

Book Review: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - J. K. Rowling

In today's blog post I'm sharing my thoughts on Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first book of the series I'm just about to finish reading for the second time! I read this series originally as a teenager and I loved them then as much as I do now! It's a series for just about anybody and if my reread has proven anything, is that it doesn't matter how old you are when you pick these up. This first book of the series didn't seem immature or childish even now. Yes, it's a lot simpler than the later books in the series, but it's still just as readable.

If you're like me then you're probably also asking yourself, how do you go about reviewing such an iconic book series? Your guess is as good as mine - I'm just going to muddle through as best I can. I know I won't do it justice, but I can only do my best!

Harry Potter's life is miserable. His parents are dead and he's stuck with his heartless relatives, who force him to live in a tiny closet under the stairs. But his fortune changes when he receives a letter that tells him the truth about himself: he's a wizard. A mysterious visitor rescues him from his relatives and takes him to his new home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

After a lifetime of bottling up his magical powers, Harry finally feels like a normal kid. But even within the Wizarding community, he is special. He is the boy who lived: the only person to have ever survived a killing curse inflicted by the evil Lord Voldemort, who launched a brutal takeover of the Wizarding world, only to vanish after failing to kill Harry.

Though Harry's first year at Hogwarts is the best of his life, not everything is perfect. There is a dangerous secret object hidden within the castle walls, and Harry believes it's his responsibility to prevent it from falling into evil hands. But doing so will bring him into contact with forces more terrifying than he ever could have imagined.

Full of sympathetic characters, wildly imaginative situations, and countless exciting details, the first installment in the series assembles an unforgettable magical world and sets the stage for many high-stakes adventures to come.

My Thoughts...

The thing is I love the most about these books is that it doesn't matter how old you are when you start reading them. I grew up with these books, and I probably read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's

Stone either as a preteen or an early teenager. I read this book again for the first time since then last year. At around twice the age I was when I first read the book, I loved it just as much! Whilst I would say the intended genre is probably young adult, at the same time it doesn't feel pigeonholed there. There is so much to this series that there's something in it for everybody! This very first book is comparatively lighthearted to the rest of the series. It's a wonderful introduction to a vast and detailed magical world, providing fantasy readers with escapism and a life they would have loved to have lived as a child; to be quantified as special and sent off to a magical school of witchcraft and wizardry.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is only a few hundred pages long. It's an easy book to pick up and read because of the length, but also the way in which it's written. The narrative style is very easily digestible. Personally, I think you could easily pick up and put down the book as you wish. It's really easy to follow what's going on and it's honestly a pleasure to read. I read this book within a matter of days just by doing some bedtime reading. You don't have to be an avid reader to get through this book very quickly!

I like the pacing of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Being the first book in the series, there is a lot to take in. We have a lot of the setting of the scene, character and world building thrown into the mix. I find it just right so that even a younger audience could follow what is going on, but equally it's not slow for more mature readers either. As well as all this, there's a lot of magical excitement to keep our attention. From a plethora of spells to learn to the wonder of the everyday... such as chocolate frogs (which really do behave like frogs!); there is always something going on and keeping the action flowing in a fun way!

In my opinion, this book is the perfect introduction to the now famous series. It's fun and exciting whilst also setting the scene for a much wider story. The story unfolds in ways that I didn't take initially expect when I first started the books. But, I really enjoy that! If you haven't read these yet then I honestly recommend you do. They are absolutely fantastic and they really are for absolutely anyone!