

**INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO A WORLD OF MAGIC AND BEWITCHING STUFF
A STUDY OF J.K.ROWLING'S "HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE"****L. SRI SAHITH**

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Fiction and fantasy novels have always attracted people with vivid imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. J.K.Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" lets us dwell into the magical world she created.

Joanne Kathleen Rowling writing under the pen names J.K.Rowling and Robert Galbraith is a British novelist, philanthropist, film producer, television producer and screenwriter, best known for writing the Harry Potter fantasy series. The book have won multiple awards, and sold more than 500 million copies, been translated into 77 languages becoming the best-selling book series in history. They have also been the basis for a film series, over which Rowling had overall approval on the scripts and was a producer on the final films in the series. She was appointed Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour (CH) in the 2017 Birthday Honours for services to literature and philanthropy. Lumos is an NGO founded by J.K.Rowling. Working to end the harm of institutionalisation and help children worldwide.

Key Words: *Philosopher, Screen writer, Companions, Magic*

Introduction**Beginning of an era:**

Magic, a word everyone would be happy to hear if it ever exists. A book has the ability to let the reader travel through a world or a situation created by the author. We have various books like The Game of Thrones, The Chronicles of Narnia, Lord of the Rings and many other series let the reader navigate into the fictional world. However unrealistic it may seem, fiction has a lot of readers. Almost all of the popular fictional novels are made into motion pictures or as TV series. All these series of novels navigate the reader with the point of view of a protagonist or an antagonist with a lot of characters, places and various plot twists at every turn of the page. All you have to do is keep on reading to get into it. Since these are fictional they have a different world map too, which exactly look doesn't like ours. It might be set in the past, present or even the future.

J.K.Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" is the beginning of a seven part spell-binding adventure. In this part, a 11 year old kid named Harry Potter a young wizard who gets to know about his magical heritage faces a dark wizard named Voldemort, who tried to kill him when he was a baby and also the person responsible for the death of Harry's parents. At the very dawn of the story Mr.Vernon Dursley, Harry's uncle hears about the "Potters" on the road while walking down the street. So after he comes home she asks Mrs.Petunia Dursley, whether she had heard from her. Little they knew that the headmaster, a teacher and keeper of keys of the finest wizarding school in the



world would put a baby that same night at the Dursley's doorstep. A baby who couldn't know at that very moment, people (wizards) meeting in secret all over the country were holding up their glasses and saying in hushed voices: 'To Harry Potter – the boy who lived!' He didn't even know that Lord Voldemort killed his parents and tried to kill him, which nearly ended Voldemort leaving young Harry a lightning-bolt shaped scar on his forehead.

10 years later, one day when he is trying to get the mail they received he observes that he got one. His cousin pulls it out of his hand and gives it to Mr. Dursley, who gets furious by getting to know who sent it. So he throws it into a hearth. But the same letter is showered into the house by hundreds of owls. His uncle doesn't let him read any of it and takes all of them to an island so they won't get any of the mail there. But a very tall man comes anyway onto the island into the house they were staying and gives Harry the letter. He is Rubeus Hagrid, the Keeper of Keys at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Hagrid scolds Harry's uncle and aunt for not telling Harry the truth about how his parents actually died. Hagrid takes him to the Diagon Alley which is a secret shopping place for wizard equipment concealed behind a normal muggle wall. J.K. Rowling coined the word Muggle meaning the people who do not know or possess any knowledge about magic. So, Harry goes to a Gringotts Wizarding Bank and gets some money his parents saved for him. Hagrid takes something top secret from a vault at Gringotts too, saying he was asked by Dumbledore to get it. He buys all the things needed including a wand and a pet. The most fascinating thing about this part is that the wand chooses the wizard. Ollivander the wandmaker, tells Harry that the wand which chose him is made with the help of the phoenix feathers, which also gave just one more feather to another wand possessed by Lord Voldemort. Harry's only arch-nemesis.

Later they both go to the King's Cross Station to board the Hogwarts' Express on the platform 9^{3/4}, which we can see if we go through a pillar between platforms 9 and 10. He meets two of the main characters Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger who are going to play a very important role in the whole series. They all reach the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where they are sorted into their houses (Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw, and Hufflepuff) by a talking hat which is put on their heads. Houses are like families who band together while they are in the school. Fortunately, all of these three buddies are sorted into the same house, Gryffindor. Professor Dumbledore tells the dos and don'ts on the first day and they start their feast in the great hall. The food here is limitless, how much ever you eat the food springs back into your plate again, and the ceiling is bewitched to look like the sky. Harry gets selected into a game called Quidditch, where people fly sitting on magical brooms trying to catch different kind of balls to score points and even gets to know that his father was a Quidditch player at his time. Everybody gets to know that a vault seven hundred and thirteen in the Gringotts Bank was robbed but surprisingly it was empty already. Harry realizes that it is the same vault Hagrid took something from. Hermione was not much of a rule-breaker herself, but since Harry and Ron saved her from a troll, she tries to help them in any way possible. At a Quidditch match, Harry's broom goes berserk in the middle of the air. Hermione watches Professor Snape chanting something without losing eye contact, so she concludes that Snape was jinxing the broom Harry was on. The next day, they see that the potions master Severus Snape has a bruise on his leg and is limping. Harry, Ron and Hermione try to know where he got that bruise from and go to the forbidden corridor and see that there is a three-headed dog. These three think that Snape is trying to steal the thing the three-headed dog was guarding

Harry asks Hagrid about the three headed dog and what it was guarding. He tells them that it is a secret and only between Dumbledore and Nicolas Flamel, by the slip of his tongue. So, they all try to



scour the library for Nicolas Flamel. Later, that night they visit Hagrid's hut helping him to transport his dragon (Norbert the Norwegian Ridgeback) to a safer place, to Ron's brother Charlie Weasley. But for roaming late at nights in the grounds the student Draco Malfoy and our protagonists get detention. And their detention is to go to the Forbidden Forest. Here Harry's sees a hooded figure drinking unicorn blood. When he saw that figure his scar was burning like never before and he was half-blinded as that figure tried to approach him. Firenze, a centaur (half-human and half-horse) comes to rescue Harry. Firenze tells him that, "The blood of unicorn will keep you alive, even if you are an inch away from death, but a terrible price. You have slain something so pure and defenceless to save yourself and you will have but a half-life, accursed life, from the moment the blood touches your lips." Firenze hints that something is hidden in the school. Harry realizes that Philosopher's Stone, the Elixir of Life is there at the school. So, they decide to go under the trapdoor to get The Philosopher's Stone to safety. There Harry finds "The Mirror of Erised", which was brought here because Harry was whiling away his time sitting in front of it. It reveals the deepest desires of a person. Harry sees his mother and father in it. Harry sees Professor Quirell. He was the one jinxing Harry's broom and he's the one trying to steal the Philosopher's Stone. Suddenly Harry's scar was burning like it happened in the forest. Professor Quirell was the man with two faces. Because under Professor Quirell's turban there was another face. It was Voldemort. Living like a parasite on a host. When Quirell tries to take the stone from Harry (stone magically appears in his pocket as seen in The Mirror of Erised), he touches Quirell's face which starts to turn into dust and defeat Voldemort for that time. Dumbledore comes to meet Harry in the hospital room and tells him that the Philosopher's Stone is destroyed and Nicolas Flamel is okay with it. A few days later Harry goes back to his only family in London, the Dursley's by boarding the Hogwarts' express – awaiting his next year at his school which feels more like home to him.

In this novel, we are introduced to new kinds of words we haven't even heard before. These words were frequently used and known to many people after Harry Potter series came into the limelight. All of these words were coined by J.K.Rowling herself. She said that she used to collect silly and interesting names that she finds in all sorts of places, even graveyards! "Muggle" is a word she used to describe people who do not know about magic or possess the magical abilities, as we have previously read. Ghost can communicate with the people in the Hogwarts School. Owls are used to deliver posts, messages, newspapers, letters and mails. A normal broom we use to clean our porch is used here as a magical flying broom, a thing that no one would ever suspect. The school is enchanted. If a muggle passes by he would see nothing, where the school is situated. The staircases in the castle move from one point to another. There are secret passageways all over the school. The ghosts in the school can communicate with the people. And when someone walks through a ghost they feel like they'd just plunged into a bucket of ice-cold water. The people in the photos hanging on the walls of the school can talk with the people passing by. Even the photos, in the newspapers play like a video on a mobile phone. Small wooden sticks are used as magical wands used for practicing magical spells, defending, and used for attacking at times too. There are so many magical creatures introduced in this book like giant, half-giant (like Hagrid), trolls (dumb but very strong creatures), elf/elves (small creatures with eyes the size of tennis balls, they cook food at Hogwarts), centaurs (like Firenze) and various creatures. There are various kinds of plants too. As we go further and read the next six parts in the series, we are introduced to various people, magical creatures, magical spells, secrets and different adventures in this seven-part worldwide phenomenon.

I am a very great fan of Harry Potter, since I was a kid. I grew up reading it. It was fabulous. I read the whole series five times at the very least. I used to imagine each and every page of the book as if it



were happening in front of my eyes. Only a skilled author can do that. After a few years, I knew that the movies were released based on the books. The books had so many details. Even though the movie didn't have all the details we could see the things we were imagining in our head, on a bigger screen. The movies were a dream come true to all the people who read the books and a magical treat for those who didn't. Harry Potter was a brave kid, with a good heart. Although he didn't have any parents looking after him, he always had someone having his back. His kith and kin always stood up for him. He was never afraid to do the right thing, no matter the odds against him. A good wit and a good heart always helped Harry. His true friends Ron and Hermione were always there for him, whatever the threat. Professor Dumbledore was like a father figure to Harry. If we talk about any other character, that would be a spoiler for the following Harry Potter Series.

Conclusion

This was just the inception of a phenomenal story of self-discovery, magic and imagination. This paper is written to promote the imaginative capabilities of any person and to see the bright side in a fictional book. We should embrace our imagination. It's a gift to imagine things and do great things for us or maybe someone we care about or just because imagining is fun. Although all the things are unreal in this novel, the relationships between people, the bravery, the wit and many other good things can be learnt from someone else's imagination. Imagination has no boundaries. Imagination can spark creativity and a creative mind can do wonders hitherto undreamt of.

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