

The following extract has been taken from the end of “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows”, the final book in J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series. In this section of the novel, Harry Potter, the hero of the series, finally kills Voldemort, the villain of the series, ending the Battle of Hogwarts.

1 A red-gold glow burst suddenly across the enchanted sky above them as an edge of dazzling sun
2 appeared over the sill of the nearest window. The light hit both of their faces at the same time, so
3 that Voldemort’s was suddenly a flaming blur. Harry heard the high voice shriek as he too yelled his
4 best hope to the heavens, pointing Draco’s wand:

5 “Avada Kedavra!”ⁱ

6 “Expelliarmus!”ⁱⁱ

7 The bang was like a cannon blast, and the golden flames that erupted between them, at the dead
8 center of the circle they had been treading, marked the point where the spells collided. Harry saw
9 Voldemort’s green jet meet his own spell, saw the Elder Wand fly high, dark against the sunrise,
10 spinning across the enchanted ceiling like the head of Naginiⁱⁱⁱ, spinning through the air toward the
11 master it would not kill, who had come to take full possession of it at last. And Harry, with the
12 unerring skill of a Seeker^{iv}, caught the wand in his free hand as Voldemort fell backward, arms
13 splayed, the slit pupils of the scarlet eyes rolling upward. Tom Riddle hit the floor with a mundane
14 finality, his body feeble and shrunken, the white hands empty, the snakelike face vacant and
15 unknowing. Voldemort was dead, killed by his own rebounding curse, and Harry stood with two
16 wands in his hands, staring down at his enemy’s shell.

17 One shivering second of silence, the shock of the moment suspends: and then the tumult broke
18 around Harry as the screams and the cheers and the roars of the watchers rent the air. The fierce
19 new sun dazzled the windows as they thundered toward him, and the first to reach him were Ron
20 and Hermione, and it was their arms that were wrapped around him, their incomprehensible shouts
21 that deafened him. Then Ginny, Neville, and Luna were there, and then all the Weasleys and Hagrid,
22 and Kingsley and McGonagall and Flitwick and Spout, and Harry could not hear a word that anyone
23 was shouting, nor tell whose hands were seizing him, pulling him, trying to hug some part of him,
24 hundreds of them pressing in, all of them determined to touch the Boy Who Lived, the reason it was
25 over at last—

26 The sun rose steadily over Hogwarts, and the Great Hall blazed with life and light. Harry was an
27 indispensable part of the mingled outpourings of jubilation and mourning, of grief and celebration.
28 They wanted him there with them, their leader and symbol, their savior and their guide, and that he
29 had not slept, that he craved the company of only a few of them, seemed to occur to on one. He
30 must speak to the bereaved, clap their hands, witness their tears, receive their thanks, hear the new
31 now creeping in from every quarter as the morning drew on; that the Imperiused^v up and down the
32 country had come back to themselves, that Death Eaters were fleeing or else being captured, that
33 the innocent of Azkaban^{vi} were being released at that very moment, and that Kingsley Shacklebolt
34 had been named temporary Minister of Magic.

ⁱ Avada Kedavra – a spell that kills people.

ⁱⁱ Expelliarmus – a spell that disarms wizards and witches by taking their wand.

ⁱⁱⁱ Nagini – Voldemort’s pet snake.

^{iv} Seeker – a player of the magical sport of Quidditch. This player is responsible for catching a very fast flying golden ball with wings.

^v Imperiused – people who are under a curse that allows others to control them.

^{vi} Azkaban – wizard prison.