

Standards and Measurements

by ApollinaV

Percy inspects Hogwarts.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Travel Log of Percy Ignatius Weasley

Acting Chief Deputy Undersecretary to the Committee for Standards and Measurements

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

"Percy, school starts in two days!"

"Precisely, Madam Snape. By my estimation, your staff should already be prepared for the school year – fresh and ready to go. It's the best time to do these interviews."

"But school starts in two days, you idiot."

"So you're saying you're not prepared for the 1,200 students arriving Sunday."

"Wait! Why are you writing that down? I didn't say we weren't prepared. I'm saying / don't have time to talk to you. Besides, Headmaster Snape should be handling this."

"He sent me to you."

"Oh, he did, did he? Right. I'll fix him later. What's your next question?"

"It's come to my attention, through an exhausting examination of school records that there is a great deal of grade disparity. Its most troubling."

"Grade disparity? What do you mean by that?"

"In thirty percent of students, classroom scores are not reflective of test marks. If a student is proficient on an exam, it bears to reason that they would have classroom scores that mirror that proficiency."

"Percy, professors are given a lot of latitude to judge students classroom performance. Classroom performance is qualitative. Grades are quantitative, there will be some disparity. Some children are naturally talented. Some children study more. And others are simply good test takers."

"But *thirty percent*?"

"Hogwarts has an unimpeachable reputation for quality education. Throwing mud on grade disparity, on something as absurd as classroom performance is unconscionable. Not everything can be measured like cauldron bottoms, Percy. You can take that thirty percent and shove it. You're writing this down again, aren't you?"

~sounds of a scuffle~

“So my next questions concern the health and safety of the student body, and are perfectly measurable.”

“I can hardly wait. I’m all ears.”

“What is the rotation speed of the staircases? Are they set on a timer? Are they rotating at night – and if so, do you have numbers on whether that is an efficient use of magic?”

“Do they all rotate as one? For example, when the staircases in Gryffindor tower rotate, are the staircases in Ravenclaw rotating too? How long does it take to complete a cycle? And finally, how many times does a staircase cycle during the average day?”

“I don’t know – four.”

“Four what?”

“You figure it out.”

“Madam Snape! Madam Snape!”

“Oh Percy. It’s you.”

“I’ve been looking all over for you. I haven’t been able to find you anywhere.”

“Well, you found me. Lucky me.”

“I have information of great importance. I think an assembly should be called.”

“Oh?”

“The staircases pose a grave danger to the safety of the students and staff. After observing sixteen of them for a total of sixty hours, I have to report they’re unmeasurable. There’s no way to know where a staircase will take you, how fast it will travel, when it will return, or how often it will cycle. And this one staircase wouldn’t let me off. It just kept looping around and around and around. It only stopped when I was going to be sick. This cannot continue.”

“Well... thank you Percy. That was very thorough and well researched. We’ll have to keep that in mind for the future – the randomly moving staircases are random.”

“You’re not going to do anything? This poses a significant health threat.”

“I think it’s best we research this a little longer. There’s a theory that nothing in the universe is random, only that the pattern is unpredictable.”

“So you don’t care that a student could miss class or hop on the wrong staircase, or get stuck on a revolving staircase for twenty five minutes. I’ll have to make a note of that. And believe me, this will go in my final report.”

“Is that your draft report? May I see it?”

“Hey! My report! You destroyed my report! You’re obstructing an officer in the course of his duties -that’s a punishable offense.”

“That only applies to Aurors.”

“You’ve ruined my work! You’re not going to get away with this Hermione. I wasn’t going to say anything about the bacterial build up on the kitchen pear from repetitive tickling – but now I will. And I’ll document the glaring inadequacies of the –”

“Then I’m Flooing Molly. I’ll tell her all about what really happened to her lemon custard.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Report to the Secretary of the Committee for Standards and Measurements

The Status of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

By Percy Ignatius Weasley

After a full investigation, zero discrepancies were noted.

Staircase rotation is set to – four.

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Prompt from HermioneDiggory: The Ministry sends Percy to Hogwarts to evaluate the effectiveness of the current teaching staff.

Thanks to Ladyinthecloak for the wonderful beta! Schmootches babe!