

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Reflections Within

Deep within the halls of Hogwarts, hidden in an abandoned classroom, stood an unusual mirror. It was not an ordinary mirror that showed only a person's reflection. Instead, the Mirror of Erised revealed a person's deepest desires. When Harry Potter first looked into it, he saw something he had never seen before—his parents, smiling back at him.

For Harry, who had lost his parents as a baby, this was the greatest wish of his heart. Every night, he returned to the mirror, hoping to see them again. But no matter how long he stared, they were just reflections, not real. Dumbledore, the wise headmaster, warned Harry that people had wasted their lives in front of the mirror, unable to move on from their dreams. "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live," he said.

The Mirror of Erised serves as a powerful metaphor in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The word "Erised" is "desire" spelled backward, showing that it reflects not what is real, but what a person wants most. The mirror teaches an important lesson about self-awareness. It forces people to recognize their deepest desires, but it also warns them not to let those desires control them.

For Harry, the mirror reveals his longing for family and love, something he never had growing up with the Dursleys. For Ron, it shows him standing apart from his brothers, as Head Boy and Quidditch captain, proving his desire to be seen as special. Each person sees something different because the mirror does not show the truth—it shows their wishes.

However, the mirror is not only about longing; it also teaches balance. While desires can guide people toward their goals, they should not trap them in dreams. Dumbledore understands this, which is why he later hides the mirror, so no one else will waste their life staring into it.

Through the Mirror of Erised, J.K. Rowling explores the idea that while dreams and desires are important, true happiness comes from living in the present and working toward the future.