Anna Mik, "Entry on: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Harry Potter, 5) by J. K. Rowling", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Lisa Maurice. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1446. Entry version as of November 07, 2026.

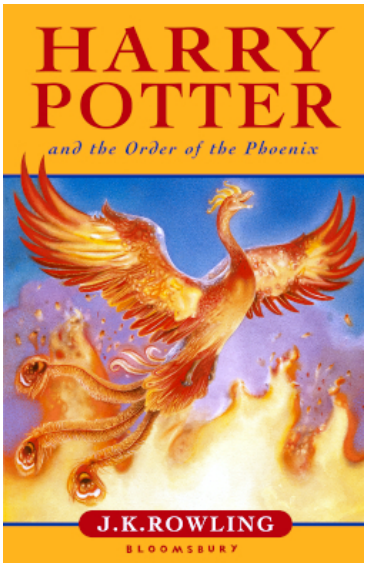
J. K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Harry Potter, 5)

United Kingdom (2003)

TAGS: Centaur(s) Latin (Language)





Cover of the first edition. Courtesy of Bloomsbury Publishing.

General information	
Title of the work	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (Harry Potter, 5)
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Country/countries of popularity	worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2003
First Edition Details	J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. London: Bloomsbury, 2003, 766 pp.
ISBN	0747551006
Awards	2003 – Booklist Editor's Choice; 2003 – Child Best Children's Books Award; 2004 – Fiction Prize at WH Smith People's Choice Book Awards; 2004 – Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Medal; 2004 – American Library Association Best Book for Young Adult. Source: siue.edu (accessed: May 23, 2022).
Genre	Fantasy fiction, School story*
Target Audience	Crossover
Author of the Entry	Anna Mik, University of Warsaw, anna.m.mik@gmail.com

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Creators



Portrait of J. K. Rowling, photographed by Daniel Ogren on April 5, 2010. The file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike (accessed: May 25, 2018).

J. K. Rowling , b. 1965
(Author, Illustrator)

Joanne Kathleen Rowling, was born July 31, 1965 in Yate, Gloucestershire, England. She graduated from the University of Exeter with a degree in French and Classics, she is considered a writer with classical background. After publishing the first Harry Potter book in 1997, she gradually became the best known author of all time.

The Harry Potter septology (1997–2007), is one of the most successful and popular series in the history of children's literature (*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* sold in 107 million copies). It may be argued that, from the very beginning, the author herself had to expand this world, fill the gaps, and explain all the rules– not only by discussing some issues (later on – mainly on Twitter) or giving guidelines in the interviews but by creating her website Pottermore. Once it was an online platform, where fans could read the series simultaneously with Rowling's commentary and additions. Now it serves more as commercial space, although Rowling still adds some new elements (e. g. the short history of magical schools in USA).

To give to the devoted fans of Harry something that would allow them to feel the magical bond with the world they want to be a part of she created three books that now exist in both the secondary world of Hogwarts and the primary world where the reader can have a copy in their own hands.

HP Series Spin-offs:

Quidditch Through the Ages by Kennilworthy Whisp (2001), *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* by Newton Scamander (2001) and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* (2007)* are allegedly copies of books from the world of Harry Potter which include different literary genres and publication formats: history of sport, bestiaries, and collections of fairy tales. These books are not part of the septology, but they provide complementary information about sports, animals and animal-like creatures, and fairy-tales of the Wizarding World. Additionally, they can be interpreted as a device to help convince readers of the reality

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of the magical world. In these three books, as in the series sensu stricto, J. K. Rowling plays on various levels with great literary traditions, using one of the many features of postmodern literature.

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* Hand-written copies were released in 2007, printed ones in 2008.

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Additional information

Adaptations	Movie adaptation: Dir. David Yates, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Warner Bros. Pictures, 2007. Video game based on the novel and the movie: *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix*, published by Electronic Arts, composer: James Hannigan, 2007.
Translation	Multiple languages.
Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	Fourth book: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, 2000. Sixth book: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, 2005.
Summary	*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* is the continuation of the adventures of the young wizard, Harry Potter (now 15) and his friends attending the Hogwarts school for witches and wizards. In this part, Harry has to deal with false accusations. The authorities of the magical world and the magical community refuse to believe in the return of Voldemort, even though Harry has witnessed it. The Dark Lord once again tries to take control of the wizarding world, and the only (secret) organisation that opposes him is the eponymous Order of the Phoenix (founded and led by Albus Dumbledore, the organization's membership includes former and current opponents of Lord Voldemort). The struggle is complicated by the fact that, officially, the Ministry of Magic denies that the Dark Lord returned and claims that Harry Potter and Dumbledore are lying. Therefore, the Ministry of Magic becomes an enemy of Harry. To silence Harry, the Ministry charges him with the offence of using magic in the presence of a Muggle. In reality, Harry was merely defending his cousin from a dementors' attack. However, the Ministry, in accepting such an explanation, would have to admit that the dementors were either acting on the Ministry's orders, or that they were controlled by Voldemort. In the end, Harry is exonerated by the majority of the Wizengamot (the wizarding court). However, the Minister and his

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followers decide to take control of Hogwarts and silence Harry.

Cornelius Fudge sends to Hogwarts Dolores Umbridge – a secondary villain of the series, to assume the post, initially of new teacher of the Defence against the Dark Arts, later of Inquisitor and finally Headmistress. Hogwarts students are prevented from learning defensive spells. In reaction to Umbridge's decrees, Harry, Ron and Hermione form a secret organisation, Dumbledore's Army, where Harry teaches his fellow students to defend themselves against the Dark Arts. Umbridge in turn creates her own group made up of students (mostly from Slytherins) who spy on her opponents. Umbridge uses the truth-telling potion to force students to inform on the Dumbledore's Army. As a result Harry and his friends are captured and Dumbledore has to flee, foiling an arrest attempt. Hermione and Harry manage to outwit Umbridge by luring her to the Forbidden Forest, where she gravely insults the Centaurs who abduct her. This traumatic event causes her mental breakdown.

The book is mainly focused on the students' fight against Umbridge. However, Voldemort's attempts to eliminate Harry, with whom he is mysteriously linked, continue. The key to solving this mystery is a prophecy hidden in the Ministry of Magic. Voldemort also wants to gain access to Harry's mind so he can control him and transmit false visions. Despite his attempts to resist, Harry succumbs to the false images and thinking that Sirius Black, his godfather, is being tortured by Voldemort in the Department of Mysteries where prophecies are stored, he is ambushed there by Death Eaters. Sirius dies in the battle, but the prophecy shatters and eludes Voldemort. Eventually, faced with irrefutable evidence, the entire wizarding world must accept the fact of Voldemort's return and of Harry's truthfulness.

Analysis

In this part of the adventures of the young wizard, we are dealing with a decidedly more complex narrative structure, already in the previous part, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the narrative for children gradually transformed into an adolescent and more grownup narrative. *The Order of the Phoenix* is a much darker part, in which Harry must overcome the influence of Voldemort, who wants to control him, by showing him provocative visions – real, uncontrolled or false, controlled – designed to cause a specific reaction. Through this connection and access to Harry's mind, Voldemort threatens both the boy and the entire wizarding world. To resist the Dark Lord's

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attempts, Harry begins attending unofficial lessons with Professor Snape. The potions master teaches Harry two spells: Legilimens (reading someone's mind) and Occlumens (shielding from the Legilimens through closing one's mind). Legilimency (as most spell names in "Harry Potter" series) is derived from Latin "legere" "to read," and "mens", "mind." Occlumency is derived from Latin as well – coming from "occludere" "to close" and same as in the previous case "mens." Rowling uses her knowledge of classical philology here to create layer upon layer of magical world. Through the use of Latin names, she combines the ancient and the magical worlds, thus indicating the deep roots linking both traditions, which can be truly accessed by a select few.

The fifth book also shows the return of the Centaurs, creatures living in isolation from human society in the Forbidden Forest. Harry, Hermione and Dolores Umbridge are attacked by the Centaurs in response to Umbridge's insults (she calls them half-breeds) and demands their obedience. The Centaurs kidnap the teacher and presumably mete out a punishment. Upon returning from the Forbidden Forest, Umbridge is unable to speak, which would indicate a traumatic experience. Lisa Maurice in her 2015 chapter on the Centaurs notes a polemic on the fanfiction sites about interpreting the abduction in the context of rape which would bring Rowling's Centaurs closer to their ancient reputation (Maurice, 2015, 151–152, Pseudo-Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca* E1. 21; Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History*, 4. 69.4). However, the Centaurs, in the Harry Potter world, are star-gazers unconcerned with human pursuits. The scene presenting Umbridge, Harry, Hermione, the Hagrid's giant brother, and the Centaurs was recreated by Lego.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Centaur(s) Latin (Language)
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth	Adolescence Animals Death Good vs evil Harry Potter Heroism Magic Magic powers Murder Past Relationships

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Culture

Further Reading

Maurice, Lisa, "From Chiron to Foaly: The Centaur in Classical Mythology and Fantasy Literature", in Lisa Maurice, ed., *The Reception of Ancient Greece and Rome in Children's Literature*, Brill, 2015, 139–168.

Olechowska, Elżbieta, "J.K. Rowling Exposes the World to Classical Antiquity", in Katarzyna Marciniak, ed., *Our Mythical Childhood… The Classics and Literature for Children and Young Adults*, Leiden: Brill, 2016, 384–410.

Spencer, Richard A., *Harry Potter and the Classical World: Greek and Roman Allusions in J.K. Rowling's Modern Epic*, Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2016.

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