

# Gellert Grindlewald's Origin Story

By Elizabeth Gamble. Yr7

Gellert Grindlewald was born the only child of Mildritha and Albrecht Grindlewald. They were notoriously well known for being the richest pure - blooded wizards in Germany. Albrecht was a professional duelling champion, while his wife Mildritha was said to be something of a great beauty. But when young Gellert was just six, his life changed. His father was killed by a mob of drunken muggles, who had caught hold of his wand, and unknowingly shot a killing curse at him. This was the starting point of Gellert's hatred of the muggle world. His mother then had to take matters into her own hands. Albrecht was the one who had earned all the money in the household, so Mildritha had to get a job to provide for her son. She became a caretaker at the wizarding school Durmstrang Institute, and the landlady at a local pub. During these years, Gellert rarely saw his mother, so learned to busy himself at home by practising his magical abilities and reading.

Gellert received an acceptance letter from Durmstrang Institute at the age of ten. He was a very reclusive yet talented child, who possessed an attractive and winsome personality, which was coupled with a merry and wild disposition. Sometime during his time at school, he had a vision of himself rising to power over the entire wizarding world. He also saw the Deathly Hallows, which when united would make one master of death. Grindlewald then became infatuated with the three items and spent much of his later school years trying to find out everything he could about them, even went as far as to engrave the symbol on one of the walls of Durstrang.

Shortly after his expulsion from Durmstrang institute, Gellert's search for the Deathly Hallows lead him to Godric's Hollow in southern – western England. There he met his great – aunt Bathilda Bagshot, who he moved in with. He also met his best friend ( and future arch-nemesis ), Albus Dumbledore. The pair got along quite well having similar personalities and preoccupations. They both wanted to find the Deathly hallows, both were ambitious and idealistic young wizards, and both shared the dream of wizards rising to superiority over the muggle world. They then made a blood pact, swearing never to fight one another. Later on, they made plans to go away together, to find the Hallows. But Albus's younger brother, Aberforth, did not approve. He confronted the pair one evening. Voices were raised, threats were made, and after Grindlewald attempted to use the torture curse on Aberforth, Albus leapt in the way to protect his brother, and a vicious three way duel began, which resulted in the tragic demise of Albus's sister Ariana, who had secretly snuck down the stairs when she heard the boys fighting. Grindlewald fled soon after, having received the blame for Ariana's death, confirming his place on the darker side of the magical community.