

first edition harry potter and philosopher's stone

First Edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone: A Treasure for Collectors and Fans Alike

The **first edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone** holds a special place in literary history and the hearts of collectors worldwide. As the book that launched J.K. Rowling's legendary Harry Potter series, its rarity, distinctive features, and cultural significance make it a highly sought-after item. Whether you are an avid collector, a dedicated fan, or simply intrigued by the origins of this beloved story, understanding the nuances of the first edition can enhance your appreciation and potentially increase its value. In this article, we delve into the key aspects of the first edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone, exploring its history, identifying features, and the importance of provenance.

Understanding the Significance of the First Edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone

The Origins of the Book

The Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone first appeared in print in the United Kingdom on June 26, 1997, published by Bloomsbury. It was the debut novel by J.K. Rowling and introduced readers to the wizarding world that would eventually captivate millions globally. The first edition marked the beginning of a literary phenomenon, and its initial print run was modest—approximately 500 copies—making it a rare find today.

Why the First Edition Matters

The first edition is more than just the initial printing; it symbolizes the genesis of Harry Potter's journey into popular culture. Collectors value first editions because they represent the original publication, often containing unique features or printing errors that are absent in later editions. Moreover, owning a first edition connects fans directly to the inception of Rowling's magical universe.

Key Features of the First Edition Harry Potter

and Philosopher's Stone

Publication Details and Cover Design

- **Publisher:** Bloomsbury Publishing
- **Publication Date:** June 26, 1997
- **Format:** Hardcover with a distinctive dust jacket
- **Cover Art:** The original artwork features a whimsical illustration of Harry, along with the iconic Hogwarts castle in the background.

Differences from Later Editions

The first edition possesses several unique characteristics that distinguish it from subsequent printings and paperback editions:

- **Typographical Errors:** Early copies contain minor typographical errors, such as misspellings or formatting inconsistencies, which are corrected in later printings.
- **Number Line:** The number line on the copyright page often reads "10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1," indicating first printing.
- **Dust Jacket:** The original dust jacket features artwork and text placement that differ from later editions. The jacket design is highly collectible.
- **Binding and Paper Quality:** The hardcover binding and paper quality reflect the printing standards of the late 1990s, often with a textured cover and high-quality paper stock.

Identifying a Genuine First Edition

For collectors, authenticating a first edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone involves examining several details:

1. **Price and Seller Reputation:** Purchase from reputable dealers or auction houses specializing in rare books.

2. **Condition:** The condition significantly impacts value. Look for minimal wear, intact dust jacket, and clean pages.
3. **Edition Markings:** Confirm the presence of the number line "10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1" and check for typographical errors typical of first printings.
4. **Signature or Inscription:** While rare, signed copies or those with inscriptions from J.K. Rowling are exceedingly valuable.

The Collectability and Value of the First Edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone

Market Value Over Time

Since its initial release, the value of a first edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone has skyrocketed. In the late 1990s, a pristine copy could be purchased for a modest sum, often less than \$1,000. Today, high-quality first editions can fetch tens of thousands of dollars at auction, especially if they are in excellent condition or contain unique features.

Factors Influencing Price

The value of a first edition depends on several factors:

- **Condition:** Mint condition copies with original dust jackets attract the highest prices.
- **Provenance:** A well-documented history or association with notable previous owners increases desirability.
- **Rarity:** Limited printing runs and early copies with known printing errors are more valuable.
- **Signatures or Inscriptions:** Signed copies or those with personal inscriptions by Rowling are highly prized.

Notable Auctions and Records

In 2021, a first edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone sold at auction for over \$55,000, highlighting the intense collector demand. Some copies with minor flaws or damage still command thousands of dollars, emphasizing the

book's status as a valuable collectible.

Preserving and Caring for a First Edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone

Proper Storage Techniques

To maintain the condition and value of your first edition:

- Store in a cool, dry environment away from direct sunlight.
- Use acid-free protective covers or archival-quality boxes.
- Avoid handling with bare hands; wear gloves to prevent oils and dirt transfer.
- Keep the dust jacket in a protective sleeve to prevent tears and fading.

Handling Tips for Collectors

- Always support the spine when opening the book.
- Avoid excessive bending or pressing on the pages.
- Keep the book upright on a shelf, not stacked horizontally under weight.

Where to Find a First Edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone

Reputable Dealers and Auction Houses

Purchasing from established rare book dealers or auction houses ensures authenticity and fair valuation. Some well-known sources include:

- Christie's
- Sotheby's
- Heritage Auctions
- Specialty rare book shops online

Online Marketplaces and Collectors' Forums

Websites like eBay can offer first editions, but buyers should exercise caution and verify seller credentials, request detailed photographs, and confirm edition specifics.

Conventions and Rare Book Fairs

Attending book fairs and collector conventions provides opportunities to view and purchase first editions directly from experts and fellow enthusiasts.

Conclusion: The Enduring Charm of the First Edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone

The **first edition Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone** remains a symbol of literary innovation and cultural impact. Its rarity, unique features, and significance as the beginning of Harry Potter's journey make it a prized possession for collectors and fans alike. Whether you seek to add a valuable piece to your collection or simply wish to appreciate the origins of Rowling's magical universe, understanding what makes the first edition special is essential. Proper care, authentication, and knowledge of its history can turn owning a first edition into a rewarding experience, connecting you to the very start of one of the most beloved series in modern literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes a first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone so valuable?

A first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is highly valuable due to its rarity, historical significance, and status as the original published version of the book. Collectors seek it because only a limited number were printed, especially before any major revisions or reprints.

How can I identify a genuine first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

To identify a genuine first edition, check for the original British printing details, including 'First Edition' on the copyright page, specific publisher markings from Bloomsbury, and the original dust jacket. Comparing these features with verified copies or consulting a rare book expert can help

confirm authenticity.

What is the current market value of a first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

As of 2023, a first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in good condition can fetch anywhere from \$50,000 to over \$150,000, depending on its condition, dust jacket state, and provenance. Prices fluctuate based on collector demand and rarity.

Why is the first edition of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone so sought after by collectors?

It is sought after because it marks the original publication of a globally influential book series. Its limited print run and historical importance make it a prized collectible for Harry Potter fans and rare book collectors alike.

Are there notable differences between the first edition and later printings of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

Yes, the first edition contains certain typographical and formatting differences, such as the omission of the 'HarperCollins' logo on the copyright page and specific dust jacket design details. Later printings may have minor changes or corrections.

What should I look for when buying a first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

Look for the correct publisher markings, the 'First Edition' statement on the copyright page, the original dust jacket, and ensure the book's condition is good. Verification from a reputable dealer or expert is recommended to avoid fakes.

Has the value of first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone increased over time?

Yes, the value has generally increased due to the series' immense popularity, its cultural significance, and the rarity of well-preserved copies. Prices have risen steadily over the past decades, making it a lucrative investment for collectors.

Are there any famous copies of the first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

Some copies have notable provenance or belonged to famous collectors or

individuals, which can significantly increase their value. For example, copies with signed dedications or those associated with early Harry Potter fans or authors are highly prized.

Where can I buy a genuine first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

You can purchase authentic copies from reputable rare book dealers, auction houses specializing in collectible books, or specialized online marketplaces. Always verify the authenticity with expert appraisal before buying a high-value copy.

Additional Resources

First Edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone: An In-Depth Examination

The first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone stands as one of the most coveted and historically significant books in modern literary history. As the inaugural entry in J.K. Rowling's legendary Harry Potter series, this edition not only marks the beginning of a literary phenomenon but also encapsulates the cultural, collectible, and literary value that has only grown over time. In this comprehensive review, we will explore the origins, physical characteristics, rarity, significance, and collectible value of this iconic edition, providing a detailed understanding for collectors, fans, and scholars alike.

Origins and Publishing History of the First Edition

Initial Publication Details

The first edition of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was published in the United Kingdom by Bloomsbury Publishing in 1997. Written by J.K. Rowling, this novel introduces the young wizard Harry Potter and his adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The initial print run was modest, with approximately 500 copies printed, making it a relatively limited release at the time.

The book's original title in the UK was Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, a phrase rooted in alchemical tradition, which was later changed to Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone for the American market. The choice of

the original title reflects Rowling's intent to evoke a sense of magic rooted in historic and mystical traditions.

Publishing Challenges and Early Reception

The publication faced initial challenges, including skepticism from the publishing industry due to its unconventional fantasy theme and the author's relative obscurity. However, early reviews praised Rowling's inventive storytelling and engaging characters. The modest initial print run, combined with the book's critical success, set the stage for its eventual rise to worldwide prominence.

Physical Characteristics of the First Edition

Understanding the physical attributes of the first edition is crucial for collectors and aficionados. Here are the key features that define this edition:

Cover Design and Binding

- **Cover Art:** The original hardcover features a distinctive, textured black cloth binding with a simple, embossed title and author's name on the spine. The front cover is adorned with a gold foil illustration of a stylized lion, symbolizing Gryffindor house, which is prominent in the story.
- **Dust Jacket:** The dust jacket of the first edition is notable for its vibrant, detailed cover illustration by artist Thomas Taylor. It depicts Harry Potter with his iconic round glasses and lightning scar, set against a whimsical background of Hogwarts.
- **Binding:** The book is typically bound in high-quality cloth with gold foil lettering, giving it a durable and collectible feel.

Page Layout and Content

- **Page Count:** The first edition contains 223 pages, with a distinct typesetting and font size used by the publisher.
- **Typography:** The typeface is a clear, readable serif font typical of the late 1990s, with chapter headings and paragraph formatting consistent with literary standards of the period.

- Illustrations: The original edition features minimal illustrations, with some editions including a full-color frontispiece or decorative chapter initials.

Significant Variants

While the core first edition is relatively consistent, some variations exist:

- Binding Variants: Early copies may vary slightly in binding quality or coloring.
- Dust Jacket Differences: Small differences in the dust jacket design, such as the placement of text or minor color variations, can occur depending on print batch.

Rarity and Collectible Value

The value of a first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone hinges on several factors, including print run, condition, provenance, and any unique features.

Factors Contributing to Rarity

- Limited Initial Print Run: Approximately 500 copies were printed initially, making these early editions inherently scarce.
- Early Copies with Owner's Signatures: Signed copies or those with inscriptions from Rowling herself are exceedingly rare and highly prized.
- Condition and Preservation: Mint condition copies with original dust jackets and minimal wear command premium prices.

Market Value and Auction Records

As one of the most sought-after collectible books, first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone can fetch significant sums:

- Typical Auction Prices: Well-preserved copies have sold for anywhere from \$20,000 to over \$50,000 USD, depending on condition and provenance.
- Record Sales: In 2021, a signed first edition sold for over \$300,000 at

auction, highlighting the extraordinary value attached to certain copies.

Factors Affecting Value

- Signed vs. Unsigned: Signed copies are far more valuable.
- Condition: Pristine copies with no damage, intact dust jackets, and minimal markings are preferred.
- Provenance: Copies with documented ownership history, especially those with Rowling's personal notes, increase desirability.

Historical Significance and Cultural Impact

The first edition is much more than a collectible; it symbolizes the genesis of a literary and cultural phenomenon.

Literary Significance

- Introduction of Iconic Characters: Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Ron Weasley, and others debuted in this edition, setting the foundation for a global literary universe.
- Innovative Fantasy Genre: Rowling's seamless blend of classic fantasy elements with contemporary themes revitalized the genre for a new generation.
- Impact on Children's Literature: The book's success demonstrated that fantasy could be both commercially successful and critically acclaimed, inspiring countless authors and publishers.

Cultural and Social Impact

- Global Phenomenon: The book launched a franchise that includes movies, merchandise, theme parks, and a dedicated fanbase.
- Literary Awards and Recognition: The first edition helped Rowling earn numerous accolades and established her as a literary icon.
- Educational and Philanthropic Influence: The series' themes of friendship, bravery, and perseverance continue to inspire readers worldwide.

Symbolism and Thematic Depth

The original edition captures the foundational themes of the series:

- Good vs. Evil: The battle between Harry and Voldemort begins here.
- The Power of Friendship and Courage: Early character interactions set the tone for ongoing themes.
- The Magic of Discovery: The wonder of learning and self-discovery is embedded within the narrative.

Collecting and Appreciating the First Edition

For collectors and fans, acquiring a first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is a meaningful pursuit. Here are some tips and considerations:

What to Look For When Collecting

- Authenticity: Verify the edition's authenticity through publisher details, ISBN, and dust jacket features.
- Condition: Aim for copies with minimal wear, intact dust jackets, and clear pages.
- Signatures and Inscriptions: Signed copies or those with Rowling's personal inscriptions are highly valuable.
- Provenance: Documentation or provenance adds credibility and value.

Preservation Tips

- Store in a cool, dry environment away from sunlight.
- Handle with clean hands to prevent damage.

- Use protective covers or archival-quality storage materials.

Where to Find First Editions

- Rare Book Dealers: Specialized dealers often have authenticated copies.
- Auctions: Major auction houses regularly feature rare editions.
- Specialist Book Fairs: Events focusing on collectible books are excellent venues.
- Online Marketplaces: Websites like AbeBooks or Heritage Auctions offer listings, but buyers should verify authenticity carefully.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the First Edition

The first edition Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone remains a symbol of literary innovation, cultural upheaval, and the magic of storytelling. Its rarity, historical significance, and the role it played in launching one of the most successful franchises in history make it a prized collectible

and a cultural artifact. Whether viewed as a valuable investment or a treasured piece of literary history, the first edition continues to enchant fans and collectors worldwide.

In appreciating this edition, one not only celebrates Rowling's creative genius but also honors the enduring power of stories to inspire, transform, and unite generations. As the starting point of the Harry Potter universe, the first edition is truly a cornerstone of modern literary and pop culture history.

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first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: *Heritage Rare Books Auction #6025* ,

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Harry Potter Collector's Handbook William Silvester, 2010-08-19 Action Figures, Books, Ornaments, Costumes, Calendars, Art, Coins, Dolls, Jewelry, Lunch Boxes, Toys, Movies Harry Potter Casts His Spell on Collectors Welcome, Muggles, to the magic, mystery, and merchandise of the wonderful wizarding world of Harry Potter! Harry Potter Collector's Handbook will bewitch you with colorful images and current values of licensed products based on the famous boy wizard and his charming chums and nefarious foes. Just for you, we've conjured: • 1,000+ spellbinding listings, pictures, and secondary market values. • Information arranged—magically!—in alphabetical order to make it easy to find what you're looking for. • A diverse array of collectibles from rare first editions of books worth thousands of dollars to items worth slightly fewer galleons. If you're mesmerized by Pottermania, you'll never want to depart the enchanting world of witchcraft and wizardry presented in Harry Potter Collector's Handbook.

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling (*Book Analysis*) Bright Summaries, 2018-02-07 Unlock the more straightforward side of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling, the first book in the bestselling series. In the novel, we are introduced to the Boy Who Lived and the wizarding world, which is inhabited by a range of colourful characters and fantastical creatures. In Harry's first year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, he begins his magical education, shines on the Quidditch field and overcomes a series of sinister obstacles to find the mysterious Philosopher's Stone. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is the first novel in J.K. Rowling's bestselling seven-book series, which has inspired films, video games, board games and even a theme park. Rowling is now a household name around the world, and her other books include *The Casual Vacancy* (2012) and *The Cuckoo's Calling* (2013), which was published under the

pseudonym Robert Galbraith. Find out everything you need to know about Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: •A complete plot summary •Character studies •Key themes and symbols •Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Harry Potter - The Unofficial Guide to the Collectibles of Our Favorite Wizard Eric Bradley, 2017-10-03 A legacy of magical treasures! Since 1997 with the publication of the first book, Harry Potter has cast a spell over millions of Muggles around the world--not the least of all bewitched collectors. Harry Potter: The Unofficial Guide to the Collectibles of Our Favorite Wizard conjures rare, extraordinary and magical treasures sprung from the Potter books and movies, and even the imaginations of fans. In its enchantingly visual pages, you'll discover delightful riches including author J.K. Rowling's writing chair that sold at auction for almost \$400,000, first-edition books, original art, movie posters, film props, exclusives, limited-edition items, fun fandom pieces, and other wonders to behold. So with a whisper of accio and a flick of your wand, summon forth the fascinating, the fantastical and the fabulous found in Harry Potter: The Unofficial Guide to the Collectibles of Our Favorite Wizard.

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone J. K. Rowling, 2007-01 * Cult children's classic - 156,000 copies sold - already a hit with adults * This edition with stunningly reworked jacket creates new market for adult readers * Author has already received huge press coverage in the national papers and on television * Film deal soon to be signed * The sequel, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets No. 1 (for four weeks) in hardback bestseller lists - the first time since Booktrack started that a children's hardback has topped the general bestseller list. * There's magic, humour, goodies, baddies, muggles (what are they?) and broomsticks * It's a book about good versus evil, self discovery, friendship and a rollicking good tale into the bargain! Harry Potter is an ordinary boy who lives in a cupboard under the stairs at his Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon's house, which he thinks is normal for someone like him who's parents have been killed in a 'car crash'. He is bullied by them and his fat, spoilt cousin Dudley, and lives a very unremarkable life with only the odd hiccup (like his hair growing back overnight!) to cause him much to think about. That is until an owl turns up with a letter addressed to Harry and all hell breaks loose! He is literally rescued by a world where nothing is as it seems and magic lessons are the order of the day. Read and find out how Harry discovers his true heritage at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft, the reason behind his parents mysterious death, who is out to kill him, and how he uncovers the most amazing secret of all time, the fabled Philosopher's Stone! The Author: This is J K Rowlings's first book and she has six more books planned for Harry's adventures at Hogwarts. She lives in Edinburgh.

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and dispel rumour on the fascinating publishing history of the Harry Potter series.

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first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Weird But True 9 National Geographic Kids, 2017 Offers a collection of true facts about animals, food, science, pop culture, outer space, geography, and weather.

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Superhobby Investing Peter Temple, 2004 What is 'superhobby investing'? Superhobby Investing is at the intersection of investing, collecting and other serious hobbies. It's about examining how you can ratchet up a hobby or a collecting passion into an investment option. If you are a stock market investor, this book will show how you can use the tangible assets that are normally part and parcel of collecting as a means of diversifying your portfolio. Or maybe you already own, or have inherited, some superhobby assets - a stamp collection or a set of first editions, say - but never thought of them as potential investments. Using this book, you can find out how to assess their value and how to convert them into a durable and profitable portfolio. This book shows you why developing one or more superhobbies can be a good idea, and looks at various forms this tangible asset investing can take. In each case the book explains how the markets operate, what the risks are, what returns can be expected, and what knowledge and skills are required. Each asset profile includes: - The history of investment in the asset- The basic characteristics and features of the market- The examination of long term returns, with detailed figures- The tax angles (if applicable)- The major issues- How to buy and sell, including major dealers and auctioneers- Sources of information

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Teaching with Harry Potter Valerie

Estelle Frankel, 2013-02-06 The Harry Potter phenomenon created a surge in reading with a lasting effect on all areas of culture, especially education. Today, teachers across the world are harnessing the power of the series to teach history, gender studies, chemistry, religion, philosophy, sociology, architecture, Latin, medieval studies, astronomy, SAT skills, and much more. These essays discuss the diverse educational possibilities of J.K. Rowling's books. Teachers of younger students use Harry and Hermione to encourage kids with disabilities or show girls the power of being brainy scientists. Students are reading fanfiction, splicing video clips, or exploring Rowling's new website, Pottermore. Harry Potter continues to open new doors to learning.

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: HARRY POTTER & THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE NARAYAN CHANGDER, 2023-11-04 Note: Anyone can request the PDF version of this practice set/workbook by emailing me at cbsenet4u@gmail.com. I will send you a PDF version of this workbook. This book has been designed for candidates preparing for various competitive examinations. It contains many objective questions specifically designed for different exams. Answer keys are provided at the end of each page. It will undoubtedly serve as the best preparation material for aspirants. This book is an engaging quiz eBook for all and offers something for everyone. This book will satisfy the curiosity of most students while also challenging their trivia skills and introducing them to new information. Use this invaluable book to test your subject-matter expertise. Multiple-choice exams are a common assessment method that all prospective candidates must be familiar with in today's academic environment. Although the majority of students are accustomed to this MCQ format, many are not well-versed in it. To achieve success in MCQ tests, quizzes, and trivia challenges, one requires test-taking techniques and skills in addition to subject knowledge. It also provides you with the skills and information you need to achieve a good score in challenging tests or competitive examinations. Whether you have studied the subject on your own, read for pleasure, or completed coursework, it will assess your knowledge and prepare you for competitive exams, quizzes, trivia, and more.

first edition harry potter and philosopher s stone: Introduction to Contemporary Print Culture Simone Murray, 2020-10-11 Introduction to Contemporary Print Culture examines the role of the book in the modern world. It considers the book's deeply intertwined relationships with other media through ownership structures, copyright and adaptation, the constantly shifting roles of authors, publishers and readers in the digital ecosystem and the merging of print and digital technologies in contemporary understandings of the book object. Divided into three parts, the book first introduces students to various theories and methods for understanding print culture, demonstrating how the study of the book has grown out of longstanding academic disciplines. The second part surveys key sectors of the contemporary book world – from independent and alternative publishers to editors, booksellers, readers and libraries – focusing on topical debates. In the final part, digital technologies take centre stage as eBook regimes and mass-digitisation projects are examined for what they reveal about information power and access in the twenty-first century. This book provides a fascinating and informative introduction for students of all levels in publishing studies, book history, literature and English, media, communication and cultural studies, cultural sociology, librarianship and archival studies and digital humanities.

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archaeologists, this easy-to-use and informative guide to picking is guaranteed to improve their antiquing skills. The Picker's Bible provides great tips on where and how to find antiques for the best price. A fun and quick read, the book explains the ins and outs of negotiating price, things to avoid, secrets to success, and how to do it all better than the other guy. There is hidden treasure out there...Picker's Bible will help you find it!

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