

9³/₄ Nine and three quarters

In the story in the order we read it, Harry enters the magic world through platform 9³/₄. This is a platform in King's Cross Railway Station in London. This platform is not visible and not accessible to muggles. You have to know about it and believe in it to enter it.

The casual reader will probably grin at this. Of course, the number of the platform has to be a fraction, otherwise muggles will notice the missing number. 9³/₄ sounds funny. But, as in nearly everything in *Harry Potter*, there's a hidden meaning there.

But did you know that this same number is hidden elsewhere in the story?

Harry was born on July 31, 1980. His parents were killed on Hallowe'en on October 31, 1981. His eleventh birthday was on July 31, 1991.

What does this tell us? Harry lived with his parents in Godric's Hollow for *exactly* 15 months, to the day. That's 1¹/₄ years. So how long was it from the death of his parents, meaning Harry's exit from the magic world, to his eleventh birthday? Yes, 9³/₄ years!

This coincidence surely tells us this number was chosen very deliberately!

So can we delve into 9³/₄ and solve the mystery of this number? Is there a key?

Yes, there is! The key is ³/₄. It's like a key on the lid of a sardine can.

If you divide 9³/₄ by ³/₄, you get 13. Or, to put it a simpler way, 13 lots of ³/₄ is 9³/₄.

So there we have it! 9³/₄ is a number that is a hidden form of 13.

I'm sure you all know that 13 is a very magical number. The forces that rule this universe are 12 in number. We know them by the signs of the zodiac. Our personal lives, too, are governed by 12 forces.

In the story of Briar Rose, 12 powerfully magic women are invited to bestow gifts on the princess at her birth. But there is a thirteenth who isn't invited, and she starts a lot of trouble for everyone in the palace, like putting them to sleep for a hundred years. And it's Briar Rose who is asleep in our hearts too.

There are people who fear the number 13. Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of 13, a number commonly associated with bad luck in Western culture.

Alchemists who strive for liberation are not afraid of 13. In fact, they love this number! Why? Because they regard this universe as being separated from the Divine Plan that operates in the World of God, and so they want to escape the 12, and go to the Thirteenth. In fact, symbolically speaking, there is a train, or if you prefer, an ark, that takes them out of this prison and conveys them back to man's original home. They call this 'ark' *The Thirteenth Aeon*.

Alchemists of liberation call the 12 forces that rule this universe 'the twelve aeons', referring to the extremely vast amount of time these forces have been in existence. Hence the thirteenth aeon is the power that enters this fallen universe to convey the Children of God back to the Father in the Kingdom of Heaven. That is what J.K. Rowling is telling us when she hides 13 in the number $9\frac{3}{4}$.

