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Hardship and Heroism :: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by

J. K. Rowling

In J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, The childhood of Harry potter directly affected his life and decisions in the course of his destiny as shown in the Novel. Harry spent ten years with Dursleys where he was a victim of negligence and abuse. He never experienced adult guidance and love which shaped him to be humble. He did not have anyone to guide him through difficult times which lead to Harry being Independent. It also made him very brave due to his experience in dealing with all of his problems himself. Dursley's treatment toward Harry was very harsh but it was worth it because those ten years of hardship allowed Harry to be humble, brave, determined and make the judgement call himself rather than relying on authorities.

Harry's childhood shaped him to be humble. Harry had a difficult childhood and he was a victim of abuse and negligence for ten years during his stay with the Dursley's. Having a difficult childhood led Harry to be humble and stand for others as he understands what it feels like to be victim. This can be seen when Harry helps Neville to get his memory ball back and fights Malfoy

even when he knows the consequences of doing so can lead to expulsion(162).

This scene holds significance as it represents how Harry is willing to risk himself in order to stand up for others. He is aware of the consequences but still does not hesitate before flying to chase after Malfoy. Harry's decision to help Neville is impacted by his childhood where he was bullied by the Dursleys.

Harry's humility can also be seen when he was selected as a seeker in quidditch despite the fact that he was still in his first year of Hogwarts. In this scene, even after catching the golden ball, Harry does not show any arrogance and do not show off. Harry's humility played a vital role when he was defending the sorcerer's stone from professor quirrell. Dumbledore states“ The only who wants to really find it, only find it but not use it will be able to get that stone”(271). This statement hold significance as Dumbledore know Harry's intention is to help others and he will not misuse the stone and will be able to find it.

Harry's upbringing lead him always trust his own instincts and not the trust the adults. During first ten years of Harry life with Dursley's, he never had any help and he learned to do everything himself. This affected Harry to not trust adults and fight for his problems himself. When Harry, Ron and Hermione go to professor mcgonagall to alert her about the sorcerer's stone being at risk and when professor mcgonagall advise them that the stone is safe(243), Harry

still go to save the stone with his friends. This scene is important as it represents that Harry does not trust adults but instead he follows his own instincts. The reason Harry does not respect authority is due to his upbringing with Dursley's. For instance, when kids are scared of something, they run to their parents because they think their parents can fight and handle everything but Harry did not experience this. Harry learned from a young age that adults could not or would not solve his problems for him and if or someone needed help then he will have to do it himself.

Harry's stay with Dursley's made him very brave and determined to find the answers about his life. Dursley's poor treatment for Harry played a vital role in how Harry handled his problems. He always fought and solved his problems himself which made him very brave. Although, Harry always got help from his friends throughout the novel but he was independent and was always ready to fight the problem alone. In the scene where a monster attacked Hermione in the bathroom, instead of relying on adults and authorities to protect her, Harry went with Ron to fight the monster himself and saved Hermione. This scene is important as it shows Harry's bravery as a child. Harry's upbringing plays a significant role in shaping Harry to be brave.

Harry displays great determination regarding finding his family and origin. During his time with the Dursley's, Harry was never loved and did not experience any family bonding and time. Due to this Harry was willing to sacrifice everything when it comes to finding his family. This can be seen when he finds the the Mirror of Erised and watch his family through it. Being able to watch his family through the mirror is valued by Harry so much that he is willing to sacrifice everything for it. Dumbledore states: "It does not do dwell on dreams and forget to live, remember that(231)". This quote is important because Harry is willing to waste all his time in front of the mirror just so he can be with his family. The determination shown by Harry in this scene is exceptional and it's praised by Dumbledore.

While Harry struggled and went through hardship during his time with the Dursley's but it enabled Harry to be Humble and always willing to help others as seen when fighting to for Neville. As previously stated, It also allowed Harry to be brave and determined to find his origin. In the light of the event that Harry always solved his own problems and had no adult to guide him through his difficult time, his upbringing made me judge his own instincts rather than relying on authorities.

Work Cited

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. London: Bloomsbury, 1997.