



MAGIC!

Families eventually overcame the shock of owl-delivered letters, not to mention shopping for wands and catching a train from a platform that didn't exist. After that, coming to terms with being a "Muggle" was easy for most parents. Having a magical child was a source of pride, and it was easy for everyone to imagine this "Hogwarts" place as a Great Adventure - which is why the new crop of muggle-born students were first in line at King's Cross station on the 1st of September.

However, it seems that certain information never reached the new students. The fact that the old headmaster had just been murdered was felt to be something that should have been mentioned..... However, no student had been brave enough to approach Headmaster Snape about the issue. The Carrows had some very strange ideas about teaching, and the masked Death Eaters and ghostly Dementors were a constant threat.

Fortunately, it seemed that all involved were mostly focused on finding a "Harry Potter" - whatever that was - and gaining favour with a powerful Dark Lord.

Another stroke of luck was the strange fire that destroyed the school records office. Without information on families, Muggle-born students were spared some of the more painful lessons, although the Pure-bloods flaunted their status like kings and queens.

New students of Hogwarts have a choice to make: stay out of the way and focus on lessons, gain favour with the forces of evil, or seek out the mysterious "Dumbledore's Army" and fight against the darkness. Above all, Blood Status must be hidden from those in power.

Word has filtered through to the students that Hogwarts conceals items of great power and treasures sought by the Dark Lord.

Therefore, the choice is clear: find these objects and destroy them, earning glory and honour - or secure them and turn them over to the Death Eaters, earning a place of power at Voldemort's right hand.

Your wand is your weapon - keep it safe. Your education is your shield - complete your lessons and learn the means of defending yourself. Expect attacks from other students, as some will desire to gain rewards from serving the Dark Lord. Beware the Dementors who will attack all they find, draining souls from the defenceless. But most of all fear the Death-Eaters, who will viciously put down all who stand against them.

Now go forth and pick a side.

Special Note: All Hogwarts students are required to provide their own "wand". Educational Decree #456 states that all approved wands are to be made of 8-12mm diameter wooden dowel, between 200-300mm long. Each wand must be clearly marked with the maker's initials and troop and can be decorated in some fashion (exact details left to the creator). Bonus points will be awarded for special effort. Wands not meeting these requirements will be confiscated.

As wands will be treated roughly, they need to be sturdy. It is entirely possible they may be lost, confiscated, or broken during the course of normal school activities.