

Harry Potter Jeopardy

• Keep 'em Reading •

by | Heather Larson

Harry Potter fans love to demonstrate how much they know about the books they've read—and what better way to do that than with a game! Harry Potter Jeopardy not only addresses some key learning objectives, but the game is also lots of fun. Jeopardy promotes reading and creates more fans for the Harry Potter series. Students can participate in teams or as individuals.

There are many options for creativity with this competition. You can play the Jeopardy theme song as “waiting” music, encourage students to wear character costumes and serve snacks with appropriate names like Butter Beer and Cockroach Clusters.

To prepare your students, encourage them to go online and visit the various Harry Potter fan Web sites, where they can play the games and take the quizzes.

Note: Fourth grade and up is the ideal grade level for Harry Potter Jeopardy.

Learning Objectives

- Students understand what is read
- Students can identify major actions that define plot and can describe characters
- Students demonstrate an understanding of main ideas and supportive details
- Students interpret vocabulary critical to the meaning of the text
- While preparing as a team, students contribute to a group with suggestions, research and effort

To Make the Game

1. Select six categories that relate to the Harry Potter fantasy world. Some suggestions are: Wizards, Hogwarts, Women of Hogwarts, Quidditch, Spells, Magical Creatures, J. K. Rowling, Professors, Dark Arts, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince or the ever-popular Miscellaneous.
2. Choose questions for each category by paging through the books or from online trivia sites like www.funtrivia.com (type “Harry Potter” in the search line), www.Harrypotterville.com/trivia.htm, www.webrary.org/kids/ (click on Unofficial Guide to Harry Potter Fun, Facts and Trivia), and www.bookhive.org/activities/hpquiz/hpquiz2.asp. Don't forget to write down the answers to each of the questions.
3. You'll need five questions per category ranging from easy to difficult (\$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, \$500).
4. Make the category labels on strips of tag board large enough to be visible to all the participants and the audience. Place the category labels across the board you're going to use. A large whiteboard will work.
5. On 3" x 5" cards, write the dollar amount on one side, the question and answer on the other side. Laminate the cards. Place each card in proper order under the appropriate categories.
6. If you want to emulate the television version of Jeopardy, make a second board with six new categories and five additional 3" x 5" cards with questions, answers and new dollar amounts (\$200, \$400, \$600, \$800, \$1,000)—this is Double Jeopardy.



To Play the Game with Teams

Time required is 30–40 minutes.

1. Recruit judges and scorekeepers. Parent volunteers work well.
2. The team spokesperson selects the category and dollar amount after conferring with his or her teammates.
3. Give the team fifteen seconds to come up with the answer. If they get the question right, they are given the 3" x 5" card. If the answer is incorrect, the question is asked again and can be answered by the spokesperson who raises his or her hand first.
4. Answers can be oral or written, but they must come from the team spokesperson.
5. When the challenge is over, ask the teams to tally the dollar amount they've earned on their 3" x 5" cards.
6. In case of a tie, have a super challenging tiebreaker or Final Jeopardy question on hand. Some examples are:
 - "What do the following names have to do with all five of the Harry Potter Books: Jessica, Ann, Di, Sean P. F. Harris, Jill Prewett, Aine Kiely, Peter Rowling, Susan Sladden, Neil, Jessica and David?"
(Answer: The people who J. K. Rowling dedicated her books to.)

Background Music

The Jeopardy theme music is available through Amazon.com on the Classic TV Game Show Themes soundtrack. A free download is available at www.midisite.co.uk/midi_search/jeopardy.html.

Harry Potter theme music for each of the movies is also available through Amazon.com. A Harry Potter Collection is available as well. Fragments of music from the Harry Potter movies are available free at www.midisite.co.uk/midi_search/harry_potter.html.

You could make a recording that intermingles both Jeopardy music and Harry Potter soundtracks.

Suggested Prizes

- A copy of the latest Harry Potter book for an individual winner.
- Inexpensive items for each winning team member such as posters, bookmarks, rubber stamps, Bertie Botts Beans, Cockroach Clusters and Fizzing Whizbees.

Variations

Jeopardy-type games can be used for reviewing almost any subject, including library skills, science, book genres and other book series. Kids like games and they work to reinforce learning.

Harry Potter Fan Web Sites

www.mugglenet.com
www.hp-lexicon.org
www.darkmark.com
www.veritaserum.com
www.harrypotterspage.com

Snack Recipes

www.potterparties.com/index.php?mode=recipes

Heather Larson is a library assistant at Sunnycrest Elementary School in Federal Way, Washington. She is also a freelance magazine writer for national magazines.