

Tom Byrne

Professor T. Chapman

English 404 - Adolescent Literature

April 19, 2013

Final Project Prospectus

Topic

My topic is: “A comparative analysis of the female deuteragonists of the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* series.”

Questions that I will attempt to answer in this paper will be:

- 1) What are the defining moral/ethical/character strengths of Hermione Granger vs Bella Swan?
- 2) What are the defining weaknesses of Hermione vs Bella?
- 3) How do these characters stand up as positive or negative female role models for teen/YA girls?
- 4) How do Hermione & Bella overcome a specific major issue in the series?
- 5) Are the secondary female characters in both series generally similar or generally different to the primary deuteragonists?

Preliminary Bibliography

As scholarly sources, I expect to cite:

Eddo-Lodge, Reni. “*The Anti-Feminist Character of Bella Swan, or Why the Twilight Saga is Regressive*”. Web. 17 April, 2014 <http://intertheory.org/eddo-lodge.htm>

Heilmen, Elizabeth. *Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter*. Routledge, 2008. Print.

Housel, Rebecca. *Twilight and Philosophy: Vampires, Vegetarians, and the Pursuit of Immortality*. Wiley, 2009. Print.

Merisuo-Storm, Tuula, “Girls and Boys Like to read Different Texts”. *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, v50 n2, p111-125. <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ734539>

Sammons, Heather. “*Harry Potter and the Portrayal of Women*”. Microsoft Word File. https://www.academia.edu/228365/Harry_Potter_and_the_Portrayal_of_Women

Thesis Statement

Adolescents and young adults draw inspiration and role models from literature, and the *Twilight* series of novels promote an example of primary female characters that are damaging to the self images of females of these age groups. Novels with strong female leads, such as *Harry Potter*’s Hermione Granger promote the kind of positive self image that we should be using as role models.