

## Reading Comprehension Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January

### Diagon Alley – Extract 2

#### In this extract, Hagrid shows Harry Diagon Alley for the first time

Hagrid meanwhile was counting bricks in the wall above the dustbin. “Three up ... two across ...” he muttered. “Right, stand back, Harry.” He tapped the wall three times with the point of his umbrella. The brick he had touched quivered - it wriggled - in the middle, a small hole appeared - it grew wider and wider - a second later they were facing an archway large enough even for Hagrid, an archway onto a cobbled street which twisted and turned out of sight.

“Welcome,” said Hagrid, “to Diagon Alley.” He grinned at Harry’s amazement. They stepped through the archway. Harry looked quickly over his shoulder and saw the archway shrink instantly back into solid wall. The sun shone brightly on a stack of cauldrons outside the nearest shop. *Cauldrons - All Sizes - Copper, Brass, Pewter, Silver - Self-stirring - Collapsible* said a sign hanging over them. “Yeah, you’ll be needin’ one,” said Hagrid, but first we gotta get yer money.” Harry wished he had about eight eyes. He turned his head in every direction as they walked up the street, trying to look at everything at once: the shops, the things outside them, the people doing their shopping. A plump woman outside an apothecary’s was shaking her head as they passed, saying, “Dragon liver, seventeen sickles an ounce, they’re mad ...”

A low, soft hooting came from a dark shop with a sign saying *Eeylops Owl Emporium - Tawny, Screech, Barn, Brown and Snowy*. Several boys of about Harry’s age had their noses pressed against a window with broomsticks in it. “Look,” Harry heard one of them say, “the new Nimbus Two Thousand - fastest ever -“ There were shops selling robes, shops selling telescopes and strange silver instruments Harry had never seen before, windows stacked with barrels of bat spleens and eels’ eyes, tottering piles of spell books, quills and rolls of parchment, potion bottles, globes of the moon...

“Gringotts,” said Hagrid. They had reached a snowy-white building, which towered over the other little shops. Standing beside its burnished bronze doors, wearing a uniform of scarlet and gold, was –

“Yeah, that’s a goblin,” said Hagrid quietly as they walked up the white stone steps towards him. The goblin was about a head shorter than Harry. He had a swarthy, clever face, a pointed beard and, Harry noticed, very long fingers and feet. He bowed as they walked inside. A pair of goblins bowed them through the

silver doors and they were in a vast marble hall. About a hundred more goblins were sitting on high stools behind a long counter, scribbling in large ledgers, weighing coins on brass scales, examining precious stones through eyeglasses. There were too many doors to count leading off the hall, and yet more goblins were showing people in and out of these.

### **Questions**

1. Make a list of the magical/unusual things that Harry sees in Diagon Alley
2. Where do they need to go before they can buy the things Harry will need for school?
3. What is an apothecary?
4. Write down any words or phrases that suggest to you that Harry is amazed by Diagon Alley.
5. If you were writing your own version of this chapter, what shops would you have in your description? What magical items would they sell?