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Fantasy and Adventure in J.K.Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

ABSTRACT

Fantasy plays an important role when it comes to children's literature. The fantasy usually represents a particular reality that exists in the society. Through fantasy one can express his/her ideas in a comic or a serious manner. The best example for fantasy is J.K.Rowling's Harry Potter series from 1997 to 2007. Harry Potter not only aims at fantasy and adventure but also aims at the morality. Children's literature should focus on the facts where they get to enjoy and learn from the books they read and Harry Potter does the justice to these facts. In fantasy works children do learn to differentiate between what is true and what is not. The power of imagination also improves through these readings. Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone is about an eleven years old orphaned boy Harry Potter and his adventures. Though Harry Potter had a very melancholic life before his eleventh birthday his life suddenly changes on the night of his eleventh birthday. Harry Potter thought he was a normal boy until he knew about his magical powers. The boy who was unfamiliar to other who was bullied by others suddenly gets famous on his way to Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry because he was the only one to escape from the attack of Voldemort. This paper will further discuss about the Fantasies and Adventures in the novel Harry Potter.

Key Words: Fantasy, Adventure, Morality, Justice.

On this day in 1965, Joanne Rowling, better known the world over as J.K. Rowling, the author and creator of the celebrated Harry Potter book series, is born near Bristol, England. Beginning in the late 1990s, Rowling's seven Harry Potter novels became international blockbusters, selling over 400 million copies and being translated into more than 60 languages.

The first Harry Potter book debuted in Great Britain in 1997 under the title *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The book was released in the United States the following year and renamed *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Children and adults alike were captivated by the story of the bespectacled boy wizard Harry, his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, their adventures at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and Harry's struggles against his enemy, the evil Lord Voldemort.

On November 16, 2001, the first Harry Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, opened in America and was a huge box-office success. It was directed by Chris Columbus (*Home Alone*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*) and starred British child actor Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter, Rupert Grint as Ron and Emma Watson in the role of Hermione. A roster of celebrated actors took supporting roles in the film and its various sequels, including Ralph Fiennes, Maggie Smith, Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Richard Harris and Gary Oldman.

The seventh and final (according to Rowling's predetermined plan) Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, debuted in U.S. bookstores on July 21, 2007.

Children's literature mainly emphasizes on the imagination of the children. Fantasy is considered to be one of the best themes under children's literature because it provides food for thinking. When we read *Harry Potter* under Children's literature we can see a lots of space given there for imagination, this is neither completely a fairy tale nor an adventurous work but runs in between both. When we look into the story we can see eleven years old boy who was very unpopular in his aunt's place suddenly becomes popular on the way to Hogwarts School. Harry Potter who led a normal life until his eleventh birthday starts to understand his potential as he reaches his school.

We can see Harry Potter speaking to a snake and snake replying him in a zoo which cannot happen in real life but can be only possible in a fantasy story like this. There are lots of magical elements in the story which shows the fantasy and adventures in the novel. It is here in children's novel where we can find a huge some of supernatural, magical, unreal and impossible aspects and *Harry Potter* inherits all these aspects. While Harry Potter was on the way to his school of wizardry and witch craft he was asked to carry some important items like magic wand, broomstick etc with him. Harry doubts if he could buys them because he had no money but Hagrid comforts him saying he had the key of Harry's bank account. Harry's father had left him with a decent bank account where the dwarfs were in charge of it. But in reality we can see no bank where only dwarfs work with the magical power. Hagrid even reveals the truth about Harry's parents

death. Harry Potter's parents were killed by a monster wizard named lord Voldemort and Potter too had that scar on his forehead as a result of Voldemort's attack. Potter was the only boy to survive after the attack of Voldemort; he could survive because of his mother's spell on him.

Potter then gets an owl as his birthday present from Hagrid. Potter then on his way to Hogwart meets Ron and Hermione who become him best friends in the school. When they enter the school they see a lot of uncommon things take place in the school. The first amongst them is the talking hat that decides who should enter which group. Then they see ghosts inside the school which also belonged to the school. We see a staircase that changes its direction automatically as people step on it. There existed one forbidden garden where no one was allowed to enter. Not only this we see other magical elements and adventures too.

In the novel there is a scene where Potter and his teammates were getting their training to fly on the flying broomstick. Where Potter excels and becomes the seeker and plays for his team and makes his team win. In reality we can never see a game which is even similar to it. In the novel there is a restricted room where nobody is allowed to enter but when Potter, Ron and Hermione get lost inside the school they enter that room by mistake; they find a giant monster and defeat them.

When these events were going there comes a break where children went to their houses for the Christmas vacation. Ron and Potter were left in the school; Ron receives his Christmas gifts and finds Potter too received a gift for him. When Potter opens it he

gets a magical jacket as his gift. Potter loves it as it makes a person invisible. Potter then wears that jacket and reaches their library where he gets interrupted by someone. Potter then reaches a room where he finds a mirror and sees his parents in them. He wakes Ron and takes him near the mirror; Ron sees him as a leader in the mirror. Then Potter comes to know that the displays the inner desire of a person.

When the holidays gets over everyone returns to school. Hermione, Ron and Potter get a punishment for breaking the rules of the school and they are sent to the forbidden garden. Harry gets to know about the sorcerer's stone when he was sent to that forbidden garden; Harry even realizes that he was left alive because Harry alone can get that stone from its place.

Harry with Ron and Hermione plans to get the sorcerer's stone from the forbidden room. When they enter the room they find a three headed dog, Hermione sings a lullaby and puts the dog to sleep. When they enter the next level they get caught by a slippery tree Hermione releases everybody with the help of the magic wand. When they cross that level their difficulty increases; they had to get a flying key. Harry uses his broomstick to chase that flying key and gets it. When they open the door they had to face a chess game where Ron takes the step ahead. Finally Harry reaches the secret chamber where the stone and the magical mirror are kept.

Harry then looks into the mirror and finds that the stone was inside his pocket. Voldemort asks Harry to hand over it to him but Harry rejects it. Voldemort then tries to attack Harry and get the stone from him but Harry succeeds in the fight. In the end we

can see the right gaining victory and the wrong losing. Children's novel do not depend only on the factors of fantasy and adventure but it also depend upon the moral that the children gain through these works.

Referance

Rowling, J. K., *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. New York: Arthur A. Levin Books, 1998. Print.