How One Teacher-Librarian, One Teenage Assistant, Fifteen 4th-8th Graders, and a Handful of Volunteers Bring Harry Potter’s World to Life
• 1995 UIUC graduate in Elementary Education, 2001 GSLIS graduate

• Mixed bag of employment: preschool/family storytimes at Tolono Public Library, 10 hours of library work (mostly cataloging) per week at Countryside School in Champaign, reviewer at *The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, substitute elementary teacher, summer camp leader at Countryside School

• Married, one daughter (almost 13), 6 cats, 1 guinea pig, and a collection of over 50 puppets
Why Harry Potter?

• It’s a series that inspires deep devotion on the part of its readership—high kid appeal.

• Rich world-building.

• Lots of source material to inspire activities.

• Personally passionate about the series.
The Set-Up:

**Place:** Countryside School, a private K-8 school in Champaign. During summer camp, I have the use of one large middle school classroom, two smaller adjacent rooms, and (occasionally) other larger spaces within and outside of the school.

**Timeline:** Five days in June, 9-Noon each day
Attendees: Rising 4th-8th graders from the larger C-U community (including many C-side students), fans of both books and movies. The cost of camp is $150/week.
**Goals:**
- **FUN!**
- Enriching the literature experience of readers/viewers.
- Building community with fellow HP fans, creating a shared experience.
- Giving students past the typical age of “pretend” a chance to engage in imaginary “play.”
Planning process:
• Start with the “musts” or cornerstone activities: sorting hat and ceremony, potions, shopping for school supplies, Platform 9 ¾, etc.).
• Pinterest, Google searches (“Harry Potter camp/party”), books.
• Reread books and re-watch movies.
Creating the environment:
• Movie visuals
• Storefronts
• Signs
• Props
• Music from movies
Volunteers/assistance:
• Paid high school student assistant (due to demand, always overenrolled)
• Countryside staff
• GSLIS students
• Family members
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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| 9:00-9:30  | Train tickets, enter Hogwarts  
Name tags  
Introductions, expectations  
Sorting into houses | Owl Post  
Transfiguration—modeling clay game | Owl Post (dementor attack warning)  
Care of Magical Creatures—Book of Monsters Craft | Owl Post  
Care of MC—create a new mythical creature | Owl Post  
Begin Tri-Wizard Tournament |
| 9:30-10:00 | Shopping in Diagon Alley  
Snack break: pretzel wands & koolaid  
Recess break | Finish transfiguration game  
Herbology—Begin mandrakes | Charms—Make up spells  
DADA—dueling practice, Dementor attack | Quidditch | Finish Tri-Wizard Tournament |
| 10:00-10:30 | Potions: Ossio Dispersimus in potion form (egg and vinegar)  
Care of Magical Creatures: dragon eggs | Finish forming mandrakes  
Snack break: Shopping at Honeydukes  
Recess break | Potions—invert your own edible potions | Snack—Field Trip to Fortescue’s Ice Cream Parlor  
Recess | Horcrux hunt  
Bertie Botts Beans |
| 10:30-11:00 | Finish dragon eggs  
Defense Against the Dark Arts: learn basic spells, draw patronus | Potions class—Poison Indicator (cabbage juice solution and liquids) | (Optional snack)  
Recess break (Flying lessons—trampoline) | Arithmancy—“MASH” game (predicting the future with #’s)  
O.W.L. Exams | Divination—Drink your future  
Feast -- Butterbeer Floats |
| 11:00-11:30 | Finish spells & patronus  
Design house T-shirts | Sorcerer’s Stone Challenge | Wizard Checkers  
Potions—Non-edible potions | Finish exams  
Potions—Non-edible potions | HP Bingo |
| 11:30-12:00 | Continue T-shirts  
Free time? | Mirror of Erised  
Quill practice  
Free time? | Divination: Read your future in tea leaves, palmistry | Finish potions | Certificate ceremony |
Dear Mr. Weasley,

It is with greatest regret and apology that we deliver this enclosed letter to you. Although it was not properly addressed by its sender (and thus delivery was delayed) it was also intercepted in its delivery via owl by a fire-breathing dragon. Fortunately, the owl survived, is recovering nicely, and should be back to delivery duty within the next fortnight. Your letter, however, was damaged by this encounter, as you will see when you examine it. Again, we sincerely apologize for the delay and the damage.

Owl Postal Service
National Headquarters
2420 Feather Road
Leiden, Great Britain 001
The Ministry of Magic has issued a warning for a possible dementor attack today. A criminal wizard has escaped from Azkaban and may be headed towards Hogwarts. Please exercise caution and keep your wand handy at all times. Keep this emergency chocolate close at hand.
Resources:

- Pinterest, Google
- Thrift stores, garage sales: cauldrons, props
- Craft stores, The IDEA Store: wooden dowel rods, wooden beads, etc. for wand handles, quill feathers, ink for quills, plastic dragons (“Dragon Toob”), house T-shirts
- Oriental Trading: owls, fake gold coins, wizard-themed plates and napkins, photo cutouts from movie
- Grocery/dollar store: potion ingredients, weird candy
- Amazon: Bertie Botts Beans, chocolate frog candy mold

Contact info:
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October 2015