

Tuesday 19th January Reading Comprehension B

Diagon Alley Extract 3

In this extract, Hagrid takes Harry to buy his wand.

Then they visited the apothecary's, which was fascinating enough to make up for its horrible smell, a mixture of bad eggs and rotted cabbages. Barrels of slimy stuff stood on the floor, jars of herbs, dried roots and bright powders lined the walls, bundles of feathers, strings of fangs and snarled claws hung from the ceiling. While Hagrid asked the man behind the counter for a supply of some basic potion ingredients for Harry, Harry himself examined silver unicorn horns at twenty-one Galleons each and minuscule, glitter black beetle eyes (five Knuts a scoop).

Outside the apothecary's, Hagrid checked Harry's list again.

'Just yer wand left – oh yeah, an' I still haven't got yeh a birthday present.'

Harry felt himself go red.

'You don't have to – '

'I know I don't have to. Tell yeh what, I'll get yer an animal. Not a toad, toads went outta fashion years ago, yeh'd be laughed at – an' I don' like cats, they make me sneeze. I'll get yer an owl. All the kids want owls, they're dead useful, carry yer post an' everythin'.'

Twenty minutes later, they left Eeylops Owl Emporium, which had been dark and full of rustling and flickering, jewel-bright eyes. Harry now carried a large cage which held a beautiful snowy owl, fast asleep with her head under her wing. He couldn't stop stammering his thanks, sounding just like Professor Quirrell.

'Don' mention it,' said Hagrid gruffly. 'Don' expect you've had a lotta presents from them Dursleys. Just Ollivanders left now – only place fer wands, Ollivanders, and yeh gotta have the best wand.'

A magic wand...this was what Harry had been really looking forward to.

The last shop was narrow and shabby. Peeling gold letters over the door read *Ollivanders: makers of Fine Wands since 382 BC*. A single wand lay on a faded purple cushion in the dusty window.

A tinkling bell rang somewhere deep in the depths of the shop as they stepped inside. It was a tiny place, empty except for a single spindly chair which Hagrid sat on to wait. Harry felt strangely as though he had entered a very strict library; he swallowed a lot of new questions which had just occurred to him and looked instead at the thousands of narrow boxes piled neatly right up to the ceiling. For some reason, the back of his neck prickled. The very dust and silence here seemed to tingle with some secret magic.



Box A – Questions 1-5 are about Extract B

1) What colour are the letters over the wand shop door?

mark

1

2) *It was a tiny place, empty except for a single spindly chair which Hagrid sat on to wait.*

Which word is closest in meaning to *spindly*? Copy one.

old ☐

turning ☐

thin ☐

cracked ☐

1 mark

3) *Harry felt strangely as though he had entered a very strict library.*

What does this tell you about the shop and how it makes Harry feel?

mark

1

4) Give **one example** of a hint that something exciting or mysterious is about to happen.

mark

1

5) Name one detail that makes Ollivanders seem unusual or different to other shops.

mark

1

