

The 23rd Annual Book Report Competition For
Secondary School Students

The Merit Award of English Junior Section

Name of School : St. Joseph's College
Name of Award Student : Tai Timothy
Title of Book Read : Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
Author : J. K. Rowling
Publisher : Bloomsbury

Released on the twenty-first of July in 2007, "Harry Potter and the Deathly hollows" quickly became the bestseller of the month. As a fan of Harry Potter, I ordered the book before it was released publicly and read the book in a week shortly after its release. Surely, this book is a page-turner that you cannot resist the temptation to read it along.

As the final book of the Harry potter series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' unveils all the unknown secrets mentioned in the previous six novels the story started in September when Harry had to return to wizarding world to continue his mission of destroying the remaining Horcruxes and Voldemort's gang. However dangers were everywhere and Death Eater, followers of Voldemort,were desperate to kill Harry. Harry joined his best friends, Ron and Hermione in the wizarding world. They received items that led them to the Deathly Hallows, which were three legendary objects which were know as almighty—the Elder Wand, the Resurrection Stone and the invisibility Clock.

As perilous adventures went on, voidemort's power was growing as well and he soon took control of the Ministry of magic. Harry and his friends successfully destroyed six of the known Horcruxes, but Voldemort was still not killed. The climax came when Harry returned to Hogwarts and fought battles against Voldemort with the assistance of the members of the order of Phoenix. In the forbidden Forest, Harry finally met Voldemort. However, Voldemort struck him with the unforgivable Killing Curse which brought him into ethereal world where he met Dumbledore.

Dumbledore explained to Harry that during Voldemort attempted to kill Harry when he was a baby, some parts of voldemort's soul fragments went into Harry's body, unintentionally causing Harry to be the seventh horcrux. However with Voldemort's curse on Harry, it destroyed the remaining soul in Harry's bodes and Harry came back alive. The two wizards confronted each other. Voldemort tried to kill Harry with the Elder Wand but the curse rebounded, killing himself ironically. The novel ended with an epilogue, reviewing what happened what happened nineteen-year Voldmort's death.

After reading the whole novel. I had mixed feelings—on one hand, I was ecstatic as I finished reading the whole series and knew the ending of the story; on the other hand, I felt depressed as we had to leave the characters in the Harry Potter series. There is no doubt that the author, J.K. Rowling, successfully creates an entirely new, magical world that has the “magical power” to captivate readers. The wizardry environment and the scenes described in the book is so realistic that the wizardry world appears to be real. J. K. Rowling cleverly links the miscellaneous and minor objects to the “Deathly Hallows”. Throughout the Harry Potter series, I consider this book as the best of all. It explains many queries about the series such as the connection between Harry and Voldemort, and the strange action of Snape who is indeed a brave protector of Harry.

Besides having thrilling contents, the novel also teaches us a moral lesson. The story itself reflects the dark side of the world. There are many symbolisms in the novel. Social issues are mentioned in the series, such as racism and prejudice. In the ‘magical world’, most ‘purebloods’ discriminate against ‘muggles’, except the Weasley’s. However throughout the whole series, J.K.Rowling intends to tell that Muggles might have as good magical ability as purebloods. For example, Hermione Granger, a Muggle, is intelligent and has exceptionally well academic results.

The Harry Potter stories also reflect the imperfection of a human being (or a wizard in the story). No person on earth is capable of doing everything and everyone has their weakness. The Harry Potter series stresses the importance of friendship, which is conveyed by the warm relationships among Harry, Hermione and Ron. J.K.Rowling also teaches us that we should cherish our moments with our family. Harry is one of the unfortunates who lost his parents at a very young age. Further, the evils cannot beat down the decent ones is a clear message expressed in the novels.

In term of language focus, ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ is also a great piece of literature. J.K.Rowling has a unique writing style that students can learn from. There is a wide range of vocabulary in the book, which describes the situations precisely and promptly. I can especially recall Chapter Thirty-Six of the book in which Voldemort and Harry Potter had their last fight.

“A red-gold glow burst suddenly across the enchanted sky above them, as an edge of dazzling sun appeared over the sill of the nearest window. The light hit both of their faces at the same time, so that Voldemort’s was suddenly a flaming blur. Harry heard the high voice shriek as he, too, yelled his best hope to the heavens, pointing Draco’s wand: “Avada Kedavra!” “Expelliarmus!””

In this excerpt, Rowling vividly illustrates the electrifying scene. With detailed descriptions of the fight and the uses of the spells, the writer effectively enhances the language and stirs up the atmosphere. Reading this book can certainly improve our writing skills and English reading techniques as well.

Although I have finished reading this book for a long time, the characters in the novels still exist in my heart. I would strongly recommend this book to my fellow classmates and I dare to say, ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ is one of the greatest book written in the century.