Year 8 Revision Checklist: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Chapter 12: *The Mirror of Erised*

1. Learn the Key Events

Make sure you can explain:

- What happens on Christmas Day at Hogwarts.
- Which presents Harry receives and who sends them.
- How Harry discovers the Invisibility Cloak.
- Why Harry goes to the Restricted Section of the library.
- How Harry finds the Mirror of Erised.
- What Harry sees in the mirror.
- What Ron sees in the mirror.
- Why Harry keeps returning to the mirror.
- What Dumbledore tells Harry about the mirror.

2. Know the Important Characters

Revise:

Harry Potter

- His feelings about family.
- Why the mirror is so important to him.
- How his Christmas at Hogwarts differs from life with the Dursleys.

Albus Dumbledore

- His advice about dreams and reality.
- What he teaches Harry about desire.

Ron Weasley

- What he sees in the mirror.
- What his vision reveals about his personality.

Hagrid, Filch and Madam Pince

- Their roles in the chapter.

- How they influence events.

3. Key Vocabulary

Be able to define and use:

- **Ornate**
- **Magnificent**
- **Restricted**
- **Desire**
- **Inscription**
- **Yearning**
- **Reflection**

You may be asked to find meanings from the text.

4. Important Quotations

Revise these and what they reveal:

- Description of the Mirror of Erised.
- The inscription on the mirror.
- Dumbledore's explanation:
    - "It shows us nothing more or less than the deepest, most desperate desire of our hearts."
- Dumbledore's warning about dreams and reality.

5. Themes to Revise

Family and Belonging

- Why Harry longs to see his parents.

Desires and Dreams

- What different characters want most.

Reality vs Fantasy

- Why Dumbledore warns Harry not to become obsessed with the mirror.

Friendship

- How Ron and Harry react differently to the mirror.

6. Inference Questions Practice

Be prepared to explain:

- Why Christmas is emotional for Harry.
- Why Harry keeps returning to the mirror.
- What Ron's reflection reveals about him.
- Why Dumbledore removes the mirror.
- What the chapter teaches readers about wishes and happiness.

7. Language Analysis Practice

When analysing a quote, ask:

WHAT?

What is happening?

HOW?

What words, imagery, or techniques has Rowling used?

WHY?

Why has she used them? What effect does it have on the reader?

Night Before the Test: Quick 10-Minute Revision

✅ Learn what Harry and Ron see in the Mirror of Erised.

✅ Memorise what Dumbledore says the mirror does.

✅ Know the inscription on the mirror.

✅ Revise Harry's Christmas gifts.

✅ Practise one paragraph explaining why the mirror is important to Harry using evidence from the chapter.

✅ Remember the WHAT-HOW-WHY structure for longer answers.

Top Tip: Most of the marks come from explaining *why* characters feel or act a certain way and supporting your ideas with details from the chapter, not just retelling the story.