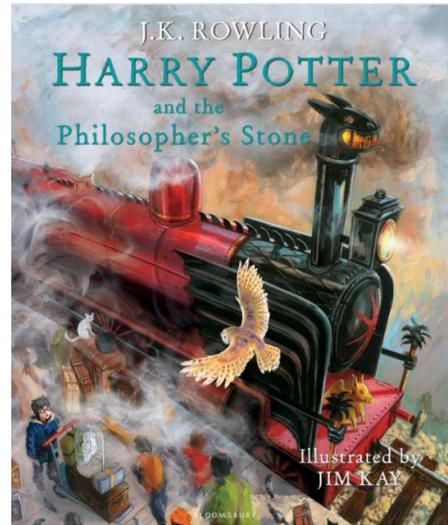


## VISUAL LITERACY NOTES

### 2017 Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist

Title: **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
Illustrator: **Jim Kay** Author J.K. Rowling  
Publisher: **Bloomsbury**



### First look

- An illustrated edition of the first Harry Potter novel is a considerable event in children's publishing. Taking on the job of illustrating such a successful title in the world of children's books must have been quite daunting for Jim Kay.
- With the shadowing group, talk about the phenomenon of the Harry Potter stories. Have copies of the original books available to be borrowed if required. It is likely that most youngsters will have either read the books or seen the films, or both! For at least twenty years, child readers, parents librarians, teachers and all other interested parties (even if they haven't seen the films and spin-off materials) will have had images of all the main characters in their 'mind's eye'.
- Take a look at some of the new illustrations of the main characters in this book. Harry Potter himself will be very familiar. As Kay himself says on his website, [www.jimkay.co.uk](http://www.jimkay.co.uk):

*"I think these portraits are going to be important in book one, as we need to introduce to the reader our interpretation of the lead characters."*



*Find other important characters on the pages listed below*

Page 150 **Hermione Grainger**

Page 85 **Professor Albus Dumbledore**

Page 160 **Ron Weasley**

Page 110 **Professor Severus Snape**

Page 67 **Draco Malfoy**

Page 200 **Professor Minerva McGonagall**

Discuss with the shadowers whether they had ideas in their heads about how the main characters look. How does the new set of faces worked for them?



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## Look again

When the group have discussed their first responses, return to the book; look, think and talk more about the artwork.

How does Kay give an atmosphere of mystery and magic to his illustrations of buildings such as Diagon Alley and Hogwarts School?



Many of the pictures are based on real things, people or places. For example, the chess pieces which are based on **The Lewis Chessmen**. Look up the chessmen on the internet to find out the story behind their discovery.



Visit [www.pottermore.com](http://www.pottermore.com) for a really interesting article about Jim Kay's illustrations.

Talk about all the visual aspects of the book including end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' contribute to the overall impact of the book?

## Do your own drawing

Use pencil, charcoal or black pen, to draw your own ideas about illustrating a character or scene from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.



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