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### Book Review: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

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#### ABSTRACT

JK Rowling was born in Britain at 1965. Her full name is Joanne Kathleen Rowling but always prefer JK Rowling She is a novelist, film producer, television producer, and philanthropist. Her first novel Harry Potter which quickly became famous. She started the Harry Potter series with Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone at 1997 and ended at 2007 with Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Her first book Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was so famous, when it was published it immediately became successful, appealing to children who was intended and adults too. The books have sold 500 million copies. The book received numerous awards, including the British Book Award. Nearly all the books in the series were the best sellers when they were published, available in more than 200 countries and some 60 languages. Due to the book's popularity she became the first person to become a US dollar billionaire by writing books.

Keywords: Harry Potter, The Philosopher's Stone



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#### Criticism

Harry Potter is one of the most famous series novels in the modern era. According to Richard Adams "Rowling is not a subtle writer, and one of the tiresome things about this book is how routinely it resorts to turning up the volume, rather than describing anything vividly." It was also once compared with Roald Dahl's *The BFG* on Sunday, and called Harry Potter "the most imaginative debut since Roald Dahl." (Eccleshare, 10) Harold Bloom, a professor at Yale and a scholar, has said "Rowling's mind is so governed by clichés" and that her dead metaphors were not the proper way of the writing style." (Bloom 2003) well-known Stephen King called the books "a feat of which only a superior imagination is capable." (Wild About Harry. 2000) Anthony Holden in 1999 gave an opinion about the book that was not positive – "the Potter saga was essentially patronizing, conservative, highly derivative, dispiritingly nostalgic for a bygone Britain". (Holden 1999) Ursula Le Guin understood it as a lively kid's fantasy

mixed with a novel about school, good fare for its age group, but it was ordinary in stylists, imaginatively derivative, and ethically rather mean-spirited.

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### Plot line

“Harry potter and the philosopher’s stone” is the very first book in the series. In the book Harry potter, a young kid who lost his parent and served his uncle and aunt found his own magical ability on his 11th birthday. Rubeus Hagrid giant man , gave harry a letter telling he was accepted to Hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry. Soon he found out that his parents were wizards and were killed by the evil wizard Voldemort. During the first year, harry potter become friends with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. The three of them accidentally find out that the potions master of the Hogwarts school, Severus Snape, was trying to stealing something that is guarded by a three-headed dog. Since they were some first year kids, no one believed them, so they decided to search by themselves. Search the truth was hard, they face many obstacles, at last they found out Snape wasn’t the thief, and actually was Professor Quirrell, snape was always trying to protect them from harm. Harry confronts Quirrell and survives a second encounter with Lord Voldemort.

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### Characters

Harry potter, Ronald Weasley, Hermione granger, Professor Dumbledore, lord Voldemort, Professor Quirrell, Professor Snape

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### Character analyses

Harry potter, the main character of this novel. His life doesn’t have a good start. He lost both his parent at a very early age when Voldemort attack them at their house. Even though he was sent to his uncle but his uncle doesn’t take care of him. Harry had a sad life, he wasn’t treated well because he had a cousin, Dudley. Dudley bullies him, while harry uncle allows it. (Dudley’s favorite punching bag was Harry) Lucky he was able to attend Hogwarts school when he discovers his magic. In Hogwarts school he was able to learn magic and makes friend. Harry potter is a curious child, he loves trying thing, but he also brave. As a 11-year-old kid, he was brave enough to stop his teacher stealing the Philosopher stone.

Ronald Weasley, harry potter best friend. They first meet each other when they were going to Hogwarts and became friend really quick. Ron was rise by a wizard family therefore he already knows a lot about magic.

Hermione grange, also best friend of harry potter. She become friends with harry and Ron at a accident in the girls lavatory which they meet a mountain troll. She is the smartest in the trio, giving suggestions and does researching.

Professor Dumbledore, the headmaster of the Hogwarts school. The oldest wizard and the only wizard which lord Voldemort fears. Dumbledore was the one who ensure harry potter safety after his parent died. Dumbledore has like a mentor to harry potter, giving many advice and even help him facing Voldemort.

Lord Voldemort, the villain in this novel. He is a dark wizard who killed harry potter parents. His name fears the entire wizarding world. He was responsible for some killing, disappearance and other fearful story. In the book, he possesses professor Quirrell to get the philosopher stone to return to his bodily form but fails.

Professor snape is a teacher at Hogwarts. He is a potion master. He hated James potter who was harry dad and also disliked harry. Harry thought Professor snape was helping Voldemort to steal the philosopher stone. professor snape was sneaking in the third floor where a three headed dog is guarding it. Harry thought snape was trying to jinx harry broom to kill him. At the end of the book, it revealed that professors snape was protecting harry even though he hates harry.

Professor Quirrell is a teacher in Hogwarts. He teaches how to defense from dark arts. He is villain who tried helping Voldemort, believing there is nothing good or evil only power. Quirrell was the one who tried to kill harry, he was the one who tried to steal the philosopher stone.

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### Conclusion

I started reading harry potter 19 year after the movie came out. I always thought it was a boring, ordinary magical life and childish book. I realize I was wrong. The book started off without harry potter but it presented the magical world. It gave a better understanding on what’s happening and the background story of the world. Throughout the story I really liked the concept of magic in this book, even though there was some really ordinary magic like the invisible cloak but I really liked the Quidditch match. I think the Quidditch match was one of the best idea throughout the story, not only because I never seen it but I was always been a fan of sport. I really liked how magic is mixed with a sport, instead of getting better at physicality you must be good at magic and tactics too win. The best part was the ending. I always liked some twist especially at the most important part of the book. I love plots that gives a twist and suddenly blows your mind like the dangnanronpa series. I can’t believe harry potter had one too, the twist was amazing. I liked professor Quirrell but when I found out he was the culprits I actually felt sad. The book wasn’t how I thought it was, I enjoy most of the book while reading and it was amazing.

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