

My Favorite Harry Potter Book

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Introduction

Harry Potter books are widely known in the literary and movie industry on account of their narratives about the extraordinary, magical life of a boy who lost his parents because of a mighty wizard and, without realizing himself, lives in anticipation of the day of a final confrontation. Currently, every interested reader can find any *Harry Potter* book when one needs it; however, I became acquainted with Harry Potter's universe at a time when Joanne Rowling was continuing to write her voluminous work. Between release dates, I had a habit of comparing my expectations with reality (compelling storylines, character development, and overall atmosphere), which in its turn allowed me to ensure that my favorite *Harry Potter* book was, is, and will be *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

The Chamber of Secrets

The Chamber of Secrets continues the story presented in the first book known as either *the Philosopher's Stone* or *the Sorcerer's Stone*. It outlines the same storyline of a miserable life with unloving relatives during summer holidays, the education at Hogwarts, daily studying challenges, and the competition with other colleagues for the title of the best. Nonetheless, the second *Harry Potter* book preserves the general leitmotif of the greater evil under the guise of Lord Voldemort—the dark wizard who decided to revive himself while using his diary and deluding Ron's younger sister Ginny. With this decision, Hogwarts embraces the “monster” of the Chamber of Secrets—a room created by Salazar Slytherin before he was expelled from the school. The monster is “invisible,” and everyone who saw it is paralyzed, so they cannot tell

what threatens Hogwarts. However, Harry Potter finds that he can talk to snakes and understands what they say—that is a feature of Salazar Slytherin and Lord Voldemort. As a result, almost all characters think that Harry Potter is Slytherin’s successor and suspect that he is responsible for all the horrible deeds at Hogwarts.

In the second book, Harry Potter is the only twelve-year-old boy who is constantly facing the need of being older than he is. With *The Chamber of Secrets*’ plot development, he sees how many students turn away from him and whisper behind his back, which causes him severe psychological stress. The concept of him communicating with snakes and the fact that this feature relates to Salazar Slytherin and Lord Voldemort makes him wonder whether he should be at Gryffindor. This situation can be considered as questioning his own identity. In the characters’ development, one should review other characters, even if it might seem that they have no development at all. The second book is the first one introducing the concept of blood status: there are the Malfoys and the Weasleys of pure-blood status, Harry Potter as a half-blood, and Hermione Granger who is a Mudblood due to her parents being muggles. Although Harry Potter does not care about blood status, most wizards are highly concerned about this aspect; in particular, Slytherin’s students and Draco Malfoy emphasize this point. As a result, Hermione constantly faces insults because of her blood status, but she still manages not to lose her mood and temper, and this situation presents her as a conscious and wise young witch and a role model for young readers.

Harry Potter books are imbued with the atmosphere of magic, miracles, kindness, and friendship. It is even more interesting to observe changes when the first deadly threat to all of Hogwarts appears. There is a particular component in the “atmosphere’s potion,” and it is a fear for one’s closest and beloved people, which prompts the searching for answers and ways of

protecting them. *The Chamber of the Secrets* introduces elements of the detective genre, because no one knows what the monster of the Secret Chamber looks like. Everyone suspects that Harry Potter is Slytherin's successor, and Hagrid was falsely accused on the basis of the same false accusation fifty years ago. All of instances require answers, and they are hiding between the lines before everything becomes clear at the end of the book—but it can be obvious only after the tenth rereading. Apart from that, the second book preserves the palpable fear and anticipation that the unknown monster from the Chamber of the Secrets is waiting for another student after every moment Harry confesses that he hears something. The collision of the desire to know what happens next and the unwillingness to turn the page is evidence that the second book is worth all of its praise.

Conclusion

Harry Potter and the Chamber of the Secrets still can be considered as a book for children because of the mitigation of details related to mature content (deaths occurred in the past, basilisk's victims being paralyzed instead of being killed, and Ginny's rescue when there were all the chances that she should be dead). Nonetheless, it preserves the storylines, characters' development, and the general mystic atmosphere, creating suspense and anticipation of something malevolent happening in the future. Apart from that, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of the Secrets* includes details contributing to psychological and emotional changes within the characters, which makes the reader wants to know what will happen with them in the future and whether they will remain the same children before the events in the very first book.

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