

Friendship, Courage, Good Versus Evil and Perseverance in JK Rowling's Select Works

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Abstract: JK Rowling is a renowned British author. She rose to fame with the publication of the fantasy series, Harry Potter. The Harry Potter series was published between 1997 and 2007. The books are highly successful, and the humongous success of the novels formed a film franchise that grossed millions of dollars. This paper studies her critically acclaimed works.

Keywords: JK Rowling, Harry Potter, Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them.

I. Introduction

JK Rowling is a renowned British author. She rose to fame with the publication of the fantasy series, Harry Potter. The Harry Potter series was published between 1997 and 2007. The books are highly successful, and the humongous success of the novels formed a film franchise that grossed millions of dollars. She is one of the highest paid authors according to Forbes. JK Rowling was born on 31st July, 1965 in Gloucestershire, England. She had also previously worked at Amnesty International. Her works mostly focus on fantasy, young adult fiction and drama. She lived in poverty prior to the publication of the first Harry Potter novel. She is known for her vivid descriptions in literary works. All of the Harry Potter books are best sellers and the novels are available in multiple languages across varied continents.

II. Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone

Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone is a fantasy novel published in 1997. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was the first novel of the Harry Potter series. The titular protagonist is a young wizard. Voldemort is a dark wizard who desires to acquire the philosopher's stone. Voldemort wants the stone's power of immortality so that he can conquer the world. Harry Potter defeats Voldemort with helps from from his friends Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley. The theme of friendship, death love and courage dominate the novel.

III. Harry Potter and Chamber of Secrets

Harry Potter and Chamber of Secrets was published in 1998, and is the second novel of the series. Harry Potter is now in his second year at Hogwarts. The Chamber of Secrets is located under Hogwarts. It houses the Basilisk, an ancient monstrous snake that is capable of living for hundreds of years. The Basilisk's aim is to free the school of muggle-born students, as intended by Salazar Slytherin, one of the founders of Hogwarts. The focal theme of the novel is discrimination.

IV. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is the third book of the Harry Potter series, published in 1999. The protagonist is in his third year at Hogwarts. The story revolves around the Sirius Black, a prisoner who escapes escape from Azkaban. Voldemort's supporters were imprisoned at Azkaban. Peter Pettigrew had framed Sirius Black for his crimes. Towards the end of the novel, it is revealed that Sirius Black was never on Voldemort's side and was loyal to Harry Potter's parents all along. Courage and the power of friendship are the main themes.

V. Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire

Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire, published in 2000, is the fourth novel of the series. The novel begins with Harry at his fourth year of Hogwarts. The novel revolves around the Triwizard Tournament. The Goblet of Fire is an object that choose the champions for participating in the Triwizard Tournament. Harry Potter is selected as the fourth champion, despite being underage. Towards the end of the novel, it is revealed it was a plot to get Harry Potter's blood to restore Voldemort's to his physical and full body. The central themes of the novel are courage, loyalty and perseverance.

VI. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix is the fifth novel of the series. Published in 2003, the novel begins with the protagonist in his fifth year at Hogwarts. The Order of The Phoenix is a secret fictional organisation. The organisation was found by Albert Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore in his fight against voldemort and his followers. Voldemort's followers are called the death eaters. Towards the end of the novel, one of its members, Bellatrix Lestrange kills Sirius Black. Good versus evil is the dominant theme.

VII. Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince

Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince was published in 2005 and is the sixth novel of the series. It is also the penultimate novel in the series. The novel describes the past of Voldemort. The half-blood prince is revealed to be Professor Snape. It is revealed that Voldemort had created horcruxes to fulfill his desire to be immortal. A part of a person's soul can be stored in a horcrux, which can either be an inanimate object or a living being. The main themes are love, death, and redemption.

VIII. Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows

Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows is the final and seventh novel of the series. The novel shows the final confrontation between Harry Potter and Voldemort, with the latter emerging victorious. The novel shows the trio hunting for horcruxes. The horcruxes are Tom Riddle's diary, Marvolo Gaunt's ring, Salazar Slytherin's locket, Hufflepuff's Cup, Rowena Ravenclaw's diadem, Nagini, and finally Harry Potter himself. Death and redemption are the main themes of the novel.

IX. Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them

The movie, Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them, released in 2016, and is based on a screenplay written by JK Rowling. It portrays the life of Newt Scamander in New York City. Newt Scamander is a British wizard and magizoologist who takes care of rare and magical animals. He encounters an obscurial. When children who can perform magic are suppressed of such abilities, an obscurial will develop inside of them. Such children die young. Empathy for animals, courage, and friendship are the main themes of the novel.

X. Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald is a sequel to Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them. It was released in 2018 and is based on a screenplay by JK Rowling. It is set in 1927 and describes the life of Gellert Grindelwald who wants to establish a world in which the magical folk rule over the muggles. The protagonist, Newt Scamander and Albert Dumbledore try to stop him. Grindelwald's search for power forms the core of the work. Courage, friendship, discrimination, and prejudice are the main themes.

XI. Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore, released in 2022, is based on a screenplay by JK Rowling. It is the third installment of the film series Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them. As Grindelwald is gaining power, Dumbledore and Newt Scamander try to stop him. Dumbledore is unable to fight Grindelwald because of a blood pact they had made. Towards the end, Grindelwald disappears after the blood pact is broken. Loyalty, courage, friendship, and love are the predominant themes.

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