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

**by J.K. Rowling**

**LO: Read an extract from a fiction text and answer questions to show understanding.**

Read the extract from the beginning of the book below and answer the questions on the following pages.

Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you’d expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn’t hold with such nonsense.

Mr Dursley was the director of a firm called Grunnings, which made drills. He was a big, beefy man with hardly any neck, although he did have a very large moustache. Mrs Dursley was thin and blonde and had nearly twice the usual amount of neck, which came in very useful as she spent so much time craning over garden fences, spying on the neighbours. The Dursley’s had a small son called Dudley and in their opinion there was no finer boy anywhere.

The Dursley’s had everything they wanted, but they also had a secret, and their greatest fear was that somebody would discover it. They didn’t think they could bear it anyone found out about the Potters. Mrs Potter was Mrs Dursley’s sister, but they hadn’t met for several years; in fact, Mrs Dursley pretended she didn’t have a sister, because her sister and her good-for-nothing husband were as unDursleyish as it is possible to be. The Dursley’s shuddered to think what the neighbours would say if the Potters arrived in the street. The Dursley’s knew that the Potters had a small son too, but they had never even seen him. They boy was another good reason for keeping the Potters away; they didn’t want Dudley mixing with a child like that.

**Literal Comprehension Questions**

1) Where do the Dursleys live?

2) What does Mr Dursley’s firm, Grunnings, make?

3) What colour is Mrs Dursley’s hair?

4) What is the Dursleys’ son called?

5) What do the Dursleys think of their son?

6) What relation is Mrs Dursley to Mrs Potter?

7) When did Mrs Dursley last see Mrs Potter?

8) What are the Dursleys worried about if the Potters arrived in their street?

9) Do Mr and Mrs Potter have any children?

10) What don’t the Dursleys they want their son to do?

**Inferential Comprehension**

1) What do you think the Potters’ son is called?

2) Why do you think Mrs Dursley spies on the neighbours?

3) Why do you think the Dursleys are scared of people finding out about the Potters?

4) What does the phrase “her good-for-nothing husband” mean?

5) What do you think the writer means by the word “unDursleyish”?

6) Just from this text, do you think that Dursleys are nice people or not nice? What clues are in this text tell us what they are like?

7) Harry Potter is the main character in this book, so why do you think the author begins by telling us about the Durselys? Why doesn’t the author start by telling us all about Harry?

**Your Opinion**

Do you think this is a good beginning of a book? Does it make you want to read more, or does it put you off? Give reasons to explain your answer.