



# AMBITION



A GUIDED JOURNAL FOR  
EMBRACING YOUR INNER

**SLYTHERIN™**



Harry Potter™



# AMBITION

◆ ————— ◆  
A GUIDED JOURNAL FOR  
EMBRACING YOUR INNER

SLYTHERIN™

◆ ————— ◆



# INTRODUCTION



AMBITIOUS. CUNNING. LEADERS BY NATURE. These are the traits of Slytherin house, the proudest house at Hogwarts, draped in their rich colors of green and silver and represented by a coiled serpent. There are many notable and beloved Slytherin characters in the Harry Potter films. From Severus Snape and Draco Malfoy to the deranged Bellatrix Lestrange, Slytherins are represented by a wide range of witches and wizards. But what does it mean to truly be a Slytherin? How can you bring out your natural qualities of ambition, cunning and leadership and apply them to your everyday life?

This journal, composed of 52 weeks of prompts, will help you reflect on, connect with and develop the Slytherin inside you. Each week includes two kinds of prompts. The first is a simple form where you can record daily acts of ambition, cunning and leadership. Taking the structure of a simple “one-line-a-day” journal, this form allows you to record small “Slytherin moments” that you encounter throughout your week. There is no pressure to fill one out every day. After all, you might not have the opportunity to demonstrate leadership every day. But it gives you an opportunity to notice and note small ways that you embody your Slytherin persona. The second prompt goes deeper, referencing specific quotes, moments, places or characters from the films and inviting you to think about how being a Slytherin shapes and affects your life. These prompts include freewriting, letter writing, list making, colouring and more.

The Harry Potter films have inspired us, now it's time to explore further and embrace your inner Slytherin.



# WEEK 1

**SLYTHERIN MOMENTS:**  
Daily Acts of Ambition, Cunning and Leadership

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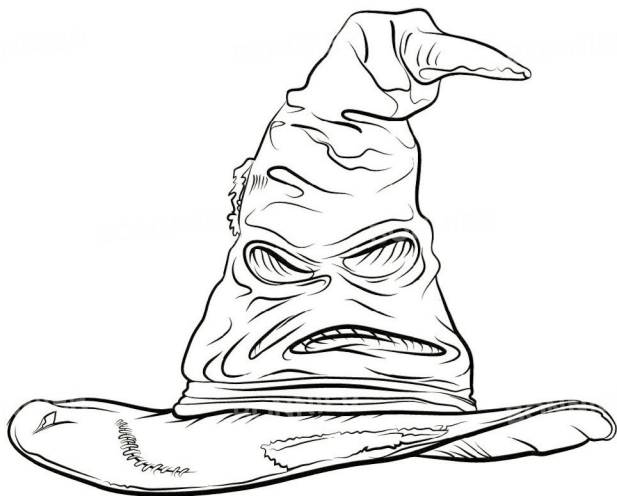
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## WEEK 2

### COLOURING MEDITATIONS

The Sorting Hat sorts each Hogwarts student into their house on their first night at school, taking into account their background, talents, personalities and personal choice. Due to your ambition, cunning and leadership, you have been sorted into Slytherin. Colour in the hat below, and decorate the rest of the page with iconography and embellishments that represent your identity as a Slytherin.





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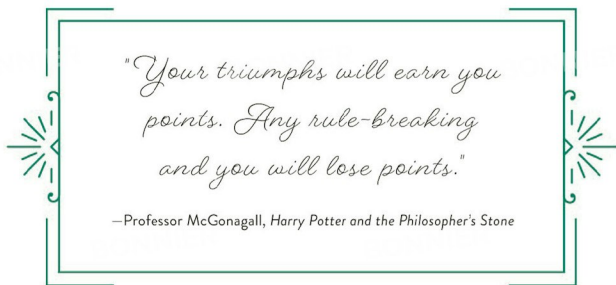
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## WEEK 5



It's important to celebrate our victories.

Make a list of five recent accomplishments you achieved that you believe would earn you points for Slytherin. Award yourself with the number of points you think you earned. Good job!



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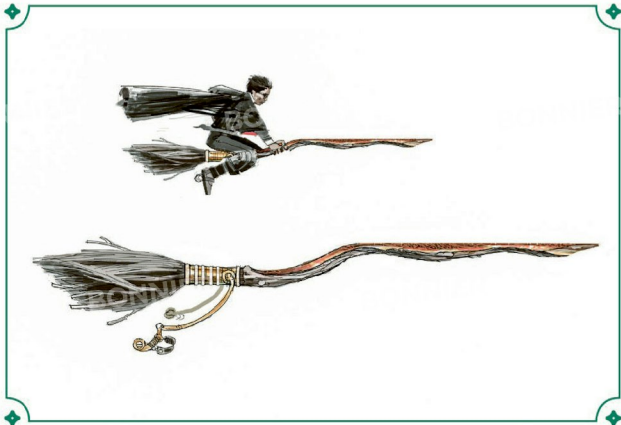
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# WEEK 7

OUR SKILLS AND TALENTS OFTEN reflect the inner qualities we naturally possess. For example, Harry is a skilled flier, a talent that could be said to reflect the Gryffindor traits of daringness and nerve. What specific skills and talents do you possess, and how do you feel they relate to your qualities as a Slytherin?



ABOVE: Concept art of Harry and the Firebolt by Dermot Power.

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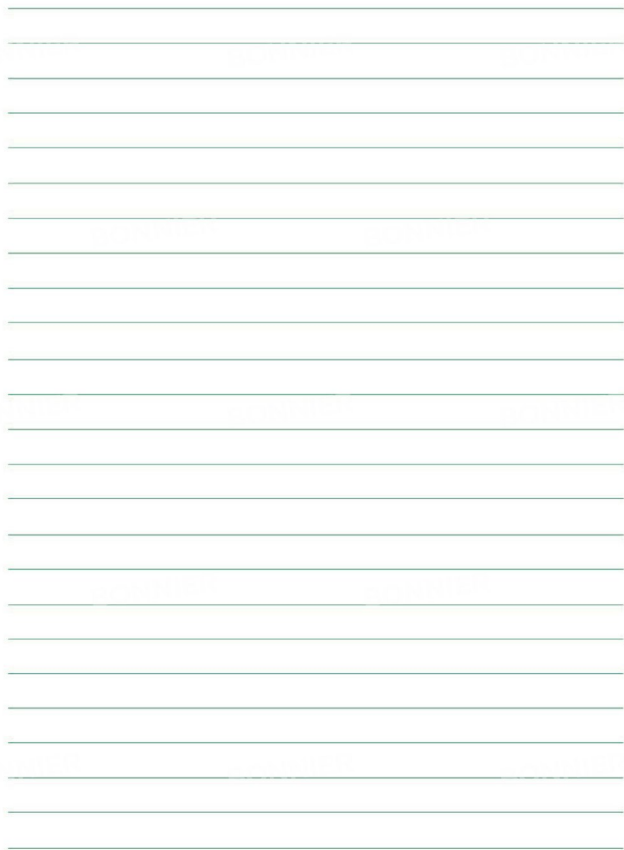
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THIS PAGE: Concept art by Adam Brockbank.

# WEEK 8



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# WEEK 8



PROFESSOR SNAPE is the head of Slytherin house during Harry’s first few years at Hogwarts. There is no question that teachers, particularly those we work closely with, have a huge effect on the kind of person we grow up to be. Write a letter to your “head of house” – a teacher or mentor who helped you develop your Slytherin qualities – reflecting on what they taught you and thanking them for being part of your journey.



Lined writing area for page 38, containing ten horizontal lines for text entry.



Lined writing area for page 39, containing ten horizontal lines for text entry.

# WEEK 9

**SLYTHERIN MOMENTS:**  
Daily Acts of Ambition, Cunning and Leadership

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# WEEK 9



During Harry's sixth year at Hogwarts, Professor Horace Slughorn, a former head of Slytherin house, becomes the new Potions Master at Hogwarts. Professor Slughorn has a distinct teaching style. How do you think Professor Slughorn's qualities as a Slytherin are represented in his personality as a teacher? What do you think you could learn from him, both as a Slytherin and as a person?



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## WEEK 10

*"We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That's who we really are."*

—Sirius Black, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Sirius Black speaks this powerful quote to Harry in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* at a moment when Harry is feeling scared, anxious and insecure in his identity. This quote could be interpreted to mean that we all have our strong points and our weak points, our positive attributes and our flaws. Slytherins are usually described as ambitious, cunning and resourceful. But they also have a reputation for pride and intolerance. Think about two moments in your life, one when your behaviour reflected the “light” side of Slytherin and one when it reflected the “dark” side. Describe these events below. What can you learn from them?



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# WEEK 11

## SLYTHERIN MOMENTS:

Daily Acts of Ambition, Cunning and Leadership



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# WEEK 11



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE*, Draco Malfoy becomes a Death Eater. He spends the entire year working tirelessly and desperately to mend the Vanishing Cabinet in the Room of Requirement under Lord Voldemort's orders. Finally, at the end of the year, he succeeds. Write down three long-term goals you are currently working on. How do you see your assets as a Slytherin helping you accomplish these aspirations?

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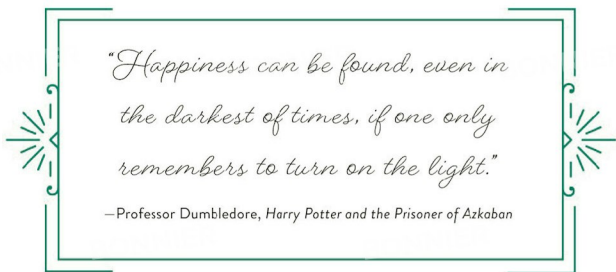
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# WEEK 12



List ten things that bring joy to your Slytherin heart.

Refer back to these when you are experiencing times of trouble or stress.

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# WEEK 13



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS – PART 1*, Harry and his friends are captured and brought to Malfoy Manor. When Draco is asked to identify Harry, who has been disguised by a Stinging Jinx, he hedges and avoids giving a definite answer, despite the fact that, as Harry later points out, he knows perfectly well who Harry is. Do you think Draco made the right decision in that moment? Knowing what he knew at the time, would you have made the same choice? Why or why not?



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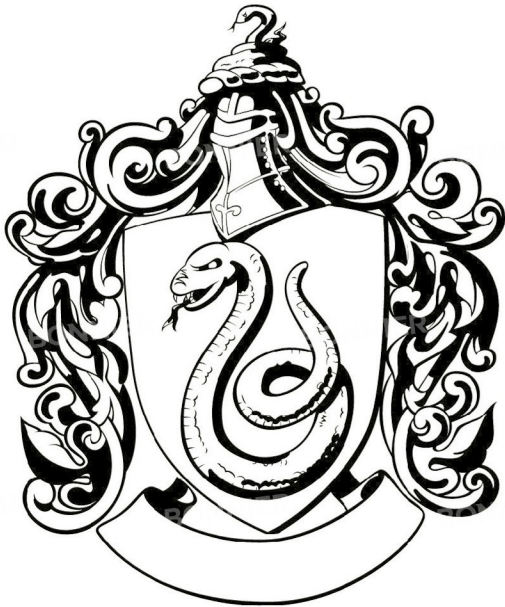




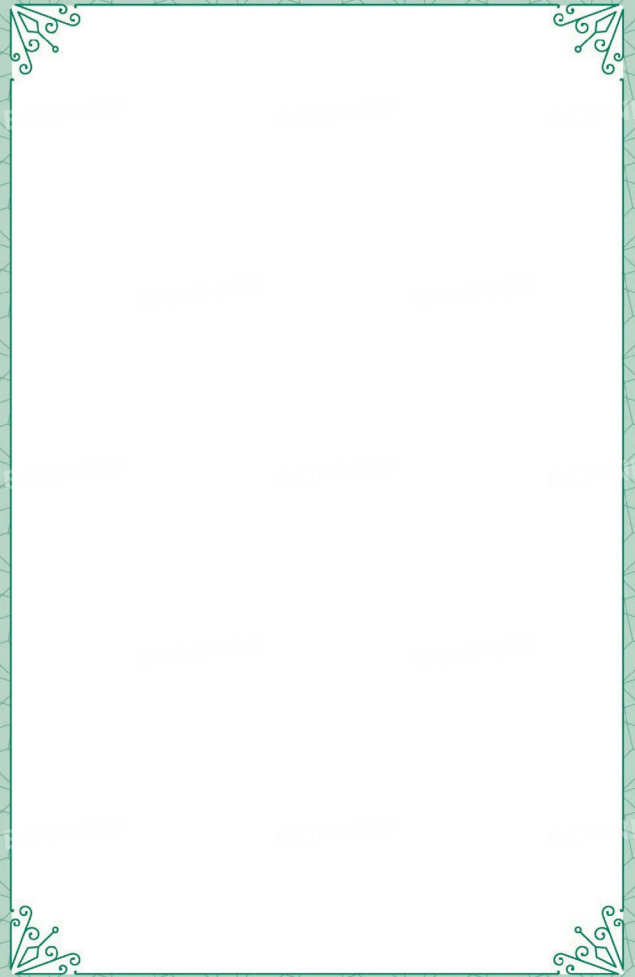
## WEEK 14

### COLOURING MEDITATIONS

It's time to show some house pride. Colour the Slytherin crest below, and decorate the rest of the page with embellishments and decorations of your choosing.



62 | WEEK 14



# WEEK 15



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# WEEK 15



IN THE HARRY POTTER FILMS, Harry Potter and Draco Malfoy are bitter rivals. Have you ever had a rivalry with another person? Were they in the same house as you or a different one? What about this person clashed with your traits as a Slytherin?



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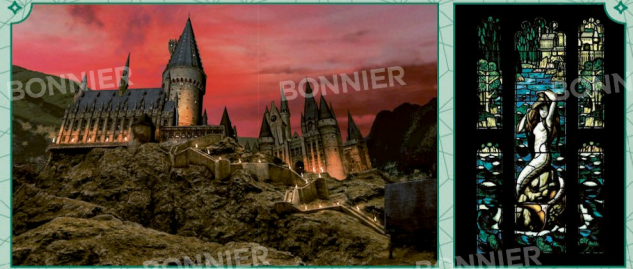
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The exterior of Hogwarts castle by Andrew Williamson; a concept piece of the stained glass window in the prefects' bathroom by Adam Brockbank; a study of the Owlery by Andrew Williamson; a concept sketch of the second-years in Greenhouse Three by Andrew Williamson.

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# WEEK 17



IMAGINE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to interview one Slytherin from the Harry Potter films. Who would you choose? Write ten questions you would ask them.



10 QUESTIONS FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

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# WEEK 18



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE*, Harry retrieves a locket that he believes to be a Horcrux from the Crystal Cave, only to discover that it is a fake, swapped out by someone bearing the initials R.A.B. He later learns it is Regulus Black, Sirius's brother, a Death Eater and Slytherin who ultimately betrayed Voldemort in an attempt to destroy the Horcrux – a decision which led to his death. Have you ever made a choice that went against your house's traits? Why? Describe the circumstances below.



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# WEEK 19



IN THE HARRY POTTER FILMS, family members are often – but not always – placed in the same houses. While all of the Weasleys are in Gryffindor and all of the Malfoys are in Slytherin, characters like Sirius Black and Parvati and Padma Patil are placed in different houses than other members of their family. What houses would your parents and siblings belong to and why? How do you think this might have contributed to your being a Slytherin?



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Lined writing area for page 85.

# WEEK 20



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## WEEK 20

*"Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it."*

—Professor Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2*

### WORDS MATTER!

Write a mantra to help you tap into your inner Slytherin.

Use the space below to sketch out your thoughts, and write the final version in the shield on the next page.



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### MY SLYTHERIN MANTRA



MY SLYTHERIN MANTRA

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## WEEK 21

*"Welcome to Hogwarts. Now in a few moments, you will pass through the doors and join your classmates, but before you can take your seats, you must be sorted into your houses. They are Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin. Now while you're here, your house will be like your family."*

—Professor McGonagall, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Think about your closest friends.

What houses do they belong to? Are they the same as you?

How does this affect your relationships?





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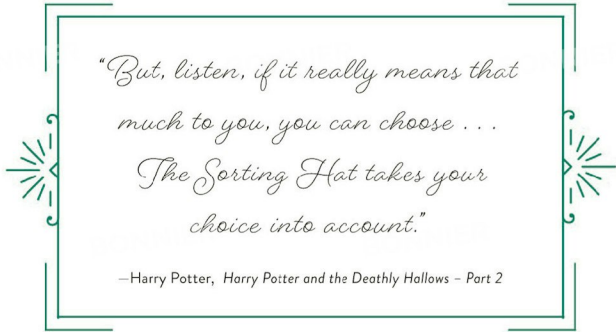
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# WEEK 24



In the Harry Potter films, the Sorting Hat was originally planning to put Harry in Slytherin, but he pleaded with the hat not to, and the Sorting Hat accepted his choice. Given the choice, would you choose to be in Slytherin? Why or why not?



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# WEEK 25



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE*, Harry, Ron, Hermione and Draco Malfoy are caught out of bed at night and sentenced to detention in the Forbidden Forest. Imagine you've been sentenced to detention at Hogwarts. Based on your personality as a Slytherin, what rules do you think you'd be most likely to break and why?



Handwriting practice area with ten horizontal lines for the left page.



Handwriting practice area with ten horizontal lines for the right page.



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# WEEK 26

IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN*, Professor Lupin teaches the third-year students how to repel a Boggart, a Dark creature that takes the form of whatever the person fears the most. Do you have any specific fears that relate to your identity as a Slytherin? Fear of failure? Fear of embarrassment? Fear of snakes? Write these down below. On the following page where it says “Riddikulus!” write what you would use to repel the Boggart if it turned into what you fear.



ABOVE: The Boggart version of Potions Master Severus Snape, dressed as Neville Longbottom's grandmother. Design by Jany Temime, drawn by Laurent Guinci.

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# WEEK 27



THINK ABOUT THE HOUSE you find most difficult to relate to. What is it about that house that you, as a Slytherin, find difficult to understand or appreciate?



Lined writing area for page 118, consisting of 18 horizontal green lines.



Lined writing area for page 119, consisting of 18 horizontal green lines.

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# WEEK 28



THE SLYTHERIN COMMON ROOM is an elegantly decorated room with rich furnishings and dim, watery light, suitable for a room that is located underground and for a house that prides itself on its ancient history and strong leadership. Look around your own living space. What items or elements do you feel reflect your tastes as a Slytherin?



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# WEEK 29



THE HARRY POTTER FILMS ARE FILLED with examples of romantic pairings between people from different houses, such as Lupin and Tonks, Harry and Cho and Neville and Luna. Consider your ideal romantic partner. Are they in the same house as you? What house do they belong to and why?



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# WEEK 30



IMAGINE YOUR HOUSE JUST WON the House Cup.  
How would you celebrate? Use this space to jot down some ideas  
for the perfect House Cup party that Slytherins everywhere  
would love to attend.



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Lined writing area on the right page.

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# WEEK 33



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX*, Harry mistakenly believes a vision sent to him by Lord Voldemort that shows his godfather, Sirius, in danger. Harry rushes to his godfather’s aid, an action that eventually leads to Sirius’s death. Think about the last time you made a mistake. Were there any aspects of your identity as a Slytherin that played a part in the situation? What could you have done differently?



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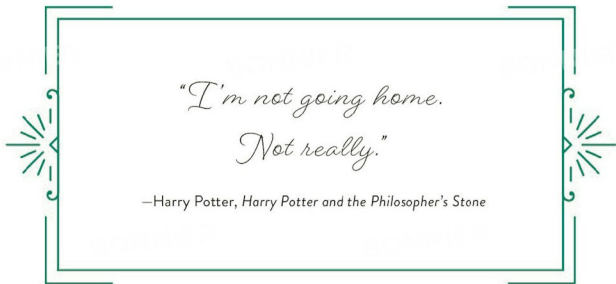
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# WEEK 34



*“I’m not going home.  
Not really.”*

—Harry Potter, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*

Everyone has special places in their lives. Places where they feel the most like themselves. For Harry, this is Hogwarts. Think about a space that is important to you as a Slytherin. How does this space bring out those qualities that symbolise your inner Slytherin?



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# WEEK 36



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS*, Harry discovers he can speak Parseltongue, a skill that frightens him due to its association with Dark wizards. Have you ever discovered something about yourself that frightened you? How can you use your assets as a Slytherin to overcome that fear?



Lined writing area for page 156, consisting of 15 horizontal green lines. A decorative graphic of four small stars is located in the bottom left corner of the page.

Lined writing area for page 157, consisting of 15 horizontal green lines.



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# WEEK 37



WHILE LIFE IN THE HARRY POTTER FILMS never lacks excitement, in the real world, we all get bored from time to time. But boredom can be addressed with just a little creativity. Make a list of ten things you could do right now to challenge, interest or inspire your inner Slytherin. Refer back to this the next time you need some inspiration.



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# WEEK 38

**SLYTHERIN MOMENTS:**  
Daily Acts of Ambition, Cunning and Leadership

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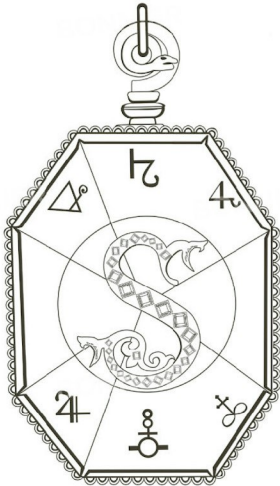
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# WEEK 38

## COLOURING MEDITATIONS

Slytherin's locket is an important Slytherin artifact that is also a Horcrux. The prop in the film was based on an eighteenth-century piece of jewellery from Spain and featured a jeweled "S" on the front in diamond-cut green stones. What artifacts in your own life represent your identity as a Slytherin? Colour in the locket below, and then decorate the opposite page with illustrations, taped or glued-in ephemera, or other embellishments that symbolise these artifacts.



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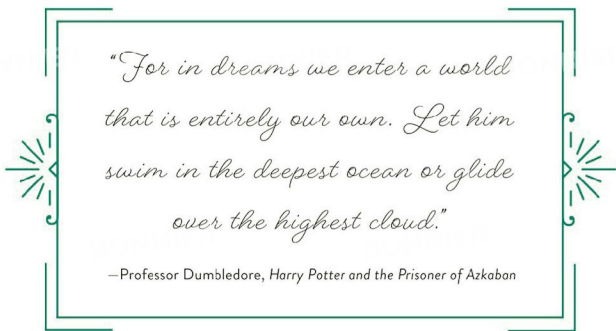
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# WEEK 39



Our dreams can reveal a lot about our inner world.

Write down a recent dream you had and how it relates to your identity as a Slytherin.



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# WEEK 40

IMAGINE YOU'VE BEEN MADE prefect at Hogwarts.

It's your job to help guide the new first-years in Slytherin.

Write down five pieces of advice you would give them to help them embrace their Slytherin identity.

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# WEEK 41



IN THE HARRY POTTER FILMS, Harry encounters many adult figures who he looks up to and respects – people like Remus Lupin, Minerva McGonagall and even Severus Snape – who help shape his development into a hero. Think about a real-world Slytherin in your life who has inspired you.

What about this person do you most admire and respect?



Lined writing area on page 176 with 15 horizontal lines.



Lined writing area on page 177 with 15 horizontal lines.

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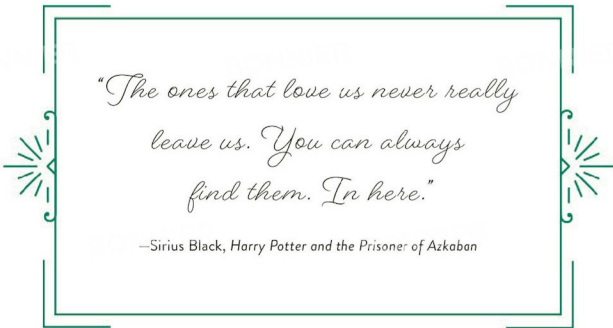
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## WEEK 42



Think about someone you've lost in your life, either through death or another circumstance. Reflect on your relationship with that person and what they taught you. Did they play any part in your development as a Slytherin? How so?



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# WEEK 43

THE WIZARDING WORLD IS FULL of an astonishing array of magical creatures: dragons, Hippogriffs, house-elves, centaurs, phoenixes and more. What creature do you think embodies similar traits to those of Slytherin house? How can you bring the spirit of that creature into your daily life?

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ABOVE LEFT: Concept art of a Thestral by Rob Bliss.

ABOVE RIGHT: Concept art of Fawkes the phoenix by Adam Brockbank.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Concept art of Aragorn in his lair by Adam Brockbank, a centaur draws his bow, also by Adam Brockbank; Harry riding Buckbeak the Hippogriff, art by Dermot Power.

# WEEK 44



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# WEEK 44



IN THE HARRY POTTER FILMS, there are moments of great danger and grief, especially in the later films as the wizarding world becomes enveloped in a devastating war against Lord Voldemort. In the real world, everyone deals with stress, pain and emotional upheaval from time to time. That's why it's important to prioritise self-care. As a Slytherin, what does self-care mean to you? How do you take care of yourself when faced with stress or pain?



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# WEEK 45



YOU'VE JUST LANDED A MAJOR JOB INTERVIEW.

How can you use your assets as a Slytherin to get the job?

Make a list of five things you can do to prepare.



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THERE ARE SEVERAL GREAT EXAMPLES of Slytherin heroes in the Harry Potter films, the most important of which is Severus Snape. A former Death Eater, Severus Snape betrayed Voldemort in the first wizarding war and became a spy. He continues as a double agent in the second war, going to unfathomable lengths to bring about the end of the Dark Lord. Petty and even cruel, Snape is redeemed by his love for Lily Potter, and it is revealed at the end that he has been helping Harry all along. Do you consider Snape a hero? Do his actions in the war make up for his past or excuse his behaviour as a teacher? What do you think defines a Slytherin hero? How can you, as a Slytherin, be a hero to someone in your life?



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# WEEK 47



*IN HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS,* Draco Malfoy goads Ron Weasley into attacking him by calling Hermione a foul name, an act that plays into Ron's Gryffindor qualities of chivalry and determination. Has anybody ever used your traits as a Slytherin against you?

How could you have handled this differently?



Lined writing area on page 202.



Lined writing area on page 203.

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# WEEK 48



IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX*, Harry and his friends start Dumbledore's Army, a secret student group dedicated to fighting Dolores Umbridge's rules and learning practical Defence Against the Dark Arts. As a Slytherin, how can you stand up for what you believe in?

What kind of steps do you feel you can take to contribute?



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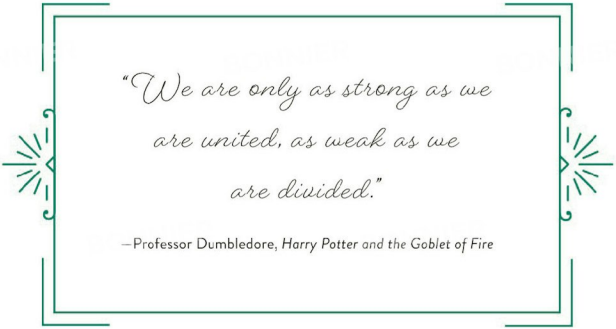
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## WEEK 49



*"We are only as strong as we  
are united, as weak as we  
are divided."*

—Professor Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Think of a time you were in conflict with someone who embodies the characteristics of another house. How were you able to resolve the situation? Did your qualities as a Slytherin prove to be an asset or an obstacle?



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# WEEK 50



AS EVERYONE KNOWS, the traits of Slytherin are ambition, cunning and leadership. After fifty weeks of reflection and development, which of these traits do you identify with the most? Which do you identify with the least? Are there any additional traits that you feel match the Slytherin profile that are not talked about as much?



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# WEEK 51

*"We've got one thing  
Voldemort doesn't have.  
Something worth fighting for."*

—Harry Potter, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Everybody believes in fighting for something.

As a Slytherin, what do you think is worth fighting for?

How do you fight for it?



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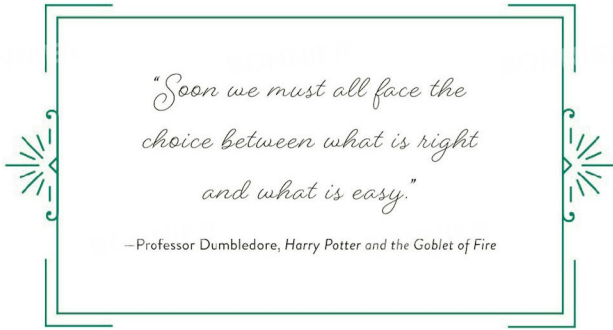
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# WEEK 52



*"Soon we must all face the  
choice between what is right  
and what is easy."*

—Professor Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

For this final prompt, reflect on what you've learned.

How do your qualities as a Slytherin help you make the right choices?



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