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Flawless Loyalty and Care of Hermione Granger in

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Abstract

In the evolution of children's literature around centuries women writers are duly given space to express their views and has tried to establish the women's place in writing as equal to male. Spoken stories, songs, and poems were used to educate, instruct, and entertain in Children's Literature during early periods. Later many changes emerged from time to time in presenting Children's Literature. J. K. Rowling created the Harry Potter fantasy series (1997-2007) to address the children as well as the adult and can be called as a young adult fiction. This series reached zenith as it covered all types of audiences after the publication of first three books. In the first book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* though there are many characters who accompany a wizard Harry Potter to rise against the evil, Lord Voldemort, Hermione Granger is a female muggle(belongs to non-magical family by birth)

character who accompanies at every time and believes Harry in all sorts. In this research paper Hermione Granger's loyalty and care shown towards her friends is explicitly elucidated.

Keywords: wizard, muggle, fantasy, loyalty.

Joanne Rowling, born on 31 July 1965, writes under the pen names J.K.Rowling and Robert Galbraith. She is a British novelist, philanthropist, film and television producer and screen writer best known for writing the Harry Potter fantasy series. The books have won multiple awards and have won the best-selling book series in history. Moreover the books have been taken as a film series.

Her first novel in the series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, was published in 1997. There were six sequels, of which the last, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was released in 2007. Since then, Rowling has written four books for adult readers: *The Casual Vacancy* (2012), *The Cuckoo's Calling* (2013), *The Silkworm* (2014) and *Career of Evil* (2015). In October 2010, Rowling was named the most influential woman in Britain by leading magazine editors. Rowling said that she based the character of Hermione Granger on herself when she was eleven.

Hermione Granger appears in the first novel *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's stone* in the Hogwarts express along with a boy Neville Longbottom searching for his lost toad and it shows that she is a compassionate girl and volunteers to help others. From the introduction and throughout the novel until her friendship bonds with Ron and Harry she is portrayed as a person having the bossy attitude. Description of her is clearly mentioned as

“She had a bossy sort of voice, lots of bushy brown hair and rather large front teeth”. (112)

In the Hogwarts Express, she behaves as a girl of Know-it-all type. She talks about houses and in which house she wants to be sorted in. Ron disliked Hermione due to her snobbishness and affinity for spells. However, Harry remained calm as he was unaware of what else she knows. Ron gets irritated when she says about dirt on his nose with an attitude of perfection in her voice.

A know-it-all type girl exchanges a few words with Ron and Harry indicates that she needs to be the best among others. She even speaks in an authoritarian manner. Every now and then she displays her talent by declaring that she memorized all the textbooks. Moreover, she feels the students on the train are behaving childishly but she herself is a girl child of 11 years old.

“All right – I only came in here because people outside are behaving very childishly, racing up and down the corridors,” said Hermione in a sniffy voice.

(118)

Friendship is an in-depth relationship mixing hope, reliability and complete support at any circumstances. It is the mixture of accepting, understanding, and closeness. But no one can form a friendship until he or she realizes that the foundation of being friends is meeting the desires of another self. Friendship and its key components are reliability, faith, and support and the related values are very well stressed in Harry Potter. As Harry, Ron and Hermione are true friends who support and praise each other, they ignore the other's failure and imperfections. In addition, they never resent the friend's successes; instead, they strive to admire their achievements. True friends never betray a trust, as Dumbledore says,

“It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends” (329)

Hermione is also very protective of her friends and values them so much. Rowling has suggested that if Hermione had looked in the Mirror of Erised, she would have seen Harry,

Ron and herself alive and Voldemort finished. Hermione's character at the outset is an annoying perfectionist who has read all the books well in advance before classes begin. Also, learnt all about Hogwarts and never breaks the rules until joining with Harry and Ron.

Hermione's friendship with Harry and Ron begins in the troll incident, where Harry and Ron are warned for breaking the rules to save Hermione from the monster and Hermione calmly utters a lie to the teachers. A perfectionist girl who has been abiding by the school rules so far daringly says lie to the superiors where a new relationship, friendship, is born. From this, it is confirmed that just facts from books and how to follow the procedures are not enough, but what is more important is loyalty and compassion for others and team spirit. In a step-by-step manner she becomes a likeable character to Harry and Ron.

Mere reading would not help anyone, but one has to think and carry out what one needs otherwise it will be of no use. Hermione is portrayed as such a perfectionist and also a person who tries to impress everyone in Hogwarts School of wizardry and witchcraft with her knowledge. She is the person responsible to enter into the place where the philosopher's stone is hidden and states to Harry and Ron that her research in the Hogwarts library let her solve the puzzle.

Annoying others is not a habit for many, though a few people do it. Hermione is also shown as a person who annoys others with her knowledge not in the meaning to hurt them but turns out to be so. It's very indeed to explain one of the incidents happened between Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley at Charms class where she criticizes Ron's incantation on the Levitation charm though she did the same charm very smartly to the astonishment of all in the class including the Professor Flitwick.

Female characters are assertive enough and articulate enough to be positive characters in their own right. Hermione's character is not portrayed in a biased manner as she is shown as a character that she may even have beaten Harry in the first three books through her

knowledge of spells. She is the first women character to cast non- verbal spells. Broom flying did not come to her naturally in her first year at school though Hermione is a person who did not tend to do well in subjects that were not learned through books or formal training. And she bored everyone by saying the flying tips she had learnt in the book *Quidditch Through the Ages*.

“Hermione Granger was almost as nervous about flying as Neville was. This was something you couldn’t learn by heart out of a book – not that she hadn’t tried” (154)

In her character portrayal, one can find that learning wizardry requires a great deal of social adjustment and self-confidence. She feels to be a gifted female when she gets the letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry since she belongs to muggle dad and mom. In wizards’ world non – magic folk are considered to be muggles.

Though Rowling is a women writer her protagonist is a male and she gives a vital role to the female in the character of Hermione Granger, a muggle born who tries to establish that a male also needs an intellectual woman’s help for completing his tasks successfully.

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