

HARRY POTTER

When you were younger, your parents read to you or get you to read by yourself. A majority of the time, the first book kids read are the Harry Potter series. While Harry Potter wasn't the first book I read, it was the first one I enjoyed the most. I wanted to keep reading them. So that's what I did. I would read the book, then watch the movie, then complain to mum and dad that the book was better. Would tell mum how I was going to be exactly like Hermione. How I was really a muggle-born, but I was going to be the smartest person in my class and excel in academics. To this day I still read Harry Potter and I watch the movies almost every day, although the books are still better and I still want to be exactly like Hermione Granger.

Most kids my age now say that the books are babyish, that they are for little kids. Most kids my age don't read at all to be honest. I don't see Harry Potter like that. I see it as an escape from reality. A way to go to places that you normally wouldn't be able to go to. Hogwarts, The Burrow, Hogsmeade. Those are the places you get to explore in your head when reading or watching Harry Potter. And those places, are truly the most magical places I can think of.

Then growing up, I always found it hard to make friends. I still do find it hard to make friends. Strangely enough though, I always saw Harry, Ron, and Hermione as my best friends. I felt like I knew them and that they knew me. I still feel that way. Whenever you open the book, there they are. Ready to cheer you up when you're sad, make you laugh, sometimes make you cry, but they are always there for you, no matter what. You can rely on them, more than you can rely on real people sometimes.

Growing up, with the ability to travel to Hogwarts and spend time with my three best friends all in my mind is one of the best things I can imagine. No one else has to get it. No one else has to even know it happens. They just will never understand the fun in running through the school grounds to tell Hagrid something, or never understand the importance of real and true friendship.

I will forever love the Harry Potter series, even if kids my age no longer do. Because after a long day at school, all I want to do is go to my room and get lost in the corridors of Hogwarts, where I know I am meant to be, with my three best friends, Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger.

By Charlotte Abrehart