

# Do Mandrakes Really Scream?

## Magic and Medicine in Harry Potter

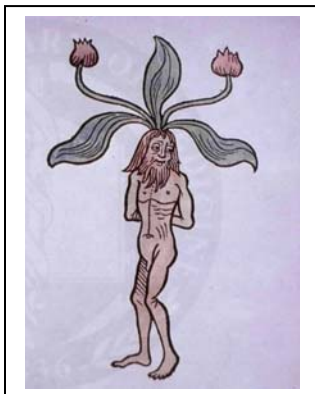
An online exhibition at the  
National Library of Medicine



Featuring seven treasures from the History of Medicine collection

A decade ago, British writer J.K. Rowling published *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the first in a series of seven books about a boy wizard growing up, learning magic, and facing adversity.

There is more to the *Harry Potter* series than a child hero or a fantasy adventure — many of the characters, plants, and creatures in Rowling's stories are based in history, medicine, or magical lore. Death, evil, illness, and injury affect the characters of Harry Potter's imaginary world and in describing her characters' experiences, Ms. Rowling has drawn on important works of alchemy, herbology, and mythical lore. These works and other historical links to the *Harry Potter* books are examined in **Magic and Medicine in Harry Potter**.



<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/mandrakes/>

National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland

