

## Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Reviewer: Kerrie Skillen



The phenomenon of Harry Potter has swept the nation! Both kids and adults alike can't seem to get enough of the young boy and his life at Hogwarts. With best selling books and blockbuster movies J.K Rowling has created a legend of a character and brought new life back into reading.

In a world full of media induced distractions, kids everywhere are now more intrigued with the written word.

Adults and parents too are caught in the action and have been sharing the story with their kids as a bedtime ritual.

The books bring families and friends together to share and learn together about more than just wizardry. The books communicate the importance of friends and family, and highlight the unfair discrimination that some people face. These are important topics for everyone to learn about and discuss within the home and throughout a community.

Inspired by the book's sense of friendship and fun, my friends and I gathered for a Potter Potluck. The event was an afternoon meal that was topped off with a visit to the local movie theatre to watch the newly released Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban movie. Throughout dinner there was plenty of conversation about what the movie would entail as we munched on Harry Potter inspired delights.



Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is the third movie in the Harry Potter series of stories. With new director Alfonso Cuaron, this Harry Potter movie presents a darker and deeper look at Harry's life.

The story begins in traditional fashion, with Harry struggling through another summer with the dreadful Dursley's and anxiously awaiting the new school year at Hogwarts. Harry gets himself into trouble when, during a visit from his Aunt Marge, he loses his temper and casts a spell on her. He narrowly escapes his Uncle and takes to the streets to be later picked up by the Knight Bus.

Upon his return to Hogwarts, Harry learns that Sirius Black, a dangerous criminal, has escaped from Azkaban prison and is suspected to be looking for Harry. He is advised not to go looking for Sirius but this proves to be a struggle for Harry and his adventurous friends. Harry wants to get to the bottom of Sirius's connection to him and the murder of his parents. In his way however are a number of obstacles, including the menacing Dementors that Professor Dumbledore has allowed to guard the school.

Along the way, Harry of course must attend school, which leads him to the Care of Magical Creatures class, where Hagrid is up to his usual bumbling behaviour. Harry is also

introduced to two new teachers, Professor Lupin and Professor Trelawney both of whom bring unique entertainment and, in one case, friendship to Harry's life.

Harry and his friends are taken on a magical journey as they learn who Sirius is and what he wants with Harry. Along the way they learn important lessons about personal strength, family, friendship and truth.

Overall the movie itself is highly enjoyable. It is visually beautiful and creatively directed. While the story doesn't include all of the important elements that are in the book, it does a good job of highlighting the main story lines. Both children and adults will enjoy this film, which allows them the opportunity to have fun and ponder important life lessons at the same time.

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- Movie web page: <http://harrypotter.warnerbros.com>
- Movie Mom's Review: <http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&id=1808404334&cf=parentsguide>

