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Harry Potter Series reflecting the actual meaning of the family

Research Question: To what extent does the Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone novel support the statement that being a family is not just about blood relationship?

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Introduction

The main purpose of this essay is to analyze the problem of family as presented in the Harry Potter series. The author examines this subject as a manifestation of magic, a concept that is central to all of the novels' plots. Specifically, this paper investigates the question: **To what extent does the Harry Potter Philosopher's Stone novel support the statement that 'being a family is not just about blood relationship'?**

I will thoroughly examine the primary sources in order to completely address the topic, concentrating on the factors that helped the characters overcome the main conflict as well as their relationships and how these affected their choices. Analyzing the main instances where family is depicted in the first novel between Harry, Ron and Hermonie's friendship; Dumbledore, Snape, McGonagall and the Weasley family's parenting towards Harry made me to evaluate the statement clearly.

The theme of belonging and family is thoroughly explored in the book Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone. Harry, a character who has been an orphan since he was a newborn, is introduced to the reader right at the start of the novel. Living with his vile aunt and uncle, who treat him more like a servant than a member of the family, he is forced to live. Harry's interaction with his aunt and uncle serves as a stark reminder that a family is not always defined by blood ties. When Harry receives a letter inviting him to enroll in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, his life is forever altered. It's there that he meets Hermonie Granger and Ron Weasley. Harry starts to think of these people as family, and they provide him the affection, encouragement and sense of belonging that he so desperately needs. According to the book, a family is defined by the love and support that members give to one another.

Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that all the books' of Harry Potter series main theme is magic. It presents that it as an unreal force influencing the lives of individuals, primarily those who are witches and wizards, since they are fantasy novels. Whether it is the "good" forms of magic, utilized to help or heals or amuse by wizards like Dumbeldore and Harry Potter, or the black magic with the potential to cause suffering and death by wizards like Voldemort, magic is essentially pervasive in their civilization. However, magic is shown in the series as a variety of more complex concepts, such as time, mind, fate, death and most importantly, love, in addition to many spells and elixirs. The extraordinary strength of love, its capacity to go through all hurdles in life, including death, is one of the most obvious themes that keeps coming up throughout the course of the series. The love between the characters creates a family bonding between them. Therefore, they place each other in the positions of the characters, so that the following question arose: **To what extend does the Harry Potter novel support the statement that being a family is not just about blood relationship?**

It can be challenging to pinpoint the topic on which the Harry Potter books are based and their overarching theme. The interpretation mostly depends on the reader; adults and children typically derive various meanings from them, and even adults might come up with a wide range of themes, motifs and morals. One of the many possible interpretations of the books in that, while some people think they encourage fundamentally good ethical values and serve as good behavioral examples for kids, others, like Pope Benedict, claim that "these are subtle seductions which act imperceptibly and thereby deeply and dissolve Christianity in the soul before it can grow properly".

The conclusion that is reached is that family theme is presented in the novels has proven to be not just comprise of blood relationship but also with other people that we love in both human

and wizarding world. No matter the world in which we live, as Rowling emphasized, deep and honest relationships with loved ones are far more valuable than any type of sole power.

Family

Family is a notion which is one of the long-lasting groups and has a significant impact on a person's life from the moment of birth to the moment of death. According to dictionary, family means "a group of people who are related to each other, such as a mother, a father, and their children." However, there are several social scientists who defined it considering the upcoming generations and advancements in society. Maclver, social scientist, defines it as "Family is a group by sexual relationship, sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children.", Eliot and Merrill's definition is "Family is the biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children." indicate that family is created with only blood-related or consanguinity people. On the other hand, there are sociologists like Robert Bierstedt who explains family as "The family, almost without question, is the most important of any groups that human experience offers...the family...is with us always, or more precisely, we are with it." that suggests being a family is not just about in the same family tree but also about in the same memories, trusting and loving each other. A person's identity is given by their family, but this family can be the parents or a person seen as a family like teachers. If teachers and student have a special bond, teachers may influence the students by their behaviors, thoughts or point of views.

The family theme is mentioned in the beginning of the first novel which creates a curious atmosphere and gives an extraordinary family type. As the storyline continues, it is obvious that bonds between several characters gains strength more and more or loses the connection as the time passes.

The protagonist's, Harry Potter's, parents, Lily and James Potter, were killed by Lord Voldemort who is the main antagonist in the series. He is the most powerful and feared Dark wizard in the world. Any magician who primarily studied and/or performed the Dark Arts, also known as Dark Magic, was referred to as a dark wizard or witch. They frequently engaged in the unlawful breeding of dark creatures, or used deadly curses and other dark charms to cause harm or death to others. However, in that day Harry Potter was not neither killed nor injured. He was taken into his aunt's house who are unmagical humans, muggles. He was raised by them until he got an (actually several) offer letter from the school. The reason, why he wasn't killed that day, was unknown, can the love of his family saved him? As Dumbledore protected him almost in every occasion, is it really another one of Dumbledore's wise words or power?

Family in Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone

The idea that family is not always defined by blood ties is one of the most significant features of family in Harry Potter. For instance, Harry is raised by his They consider him more like a servant than a family member. But when Harry receives a letter inviting him to enroll in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, his life started to change. Harry, however, finds his real family at Hogwarts, where he develops strong relationships with the Weasleys, Ron and Hermonie. At Hogwarts, Harry meets Ron Weasley, one of his classmates, who becomes his best friend. Ron introduces Harry to his family, who accept Harry into their house and treat him like one of their own.

An example of a chosen family, or a group of people who come together and build strong bonds based on love rather than familial ties, is the Weasley family. The Weasley act as a symbol for the idea that having a family is about more than just biological ties; it's also about the love and support that people give to one another in Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone. They give

Harry their unconditional love and support as well as a sense of belonging that he has never known. Harry's feeling of belonging is especially strong when he spends Christmas with the Weasley family. He feels like he is a real member of the family due to the warmth and love is given around this time.

The article "Harry Potter and the Secret of Family" by Amanda Craig is one example that demonstrates this point. According to Craig, the book shows how families may exist in unexpected places and that love, loyalty and trust are the qualities that define a true family. She uses Harry's relationship with the Weasley family as an illustration of how a strong family attachment may exist without having biological children. They accept Harry and treat him like one of their own. Craig also points out that even Voldemort, the antagonist, is driven by a misunderstood notion of family in his attempt to turn the world of wizarding into a pure-blood society at the expense of others.

The broken family is a different kind of family that Rowling examines in the series. For instance, Draco Malfoy comes from a rich, powerful family, but his parents are frequently uncaring and emotionally distant. Draco's Character is significantly impacted by the lack of affection and encouragement, making him bitter and angry. Although his family type was not mentioned in the first book, it can be easily understood from his behaviors and attitudes.

Rowling also examines the effects of death and grief on families throughout the book and series. Harry loses his parents while he is a little child, and this loss has a significant impact on his personality. Similar to how Ron loses his older brother, Fred, in the last book, the Weasley family is severely affected by this tragedy. It is seen that Rowling illustrates how loss and grief can both bring families together and break them apart. In the Harry Potter and Philosopher's Stone novel, it is given that Harry raised himself as a respectful, determined, warmhearted,

thoughtful and responsible kid which proves that he transforms his pain about the loss of his parents into a power. However, it is not as easy as it seems.

Life Jacket

“Family is a life jacket in the stormy sea of life.” is a quotation of J.K Rowling means that people we considered as our family are pillars of strength in every situation even if we struggle or in a bad situation. Also, it is a very ironical quotation since in the first novel Hagrid was coming to take Harry to Hogwarts from his aunt’s and wish him a happy birthday. By saying this Hagrid, his friends and teachers at Hogwarts were considered as the family, and Harry’s family with consanguinity was considered as stormy sea because he was consistently mistreated and hated by them. Dudley Dursley’, his cousin’s, parents hold Harry responsible for even the smallest misfortune. Therefore, his life with them was like a nightmare. When the night Hagrid came to a house in the middle of the stormy sea, Harry was not aware of the situation and what will happen. In the book, it is given that we see our family’s presence in every difficult occasion or whenever we are in a spot of bother.

During a conversation between Harry and Dumbledore, while Harry was learning the truth about himself and his family, Dumbledore says that the love of his mother saved and protected him from the unbeatable dark wizard, Voldemort. At that point question; “does love of his mother really defeated the greatest Dark Wizard of all times?” occurs. On the other hand, as J.K Rowling said, in this occasion parents of Harry Potter are considered as “life jacket” by protecting their child from the dangers with their love.

The notion that families can be formed via shared experiences is also explored in the book. Their experiences at Hogwarts brings Harry, Hermonie and Ron closer together and makes

them feel like a family. They share a sense of loyalty and trust, and they help each other overcome obstacles they encounter, like the quest for the Philosopher's Stone. This is illustrated by the fact that Harry and Hermonie put their lives in danger to save Ron from a huge chessboard and that Ron gives his life to help Harry in finding the Philosopher's Stone. These actions demonstrate that they are family, not just classmates.

Chosen Family

The friendship between Harry, Ron and Hermonie (often referred to by fans as simply "the trio") is without any doubt the most obvious and strong relation in the books. It is created early in the first book and only gets stronger as the novels progress. At first, Hermonie and Harry and Ron don't get along so well since boys think of Hermonie as conceited and obnoxious. Later, though, whenever the troll gets loose at Hogwarts one evening, they hurry to aid the girl right away without thinking twice once they realize she is unaware of the danger. Furthermore, Hermonie takes the responsibility for the mishap out of gratitude when the troll lost his consciousness and explained the occurrence to their professors. Their friendship is finally cemented by this situation. This friendship turns out to being a family with the help of existence of the true love.

The trio have remarkable love and support for one another. Harry's friends serve as a family that he has never had because he was ignored and hardly accepted in his childhood home in the novel. He was used to having to solve his difficulties on his own since he spent his early years by himself on the novel. He doesn't even initially think about bringing Hermonie and Ron along when he plans to find out the Philosopher's Stone, so his surprise when they express a wish to go is understandable. Despite still only being the youngest pupils, they are able to face the greatest threats and get beyond any challenges as a group not just in this novel but in the series. For example, in the second book of the series, the Chamber of Secrets, to find out how to save

Hermonie and other pupils, Harry and Ron endangered their lives by entering the Forbidden Forest. This fraternity will create the bonds of family relationship between them and throughout the novel, it is clearly seen that they were considered as siblings.

One of the most significant themes in the entire Harry Potter series concerns the people who act as his surrogate family, even though his absence of family is a big theme and topic throughout the entire book series. Not just sibling relationships between Ron, Harry and Hermonie, but also there are many characters that Harry considers family. During Harry's stay at Hogwarts, Professors Minerva McGonagall and Severus Snape have both taken on the role of parents, but the two educators apply two various and sometimes at variance parenting ideologies to Harry's life. In the beginning, all students see Minerva McGonagall and Severus Snape as strict and angry professor. As the scenes pass, their support can be seen clearly and it is obvious that they keep eye on him both in and out of Hogwarts. For instance, when McGonagall saw Harry while he was riding a broomstick first time against Draco to protect his friend, Neville Longbottom. Then, she took him to the captain of the Quidditch team of the Gryffindor and paved the way for his sport career and social relationships like a mother. On the other hand, Snape was considered as one of the evil characters that are against Harry Potter in the beginning. However, in the end of the first novel it comes out that all the reasons and evidences that caused students to suspect was the details of his acts to protect Harry from professor Quirrel who was one of the helpers of the Voldemort. Beside his conservatory behavior, he made an effort for his social life and communication between other students. In order to protect Harry and to keep his pride in control, Snape wants people to think of Harry as an ordinary boy. For example, after sneering at Harry, Snape overwhelms him with inquiries about wolfsbane, wormwood, asphodel and bezoar in class (Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, 138). Harry would have a very difficult time not knowing and humiliated from asked by the professor in front of the students, but Snape demands perfection from him.

Later on, Harry realizes that he was actually trying to protect him from Voldemort by giving him hints, but at the time, Harry felt Snape was only trying to make him seem embarrassed in front of the class.

“Harry Potter and the Orphan Hero” by John Granger is another article that supports this claim. According to Granger, Harry is able to develop close relationships with his friends and mentors as a result of the absence of a traditional family structure, which ultimately helps him in defeating Voldemort. Granger comments on that Dumbledore, Harry’s mentor, serves a father figure for Harry, and his best friends, Ron and Hermione grow to be like siblings to him. These connections demonstrate that family can be formed via emotional bonds and shared experiences rather than only through genetic ties. In addition, Pamela D. Palmater’s book “Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identify” offers an Indigenous viewpoint on the concept of family outside of blood connections. According to Palmater, Indigenous communities have a broader view of family, where kinship is built on obligations, reciprocity, and respect. She points out that non-blood relatives such as neighbors, animals and the land can be a part of family contradicts Western ideas of the nuclear family and demonstrates that family is more than just a collection of blood relatives; it is also strongly rooted in cultural values and behaviors.

While the people, who Harry newly met with, help and protect him by thinking every detail, his blood related relatives didn’t even tell the truth about his parents’ death and hide the magical letters sent to Harry. In fact, the expression that he started to learn the truth about his family and himself is “But yeh must know about yer mom and dad,” he said. “I mean, they’re famous. You are famous.” (J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone) is from Hagrid, who is always one of the biggest protectors, supporters even he is right or wrong. It can be simply said that he can be considered as Harry’s big brother. These words are said by Hagrid in an island where Harry has been taken by Mr Dursley to avoid the magical letters. Hagrid’s

dismay at Harry's lack of knowledge about his own identity and that of his family emphasizes the division between the wizarding and Muggle worlds. Being well-known among wizards does not imply being well-known among regular people. They concealed Harry's peculiarity from him for eleven years in total. The extremely suffocating denials of Harry's specialness and the deep Muggle fear of being different are actually quite a match for all the wizards at Hogwarts. Although Harry has got 3 blood-related relatives, that he spent his whole life with, didn't mention anything about his parents death and wizarding world and even they lied about them, Harry's friends, professors and Hagrid come in view that they are the real family of Harry.

Unconditional Love

The book also demonstrates how families may be built through love and caring rather than only through blood ties. Despite the fact Harry's parents have passed away, their love for him is clear throughout the entire book. Harry is ultimately delivered from Voldemort's curse due to this love, which also enables him to triumph over his obstacles. Even though Harry's parents are no longer alive, the love they had for him still protects him. The research demonstrates that children who receive love and care from adults who are not their biological parents can create strong family bonds and develop healthy relationships (Barth & Berry, 1993).

In the *Philosopher's Stone*, Harry faces the Dark Lord, in Quirrell's body, for the first time, being as young as only eleven years old. He does not even dare to think about victory; how can he defeat a full-grown wizard, more, his teacher, who is also using Voldemort's powers? However, when he has almost lost his hope, he discovers that the contact with his skin causes unbearable pain to his enemy. He manages to use this to his aid and this newly found ability saves his life which came from Harry's mother, Lily, gave up her life to save him, her sacrifice gave him a protection better than any other. "Your mother died to save you. If there is one thing Voldemort cannot understand, it is love. He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's

for you leaves its own mark. Not a scar, no visible sign...to have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever.” (Stone, 216).

The book also questions the conventional notion of a family as a grouping of a mother, a father and children. For instance, the Weasley family, which consists of seven offspring and two parents, contradict this notion. The Weasleys’ family beliefs and customs are passed down through the centuries, and they offer a loving and encouraging atmosphere for their kids. This demonstrates that families can take many different shapes and that parents’ love and care for their biological ties to them.

Conclusion

The Harry Potter book “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” demonstrates, in conclusion, that a family is comprised of members who are not related by blood. The story explores the notion that families can be created via a combination of love, support and common experiences. Harry, Hermonie and Ron among the other characters in the book, show how family may be found in friendships and the book questions the conventional idea of a family as a grouping of a mother, a father and children. This theory is supported by researches, which demonstrates that kids can develop loving relationships with individuals who are not their parents. The book urges readers to consider familial ties that go beyond biological relationships and to appreciate the value of love, care and support in creating lasting partnerships

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