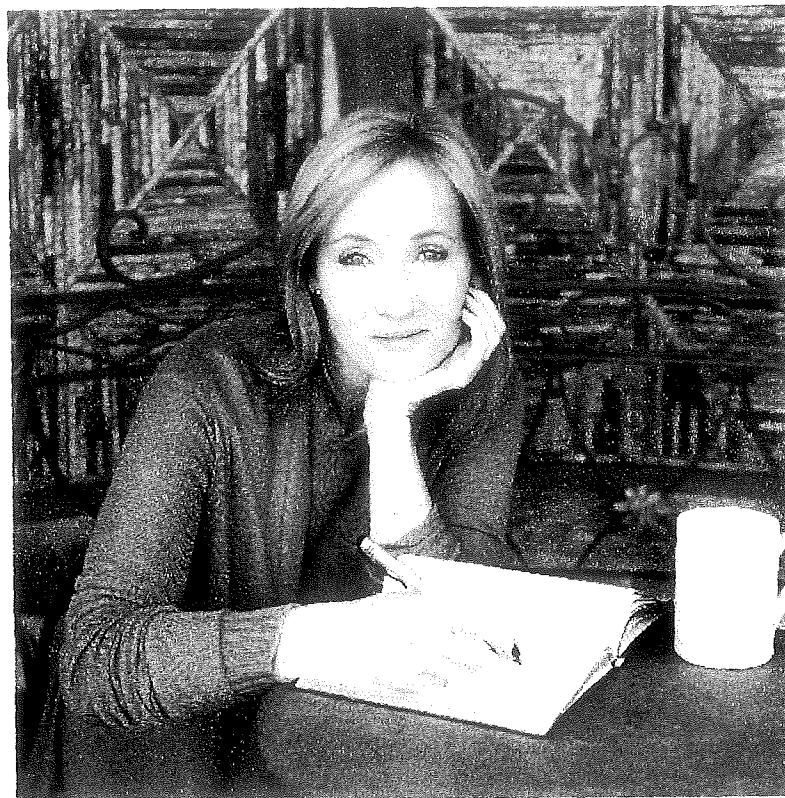


# Harry Potter and the Multi-Genre Portfolio

By: Molly Anapolsky



Dear Reader,

My name is Molly Anapolsky. As many children did, I grew up reading the Harry Potter series. I can still recall the moment I started reading the series. My older cousin had started reading them a couple of weeks ago and me being a year younger, did not want to miss out on the fun. From the beginning, I was hooked. By the time I turned seven and a half, I had already finished the series. After reading all seven books, I began to watch the movies with my parents. The last movie came out several years ago when I was about ten years old. Five years later and I am still as addicted as I was in first grade. I have watched in amazement as two Harry Potter themed books have been published by Rowling in addition to two theme parks built in an attempt to let people experience the magic of the Harry Potter.

Rowling has shown the world how we are able to achieve our greatest dreams through her characters and her story. Even when it would have been easier to take the ordinary route, Rowling chose to take the one less traveled by, the harder one. Rowling's perseverance shows throughout her work whether it be Harry and his friends or how she got her books published after being rejected by twelve major publishing companies.

Today, The Harry Potter series has achieved many amazing things. Harry Potter has been published in over 55 languages, printed over a quarter of a billion times, and the author herself is worth about \$450 million. In addition, Rowling has won some prestigious awards like the Author of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards. However, in addition to her success, Rowling has found what she has been searching for since the start of her writing career. Rowling now lives at home with her loving husband and children, something she struggled with in the early days of her career.

During the reading of this portfolio remember, everything can be achieved if only the right wand is used.

Molly Anapolsky

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The Wizard Behind the Magic: J.K. Rowling

*“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times,  
if one only remembers to turn on the light”*

*-Albus Dumbledore, character in the “Harry Potter” series by J.K. Rowling*

Joanne Rowling, commonly referred to as J.K. Rowling, was born in Bristol, England and later moved to Tutshill during her adolescence. Rowling’s earliest memory is her sister’s birth. She remembers being given Play-Doh to play with, but ended up eating it while her mother was in labor upstairs (Harmon). Rowling grew up writing stories and playing wizard themed games with her neighbors, Ian and Vicky Potter. Unknown to the world around her, Rowling would eventually become one of the most famous writers in the entire world.

At the commencement of the writing of “Harry Potter”, Rowling’s most famous book, Rowling was residing with her sister’s family with her young daughter, Jessica, and depending on her welfare check to support them from week to week. It would be safe to say this period of J.K. Rowling’s life was not an easy one. With no money in the bank, an impending divorce, and haunting memories of domestic abuse, it took everything Rowling had to get herself onto her own two feet. Throughout her entire journey as a writer, Rowling has shown nothing but strength. She refused to accept the mediocre life she was living and aggressively pursued getting her first novel published. Rowling spent almost a year looking for a publishing company to take on Harry Potter. Even when it was accepted, she was told, “to continue her training as a teacher

because she was told writers of children's book don't tend to get very well paid" (Pettinger) which demonstrates how hard Rowling had to essay for her writing to get printed. Throughout her entire experience, Rowling has taught the world the true value of stepping up to the plate to make any dream a reality.

Rowling began to create her world of wizards while sitting on a delayed train from Manchester to London. She later rushed home to get her ideas on paper since she had been too scared to ask anyone for a pen on the train. Soon, Rowling became obsessed with exploring the world of Harry Potter. Rowling has told fans how her story of "writing her novel out in longhand at Nicolson's Café while Jessica slept nearby in her stroller has become a legend" (Harmon).

Rowling was rejected from over twelve major publishing companies before Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, the first installment in the series, was picked up by a small publishing company since the editor's daughter enjoyed the first chapter. Almost immediately after publication, the chapter book was in high demand. It appealed to its projected audience, children, but also adults. A year later, the U.S. rights were bought for a record-breaking amount of \$105,000 by Scholastic. This was the highest amount a publisher had paid for the rights for an unknown children's book.

This was only the start of Rowling's success. Six more books in the series were released along with movie portrayals. Harry Potter is currently available in 55 languages and over a quarter of a billion copies have been printed. In addition, two parks at Universal Studios have been modeled after Hogsmeade and Diagon Alley, important locations in the books. Rowling's perseverance and confidence in her abilities have led her to be one of the richest ladies in the world. She has confirmed the series is complete and now lives in one of her three homes with her husband and children.

With all odds against her, Rowling persisted. With constant rejections, Rowling persisted. With international fame, Rowling succeeded. She will forever be commemorated as the wizard who started it all. Rowling's way of fighting the odds in a true rags to riches story displays how with the right wand, one can overcome any obstacles in order to achieve their dreams.

## Conflicting Realities

Alone, forgotten, unwanted;

*Treasured, a legend, famous;*

I am an ordinary boy doing ordinary things.

*I am able to accomplish extraordinary things.*

Enclosed by people who denounce magic.

*Welcomed by people who perform magic.*

Wanting to fit in, forced to stand out.

*Surrounded by people who love me.*

Lawyers, doctors, office workers

*Wizards, ghosts, quidditch players*

Sit listening about how our world is falling apart.

*Sit listening about how our world is falling apart.*

Terrorists plotting to attack.

*The Dark lord strengthening his army.*

But, they will forget and go on in their mechanical way.

*But, they will fight back.*

Authors Note:

Regular text indicates the views of the real or “muggle” world. The italics indicates the view of the wizard world.

## Harry Potter: Choose Your Own Adventure!

After receiving help from the Weasleys I was elated that I was in one piece and on the train. As Ron and I waved goodbye to the multitude of redheads, I felt a pang in my heart as I did not have that. As the train started to move, I let my mind wander about what the mysterious “Hogwarts” would be like.

After changing into the wizards robes on the train, Ron and I were ready to leave the train. Hagrid told us our luggage would be delivered to our dormitories as we boarded boats that were to take us to Hogwarts. It was a picture perfect moment. A Great castle with many towers came to view. I was in shock that this is where I would be spending my time studying. I thought smugly about how this compared to Dudley’s new private school.

After getting off the boats, Hagrid led us into a small room, a lean gray- haired lady took our attention. She explained what would happen next,

“Attention first years. My name is Professor McGonagall and I will explain to what is going to happen next. After this we will take you into the Great Hall. Each one of you will be called for the Sorting Hat to pick your house. You will either be selected to be in Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Gryffndor, or Slytherin. After your house has been announced, you will go sit with your new house. Understood?”

We nodded silent, understanding this professor was not one to mess with. I stood with Ron who kept going on about how he hoped to be in Gryffndor like his predecessors had. Soon, I heard Professor call my name and proceeded to the small, wooden stool that held the Sorting Hat. I sat down and tentatively placed the hat on my head as I heard whispers of “Is that Harry Potter” and “Look it, he really has a scar!”

The hat started whispering in my ear, trying to decide where to put me.

*If you want Harry to end up in Gryffndor, read section A.*

*If you want Harry to end up in Slytherin, read section B.*

### Section A

The Hat almost immediately understood that with whatever house he put me in, I would be able to accomplish anything I set my mind too. It whispered that it thought I would succeed in Slytherin however I firmly believed that I did not want to be in that house due to the face I knew what its reputation was. The Sorting Hat was surprised at my reaction and announced that I would be in Gryffndor. As I went to sit at the table filled with students in red and gold, I realized I had gotten the loudest cheer yet. I saw the Weasley’s sitting together motion for me to sit with them. On my way, I saw the prefects wave me over.

*If you want Harry to sit with the Weasley's, read section C.*

*If you want Harry to sit with the prefects, read section D.*

### Section C

I smiled eagerly as I reached the Weasley's group. It was nice to see some familiar faces. Ron enveloped me in a hug as I sat down. After a few minutes of trying to learn all of their names, I just tried concentrating on the house assignments. Soon, food magically appeared in front of us and I knew that with this great house, I would succeed.

### Section D

I nodded at the Weasley's as I went to sit with the prefects. I was only a first year and I was already in with the popular fifth years! I smiled smugly as I sat down with them. No one else had asked me much about my scar however the prefects asked many questions. Between the time I sat down and food was served I had barely finished an answer before another one butted in and asked another question. Soon, the food magically appeared in front of us and we dug in allowing me some quiet.

### Section B

The Hat almost immediately understood that with whatever house he put me in, I would be able to accomplish anything I set my mind too. The Hat suggested Slytherin which prompted me to smile. Although Slytherin had produced many wizards who had used their powers to do bad things, I was curious to see what it was like. I also wanted to get to know the blonde haired first year that I had met on the train. The Sorting Hat announced its decision to put me in Slytherin and the table burst in applause. I eagerly went to sit down with the students. I sat down next to Malfoy and began to watch the other students get their house assignments.

After every student was in a house, Malfoy quietly whispered to me, "Hey some third years are going to the Slytherin tower wanna come? Apparently someone brought loads of Chocolate Frogs and even some muggle candy!"

*If you want Harry to skip the meal and go to the Slytherin Tower, read section E.*

*If you want Harry to decline the offer and eat in the Great Hall, read section F.*



### Section E

I nodded in agreement and Malfoy and I slyly snuck out of the room with some other Slytherin boys, careful to let any professors know we were only using the restroom and would be back shortly. We had only been walking for a couple of minutes before we were caught by a grouchy professor that sent us back to the Great Hall to eat the feast.

### Section F

I declined politely as I did not want to get into trouble on my first day at Hogwarts. As Malfoy left the Great Hall, I decided to watch the rest of the first years get sorted into houses. Soon, Slytherin gained a pair of twins, Fig and Newton, who sat down eagerly and told us about their love of teaching. I noticed one of them had a large vocabulary and liked to include it in the conversation. Soon, food appeared on the table and we began to devour the feast in front of this.

## Recipe for Being a Successful Author

So, I hear you wanna become a great writer! Yes, you! Well you've come to the right place. I believe everyone can become an awesome writer with this handy recipe! When choosing your one great role model, I advise you to think of the person who is your writing "hero", mine happened to be J.K. Rowling! Rowling has shown the world that with the right materials, one can do anything they want to do. Throughout the directions, I will show you how Rowling has used these steps to achieve her stardom. So hop on the Hogwarts Express to becoming a great writer!

### Ingredients:

1 cup of confidence

2 tablespoons of optimism

1 great role model

A handful of people to support you

1 spoonful of dedication

Optional: Fig Newtons

### Directions:

1. Brainstorm ideas! Even if many of your ideas sound weird, write them down! When Rowling was submitting Harry Potter to publishing companies, many thought the world would not enjoy the story. However, Rowling persevered and got international recognition!
2. Pick your strongest idea and develop it. Rowling chose to believe in her series rather than just let it go. By getting your ideas out there, you're one step closer to being a better writer!
3. Consult people close to you on your ideas. If they truly think it won't go anywhere, pick another idea and try again! When Rowling was living with her sister, she never felt discouraged to stop writing by anyone and was only cheered on.
4. You're probably hungry by now, have a snack and listen to some music! I recommend sampling some Fig Newton's and listening to, "Fig Newton & the TEACH: Greatest Hits".
5. Keep at it! You're doing great! After finishing your first draft, make sure you edit for ~~grammar~~ grammar and spelling mistakes!



## Unifying Elements Notes Page

Recurring themes and connections throughout this paper include: the mention of Rowling's most famous series, "Harry Potter", the theme of being able to achieve ones dreams with enough dedication, and the mindset of dedication and perseverance.

In the Expository Essay and Dear Reader letter, both express ideas of choosing the right wand for someone. In the Harry Potter books, one can only use their own wand to get the best results.

In, "Conflicting Realities" and Choose Your Own Adventure, it is stated that there are many directions one can go in life however it is their decision about where they want to dedicate time.

In the Recipe for Being a Successful Author and the Expository essay, both stress the point of perseverance.

In, "Conflicting Realities", Choose Your Own Adventure, Dear Reader, and the Collage, the main character from Rowlings series, Harry Potter, is used as a sign of achievement of dreams.

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