

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.