

Vaibhav Sharma 200365101

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Rise of The Hero: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by

J. K. Rowling

In J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Harry's heroism is directly related to his childhood. Harry is a Hero, who is an orphan and he is forced to live with his relatives where he become a victim of mental abuse and experienced neglect due to due to Dursley's unloving nature. Suffering and Hardship in childhood polished his Heroic traits which can be seen in the novel. It helped him archive victory over his enemy. Harry is a Humble child who cares and fight for others. Growing up without parents made Harry loose respect for authority and follow his own instincts because he never had anyone to rely on when facing problems in life. It made him brave as he always must stand up for all his problems himself. Being an orphan motivated Harry and enabled him to show great determination which he was able to use to fight the evil. Harry displaying humility to help others, courage to step up alone and determination to fight for good due to his childhood makes him a perfect hero.

Harry is a humble hero. His humility allows him to help others and accomplish victory many times in the novel. Harry had a difficult childhood and he was a victim of abuse and negligence for ten years during his stay with the Dursleys. Having a difficult childhood led Harry to be humble and stand for others as he understands what it feels like to be a victim. This can be seen when Harry helps Neville to get his memory 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 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 shows that he is a humble hero. Harry's humility can also be seen when he was selected as a seeker in quidditch even though 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 does 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 holds significance as Dumbledore knows Harry's intention is to help others and he will not misuse the stone and will be able to find it. Harry's humility helps him be a better hero who helps others and was able to achieve victory over Voldemort.

Harry's ability to trust his own instincts rather than dealing with the authorities is a great Heroic trait that helped him many times throughout the novel to get out of trouble or save lives. Harry acquired this trait during his time with the Dursleys where he had to solve his problems himself. According to Roni Natov in his article "*Harry Potter and the Extraordinariness of the Ordinary*" She states "Like most orphan heroes, he will need to be unusually sensitive, almost vigilant, particularly since he has been raised by hostile relatives against whom his sensibility absolutely grates. He has to make his own choices"(310). In other words, Roni believes that Harry's abusive and neglected childhood with the Dursleys left him with no other choice than to solve his own problems by himself. He could not rely on any adults to find answers to his problems. For example, when young children are afraid of monsters under their bed then they immediately run to their parents as they believe that their parents are capable of fighting and protecting them but in Harry's childhood, he never had any adults helping him. This allowed Harry to develop a trait to follow his own instincts which helped him at various events in the novel. When Harry, Ron and Hermione go to professor McGonagall to alert her about the sorcerer's stone being at risk and after professor McGonagall advises them that the stone is safe(243), Harry still goes to save the stone with his friends. This scene is important as it shows how the heroic trait of Harry to do not trust adults helped him to save the sorcerer's stone.

Harry's Determination played a vital role in enhancing his heroic personality. Harry displays great determination as he is an Orphan. During his time with the Dursley's, Harry was never loved and did not experience any family bonding. Due to this Harry was willing to sacrifice everything when it comes to finding his family. Orphans show great determination and focus in finding their origins and family as Roza Alimbayeva explains in his article "*Psychological peculiarities of the professional self-determination of social orphans in senior adolescence*" where she states "Studies show that the motivational sphere of adolescents with deviant behavior and adolescents without parental care is characterized by focus on the finding their family" (par. 6). With this statement Roza is trying to explain how Harry determination is linked with the fact that Harry is an orphan. This can be seen when Harry finds 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, so he can be with his family. The determination shown by Harry in this scene is exceptional and it's praised by Dumbledore as Harry choose to use this Determination to fight Voldemort rather than spending time in front of the mirror.

Harry displayed huge courage as an eleven-year-old. Courage is important trait which helps hero succeed and allow him to take paths that no one else will. Harry Courage played a vital role helping him archive his goals. Ulla Rehbeek explains heroic traits in his article "*Caryl Phillips and the Heroic*" where he states "the hero is traditionally bound up in explorations of the actions of great men. The heroes who emerge from the texts share qualities of dignity and courage, but the "work" they embark on operates along many different trajectories and often leads to or exacerbates an ontological state of loneliness" (par. 38). Ulla is trying to explain that courage is an important trait the fiction hero's share and most of times it makes them lonely as they have walk on the difficult paths alone because no one is else is brave enough but in case of Harry, It's not true. Due to 10 years of hardship and Harry's experience as a victim of neglect, he always appreciates help offered by others. Harry always have his friends and people who care for him around him to help and support him on his every endeavor, but he is brave enough to risk himself to save others and even fight his enemy alone. This can be seen in the scene where a monster attack Hermione in the bathroom, instead of relying on adults and authorities to protect her, Harry go with Ron to fight the monster himself and saved Hermione (183). In this scene Harry shows extreme bravery in saving Hermione which is exceptional from an eleven-year-old boy. Harry bravery plays a significant role in the scene where he must go and fight Voldemort alone

due to Ron getting injured. Harry does not hesitate even when he knows the consequences represent his extraordinary courage to step up alone.

As previously suggested, Harry humility allows him to help others and it can be seen when he stood up for Neville. He shows extraordinary bravery, stepping up alone even as an eleven-years-old to fight monsters and Voldemort. Being an orphan, He shown a great deal of determination to find his family and origin which enables him to use that motivation to fight evil. Harry was able to show these heroic traits due to his stay with the Dursley's for ten years where he was neglected. The suffering led to Harry becoming a perfect hero.

References

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