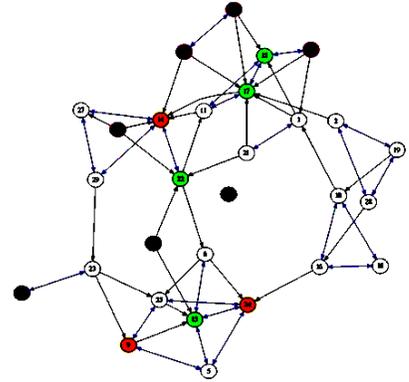


Sociogram



A Sociogram is a graphical representation of the characters in a novel and their relationships. It is a visual representation of the interpersonal relationships within a group.

Below is an example of a sociogram of the characters in Harry Potter.

N.B.

Always start with a rough copy to plan the layout of a sociogram so that it doesn't become too messy or confusing.

How do I do it?

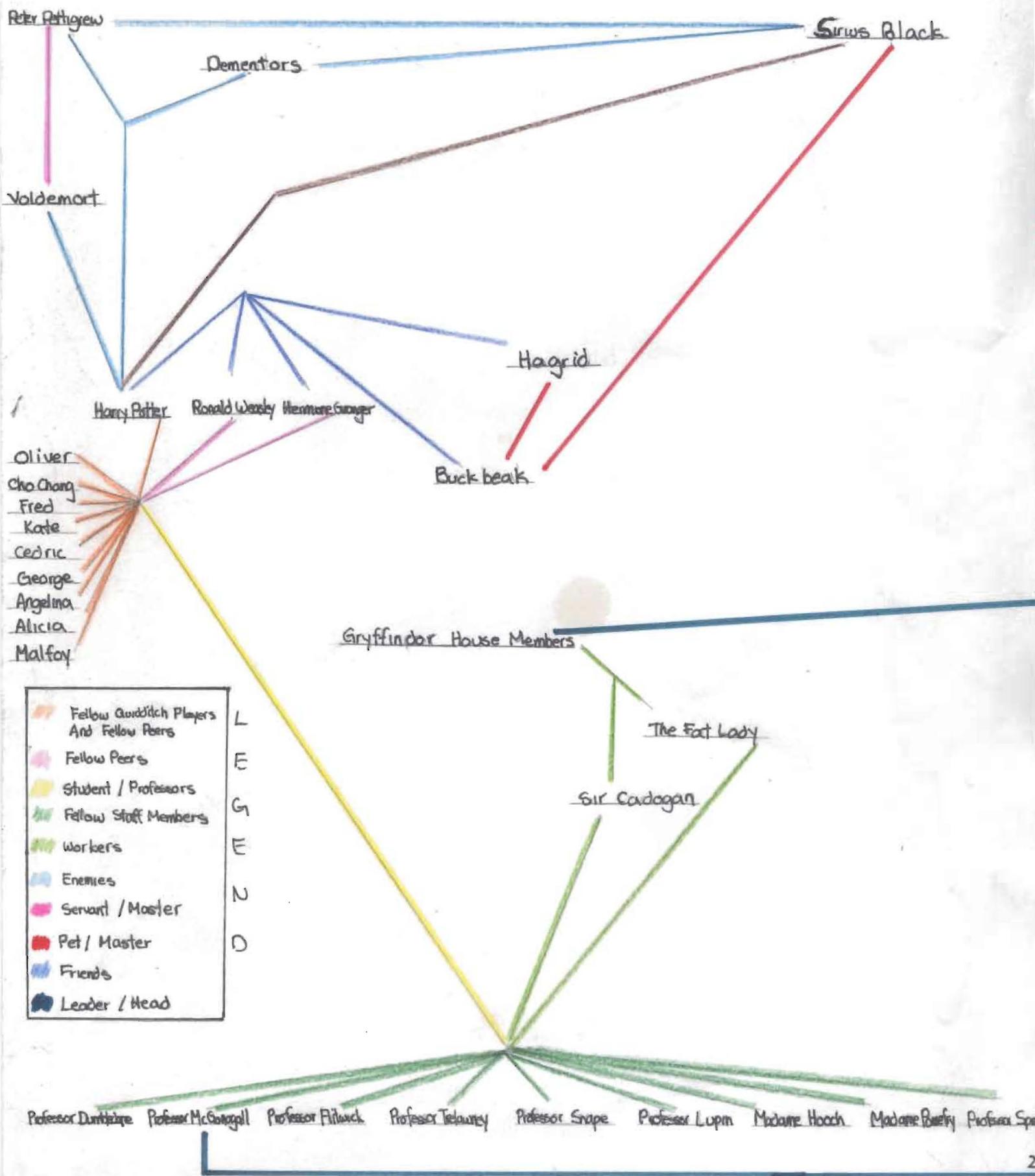
There are many variations, but for our purposes the central character is placed at or near the centre of the page and the other characters are placed in relation to it. Write the names of the characters on pieces of paper. Manipulate pieces of paper on the page with the names of characters, until you feel you have arranged them in the best way to reflect your understanding of the text. Then, attach the names to a piece of paper and the rest of the sociogram sorted out.

A number of conventions may be useful in developing sociograms:

1. Place the central character/s at or near the centre of the diagram. Enclose the character's name with a circle so that it is readable and may have arrows drawn to and from it.
2. Let the physical distance between characters reflect the perceived psychological distance between characters.
3. Let the size of the shape representing a character vary with (a) the importance, or (b) the power of the character.
4. Show the direction of a relationship by an arrow, and its nature by a brief label. Arrows can be one-way, two-way or a boomerang effect.
5. In any order, use labeled arrows going from one character to another to indicate relationships, motivations, feelings, beliefs, attitudes, etc.

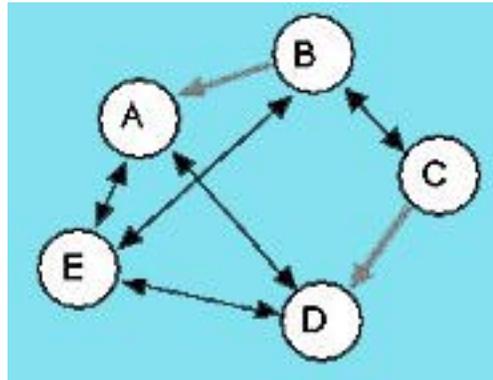
(next page)

Sociogram



Sociogram

7. Represent **substantiated** relationships by a solid line and **inferred** relationships by a broken line.
8. Circle active characters with a solid line. Circle significantly absent characters with a broken line.
9. Place the characters who support the main character on one side of a dividing line, and antagonistic characters on the other.
10. If you wish, you may also include localities and significant objects in the sociogram. These too may have arrows running between them and central characters.



Next page for larger example

