

Emily Skinner

Mr.Durell

Social Studies E

16 February 2018

Harry Potter and How He Changed The World.

What do you think when you hear Harry Potter? This book series was considered one of the best and worst ever known. It made a couple of charts as well, for better or worse. Sometimes it was at the number one spot. Sometimes not for the best of reasons. This was because of religious beliefs thought it was a promotion for cults and witchcraft. Get ready to have your world turned upside down, and grab a time turner. This is how Harry Potter changed the world.

It all started with an unknown, single mom that got an idea while stuck on a delayed train 28 years ago, June 26th, 1990. When the idea came to her head, she quickly found a napkin and wrote the idea down before she lost it. This was later written in London cafes while the mom also took care of her baby daughter. Fast forward seven years, the book is ready to publish, but no one would buy the book from the poor lady. After being denied by 12 other publishers, she came across a small publisher named Bloomsbury, a humble man, who had a kind heart. Bloomsbury was also in the U.K, so they were the first to hear of Harry Potter and his amazing adventures with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. This mom was later identified as J.K Rowling, but she used this name as a male writer's name. This was because she wasn't accepted as a woman, so, like other ladies, she pretended to be a man. This lead to her being accepted by

the writer's community. Her writing was so good, that she was the first writer to become a billionaire.

Only 21 years ago, the *Harry Potter* series first appeared in the U.K, Winning a smarties award. This acquired a respectable amount of money for Bloomsbury. Soon after greeting the U.K, the *Harry potter* series was on fire. Soon enough, it was reaching phenomenon levels of popularity: as Scholastic bought the publication rights of the U.S, for over \$105K(that is a lot of cash)! That is TEN TIMES more than average. Arthur Levine- the editor of Scholastic that bought the books- had a good eye for British books MIGHT do well in the United States. But even HE wasn't able to forsee how much the books would grow into the best series in the world, and be translated into 50 different languages around the world. The only thing Mr.Levine knew, was that he liked it and that he wanted to publish it. Just like that, after a year of it being published in England, Harry Potter's name was well known in the United States. When the first harry potter book came out, it was called *Harry Potter and the philosopher's stone*. When it was brought to the U.S, it was changed to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. This resulted in Mr.Potter becoming well known in the U.S by several people from the press of the U.S. Most of the reviewers that read the book read it out of curiosity. It also grossed a large budget. Later, in 2012, there was a study that found that 55% of young adult novels were bought by adults. However, *Harry Potter* was liked by all ages. So these books were different. Some critics thought that this development of worry suggests that adults are dull and/or stupid to not appreciate the books published for them. But there are several reasons to like the *Harry Potter* series. The final result of the boy who lived popularity, it made reading more enjoyable for

all. This was all NO thanks to the publishers who turned her down, and a major thanks to Bloomsbury.

Because of how good the book was, kids didn't stop reading them. Despite the numerous attempts to get the kids to stop reading them. These books were thought as a promotion for the cults, dark arts, and witchcraft. As well as other things related to any kind of occult. Later, it topped the ALA's- American library association- list of most banned books and stayed there for most of the next decade. Later, schools in Arkansas were ordered to return these books by a judge, after the libraries got rid of the books. A while later, J.K. Rowling outed out that Professor Dumbledore was actually gay. Shocking. After a while, the book was so popular, people stopped trying to stop the kids from reading. Then, as the series grew on, they started getting longer and started to clock in at 700+ pages! That is a lot of pages.

When the films started, Emma Watson had to re-audition eight times before landing the role of Hermione Granger. On that note, Rupert Grint dressed up like a WOMAN and rapped about Ronald Weasley. In *Prisoner of Azkaban*, Alan Rickman and Michael Gambon pranked Daniel Radcliffe with a fart machine in his sleeping bag, with Gambon pushing the fart machine's button during the take. Did you know that Daniel played with his wand like a drumstick? It's true. He actually went through eight to nine wands before the films were finished. In *Prisoner of Azkaban*, Emma was to punch Tom Felton- actor of Draco Malfoy-, when the script said to slap him. They thought that it would be too physical. Then later, after they got the script, Tom asked Emma to "slap" him. She denied because she didn't want to slap him. When Tom asked a second time, however, she gave in and delivered a stunning, quick slap across Tom's face. Tom then walked away a bit sheepishly after. When he told Emma to slap

him, he ment “movie” slap him. Meaning fake slap him. Emma felt bad after. During the filming, Draco was known as the school bully. An awful person really. As this action, the punch that Emma performs, it left the audience shocked. This was because it was so out of character for Hermione to get physical like that and hit someone. After, Malfoy high-tailed it out of there, not wanting to get his wand handed to him in five broken pieces.

In conclusion, Harry potter can be very influential in many ways. It became popular from an unlikely place and climbed the charts. It also helps kids realise that they need to stick up for their friends and for themselves. Things would be different without Harry Potter to help bend and shape our children’s imaginations. In a strange way, Harry Potter changed the world for the better.

Works Cited

DreamworksAnimation. "5m HARRY POTTER Facts Only True Fans Know | 5 FACTS."

YouTube, YouTube, 25 Apr. 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=q71gJ2WX7P4&t=18s.

It was helpful in the gathering of information. This is an interesting video that can be surprise anyone at anytime. Very funny too.

Jessica4695. "Tom Felton Talks about an Awkward Moment with Emma Watson about How She Slapped Him!" *YouTube*, YouTube, 31 July 2011,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L486VbarJfM.

Was also helpful in information gathering. This is an interview. Behold how Emma Watson and Tom Felton feel about the moment they were in contact in the third movie.

Romano, Constance Grady and Aja. "How Harry Potter Changed the World." *Vox*, Vox, 26 June 2017,

www.vox.com/culture/2017/6/26/15856668/harry-potter-20th-anniversary-explained.

Was where I got most of my information. This is mostly a paraphrased quote. The wand thing was from a video that wasn't used for this project. It was from a video that was watched a while ago and was lingering in the back of my mind for a while. I watched it a while ago and I thought it would be relevant to the paper. So I wrote it in from memory.