

**ANALYSIS OF ABANDONED AND ORPHAN HEROES IN J.K.  
ROWLING'S "GARRY POTTER"**

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**ABSTRACT**

*It has to be mentioned that Orphans have been an ideal and most popular motif in fictional stories for centuries. The primary reason for this popularity was that orphans have been a common problem in society since a long time back in history because of wars, epidemics and diseases. This article analysis the image of orphan heroes in modern fiction "Garry Potter".*

**KEYWORDS:** *J.K. Rowling, Fantasy, Novel, Orphan, Orphan Hood, Abandoned Child, Plot, Main Hero.*

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

Portraying the struggle between orphanhood, loneliness, evil and goodness, through the image of abandoned and orphaned children, has been one of the main motifs of world literature for centuries, and its earliest examples can be seen in some classic fairy-tales such as Cinderella, Hensel and Gretel, Snow White, Zumrad and Kimmat and many others [1, 4].

Even though humanity is not suffering from the disasters that existed in middle ages contemporary writers still try to create orphan heroes and often describe orphanhood in their works. Taking as an example the most successfully created heroes we can say that it is still a frequent and recurrent theme in modern literature. According to Louise Tilly who discusses child abandonment in her article "Child Abandonment in European History: A Symposium", children were often abandoned because of poverty and disease. The reason why ordinary people adopted abandoned children was because children were a necessary factor for the economy [3, 5].

Later, these images began to appear more often in the genres of children's literature, such as short stories and novels. Commonly, they appear in bildungsroman's where the writer shows the growth of the hero from childhood to maturity. (*Jane in Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre", Pip in Charles Dicken's "Great expectations" and David in "David Copperfield"*) They are usually chosen among mentally depressed heroes who have lost their parents at an early age and have been in the care of their close or distant relatives or even complete strangers, being deprived of adult kindness and family warmth.

**II. LITERARY REVIEW**

English children's writer J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Legendary Stone" also features a number of orphan images, which differ sharply from each other by their worldviews, thoughts and dreams. This article analyzes how the conditions in the life of the three orphan characters in

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the novel, Harry Potter, Voldemort, and Neville Longbottom, influenced their personal development in their youth.

This work is written in a fantasy genre - a genre of fiction in modern literature. According to the requirements of the genre, the events take place in a magical world that is completely different from the "real" world in which we live [2, 18]. However, many images in the novel evoke the reader's human emotions and deep feelings of sympathy for the protagonist.

When J.K. Rowling started writing the novel, her mother died, therefore the author's personal feelings reflected in her writings. Although Rowling was not so young to be called an orphan when she lost her mother, the loss, the pain, the darkness, loneliness and the sadness that tormented her so much influenced the personality of her protagonist.

The play begins when one-year-old baby Harry Potter's parents are killed by the evil sorcerer Voldemort and abandoned in front of the home of Hogwarts School of Wizards principal Albus Dumbledore and his deputy Minerva McGonagall Harry's only cousins Vernon and Petunia Dursle. Thus, the protagonist lives in this apartment for ten years, "unhappy, without light." Not a day went by without the rudeness, urges, and insults of his aunt Putunia, his cousin Vernon, and his cousin Dudley. The Dursleys hate magicians and treat them very coldly.

The novel begins with the abandonment of a one-year-old baby Harry in front of the door of Harry's only relatives, Vernon and Petunia Dursley. After the evil sorcerer Voldemort killed the child's parents, the director of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft - Albus Dumbledore and his deputy Minerva McGonagall decided to leave Harry under the care of his relatives.

Thus, the protagonist lives in this apartment for ten years, "ten unhappy and hopeless years" followed one after another. Not a day passed without his aunt Putunia, his cousin Vernon, and his Cousin Dudley's rude treatment. The Dursleys hated magicians and treated them very coldly.

### III. ANALYSIS

While describing the pictures of Dudley, which were, hang in the living room the author gives a vivid evidence that there were no signs of another child living in the apartment and thus, making the readers understand the loneliness of a poor child and feel compassion towards him.

*"Ten years ago, there had been lots of pictures of what looked like a large pink beach ball wearing different-colored bonnets - but Dudley Dursley was no longer a baby, and now the photographs showed a large blond boy riding his first bicycle, on a carousel at the fair, playing a computer game with his father, being hugged and kissed by his mother. The room held no sign at all that another boy lived in the house, too."*[4, 12]

There were two big rooms for the spoiled child of the family but only the narrow closet under the stairs served as a bedroom for their abandoned nephew. The picture of this room is given as follows in the work: *"Harry was used to spiders, because the cupboard under the stairs was full of them, and that was where he slept."*[4, 12]

Probably, because he lived in a cramped, tasteless cupboard, Harry grew thinner and smaller than his peers. In Dudley's old clothes, Harry looked even thinner and smaller, because Dudley's body was four times bigger than Harry's was. The family of Dursleys openly showed their hatred of the orphaned Harry, and they even considered him as something disgusting, not a human being. It was normal for them to speak bad words about him as if the child was not beside them,

ignoring his dignity. Harry, who did not even imagine his connection with magic, sometimes had unusual incidents, for which the Dursleys severely punished him. Harry was often imprisoned in a cupboard for unclear for him reasons, and he sat there being hungry for a long time.

At such times, he wished that another relative would come and take him away, and sometimes he just wanted to feel someone's affection to him. All these show that the child grew without anybody's care being completely alone.

It should be noted that Harry is not the only character in the novel who has been abandoned and deprived of parental love. The negative character described in the book, Voldemort, a villain who killed Harry's parents, also grew up in an orphanhood[1, 22].

Both Harry and Voldemort had a similar fate, who became orphaned at a very young age. However, their character was very different. These heroes grew up hearing insults during their childhood because they were different from ordinary people. Eventually they become fierce enemies as they used their magic for various purposes.

Voldemort becomes a cold-blooded killer under the influence of his lonely and unhappy childhood, and uses all his strength and anger to do evil. After the abandonment of his parents, he spends eleven years of his childhood in an orphanage. A life spent in absolute social isolation has a great influence on his personality as can be seen from the following passage:

*"Grew up in London, at Wool's Orphanage, after his Muggle father abandoned his pregnant witch mother, who died shortly after childbirth. The young Tom Riddle (his given name) was always strange, and seemed to bully other kids at the orphanage despite there never being any real evidence of his actions."*

Voldemort's unnatural and cruel behavior makes him a "stranger" that no one likes. Throughout his life, he suffers from feelings of abandonment and uselessness, which makes him a ruthless person who does not trust anyone. One of the teachers at the School of Magic describes Voldemort as follows:

*"Very few people know that Lord Voldemort was once called Tom Riddle. I taught him myself, fifty years ago, at Hogwarts. He disappeared after leaving the school... traveled far and wide... sank so deeply into the Dark Arts, consorted with the very worst of our kind, underwent so many dangerous, magical transformations, that when he resurfaced as Lord Voldemort, he was barely recognizable..."* [6,281]

Apparently, Voldemort was one of the most gifted students of Hogwarts in his youth, but then he followed the dark forces and began to use his magic to achieve his evil goal. In contrast, Harry uses magic and power to do good. In short, through these two images, the author tries to show that good always triumphs over evil.

Neville Longbottom, one of Harry Potter's friends at Hogwarts, was another hero who grew up without parents. Neville was a very emotional and introvert character. In fact, Neville's parents were alive, but they were mentally ill and could not take care of him. Therefore, he is portrayed as an abandoned child. Neville's past was not much different from Harry's and Voldemort's. He was also a neglected child, and his self-confidence was constantly undermined by his grandmother.

Deprived of the strong affection of his parents, the childhood years had a profound effect on the formation of Neville's personality. He did not share his feelings with anyone; he was like hiding himself behind a strange shield.

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

Thus, the fact that orphans of the same fate, who grew up without a protector and were humiliated, are formed into different personalities, the writer could skillfully illustrate how deeply their childhood experiences had left a mark on their psyche and their choice of life path. As, Cecilia Friis states, *recurrent feeling of abandonment Voldemort experiences, firstly by his parents and secondly at the orphanage, puts him in a situation where he is incapable of feeling trust in people, especially in the adult world*[1,10].

Despite humiliations of his relatives, Harry grows into strong-willed boy, who could overcome all the obstacles and took a revenge for the death of his parents. On the contrary, the grief of Neville makes him a vulnerable character.

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