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WHAT'S NEW | ESSAYS | FORUM | STORE | FAQ | HELP | TEXT | SEARCH

[Home](#)

[Muggle World](#)

[Wizarding World](#)

[Magic](#)

[People](#)

[Places](#)

[Creatures](#)

[Items](#)

[Other](#)

[Time Lines](#)

[Help/About](#)

[Search](#)



# Magic and Magic Theory

[Magical Theory](#) - [Reference](#) - [History of Magic](#)

Magic is what sets folks in the wizarding world apart from their Muggle neighbors. Magic is the heart and soul of the wizarding culture in the same way that science and technology are the heart and soul of Muggle culture. Where a Muggle would pound a stake into the ground using a sledge hammer (a simple machine), a wizard would use a wand. Both the Muggle and the wizard view their choice of tool as completely and utterly logical and ordinary, although each would find the other's tools fascinating and even mysterious.

The basic concepts of magic are fairly simple -- even a two-year-old wizard can do some form of magic -- but the inherent power and potential for misuse are great indeed. It is for this reason that promising young witches and wizards are sent off to Hogwarts and other schools of magic to refine their craft and learn the art and responsibility of their power. At Hogwarts, students learn a variety of magical specialties as well as general theory and the history of magic in their world.

## Magical Theory

*"I don't believe in witchcraft, though I've lost count of the number of times I've been told I'm a practicing witch. Ninety - let's say ninety five percent at least, of the magic in the books is entirely invented by me. And I've used things from folklore and I've used bits of what people used to believe worked magically just to add a certain flavor, but I've always twisted them to suit my own ends. I mean, I've taken liberties with folklore to suit my plot."*

- J.K. Rowling on magic in the books (HPM)

Rowling spent the first five years of creating the Harry Potter books working on "the rules" for her fictional universe. She doesn't spell out these rules in the books, but she drops plenty of hints. In order for the ordinary "Muggle" reader to better understand the way things work in the world she created, the Lexicon presents a series of essays detailing these rules, as far as we can discern them. None of these essays was written by Rowling herself, but each is based on careful analysis and interpretation of events in the stories.

### **Wand, Word, and Will: How Magic Works**

- **Ancient Magic: Magic from Before the Dawn of Time?** essay by Steve Vander Ark
- **Familiarity, A Key to Understanding Spellwork** essay by Paul Dionne
- **Harry Potter's Magic** essay by Alan Jacobs
- **Limits of Magic** essay by Caius Marcus
- **Magical Ability and Magic Wands** essay by Lisa Inman
- **Magical Devices and their Muggle Counterparts** essay by Steve Vander Ark
- **A Magical Worldview**
- **Muggle vs. Wizarding Technology** essay by Joywitch M. Curmudgeon
- **Spells and Charms: The Nature of Magic** essay by Amy Z.
- **Thoughts About Wands** essay by Amy Z.
- **When Magic Meets Muggle Technology** essay by PrefectMarcus

## **Magical Reference**

# The Complete Guide to Magic

The Complete Guide to Magic provides a complete guide to all the magical spells, devices, potions, and terms (as well as links to the Lexicon's individual encyclopedias and directories for specific areas of interest).

Fields of Magical Study	Types of Magical People	Categories of Magic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Arithmancy</u></li> <li><u>Charms</u></li> <li><u>The Dark Arts</u></li> <li><u>Divination</u></li> <li><u>Herbology</u></li> <li><u>Legilimency</u></li> <li><u>medical magic</u></li> <li><u>Occlumency</u></li> <li><u>Potions</u></li> <li><u>Transfiguration</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Animagus</u></li> <li><u>Arithmancer</u></li> <li><u>Legilimens</u></li> <li><u>Metamorphmagus</u></li> <li><u>Occlumens</u></li> <li><u>Parselmouth</u></li> <li><u>Seer</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Movement Magic</u></li> <li><u>Vanishing Magic</u></li> <li><u>Offensive/Defensive Magic</u></li> <li><u>Curses, Hexes, and Jinxes</u></li> </ul>

## History of Magic

some notable events in the history of the wizarding world



## The Harry Potter Lexicon

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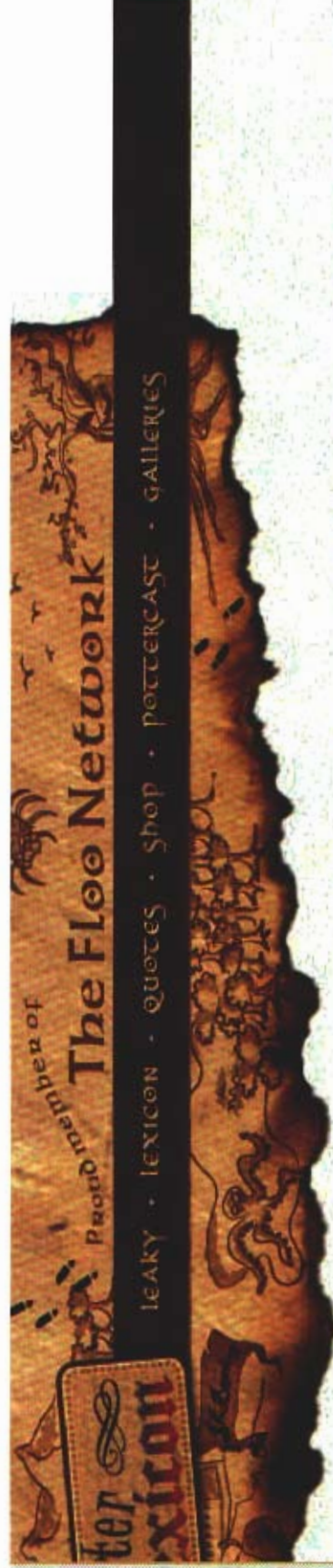
Harry ... Dumbledore ... Voldemort ... Snape ... Sirius ... Hermione ... Ron ... Draco

**Wizarding Families**

- The Black Family | tree
- The Bones family
- The Crouch family
- The Diggory family
- The Dumbledore family
- The Gaunt family

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-  Animagi
-  Authors
-  Battles
-  Blood status



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The Longbottom family

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Creatures (Bestiary)

### Essays

Essay: Snape's Eyes by Edmund Kern  
Essay: The Changing Image of Grown-Ups by Elizabeth Dalton

-  Hogwarts founders
-  Hogwarts staff members
-  Hogwarts students
-  Inquisitorial Squad
-  Ministry of Magic personnel
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-  Order of the Phoenix
-  Quidditch teams
-  Slug Club

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