You get that with dogs. I had Colonel Fubster drown one last year. Ratty little thing it was. Weak. Underbred."

Harry was trying to remember page twelve of his book: *A Charm to Cure Reluctant Reversers*.

"It all comes down to blood, as I was saying the other day. Bad blood will out. Now, I'm saying nothing against your family, Petunia" - she patted Aunt Petunia's bony hand with her shovel-like one - "but your sister was a bad egg. They turn up in the best families. Then she ran off with a wastrel and here's the result right in front of us."

Harry was staring at his plate, a funny ringing in his ears. *Grasp your broom firmly by the tail*, he thought. But he couldn't remember what came next. Aunt Marge's voice seemed to be boring into him like one of Uncle Vernon's drills.

Resource Sheet Mild

1. Why did Harry skip dessert?
2. Why was Harry not allowed to do magic?
3. What had Harry previously done that meant he faced possible expulsion from Hogwarts?
4. What pie were they eating and how many slices did Dudley have?
5. What book was Harry thinking of?
6. Why was Aunt Marge's face red?
7. What did Marge think of Harry's mum?
8. What did Uncle Vernon do for a living?
9. Why did Harry decide not to leave the table?
10. Does Marge like Harry? Use the text to justify your answer.

Resource Sheet Hot

1. Why did Aunt Petunia stick her little finger out when drinking coffee?
2. Why did Harry decide not to leave the table?
3. Why does the author describe Marge's hands as being shovel like?
4. Does Marge like Harry? Use the text to justify your answer.
5. Why does Marge like Dudley?
6. Is Vernon a skinny or fat man? Use examples to justify your answer.
7. Why did Harry have a funny ringing in his ears?
8. Why does the author use the phrase 'smacking her lips together'?
9. Why is Harry compared to a dog?
10. Why does Marge chuckle when she says just a small one?

Resource Sheet Extra Hot

1. Why did Harry have a funny ringing in his ears?
2. Why does Marge chuckle when she says just a small one?
3. Why was Harry breathing deeply?
4. Do the Dursley's have much money? Use the text to justify your answer.
5. Why might Vernon's eyes appear to be small?
6. What is meant by the word wastrel?
7. Why might Aunt Marge be on the larger side?
8. Find examples that show Aunt Marge treats Harry in a hostile manner.
9. Why might the Dursley's be looking at Harry suspiciously?
10. What does the use of the word 'nosh' tell us about Marge's true character?