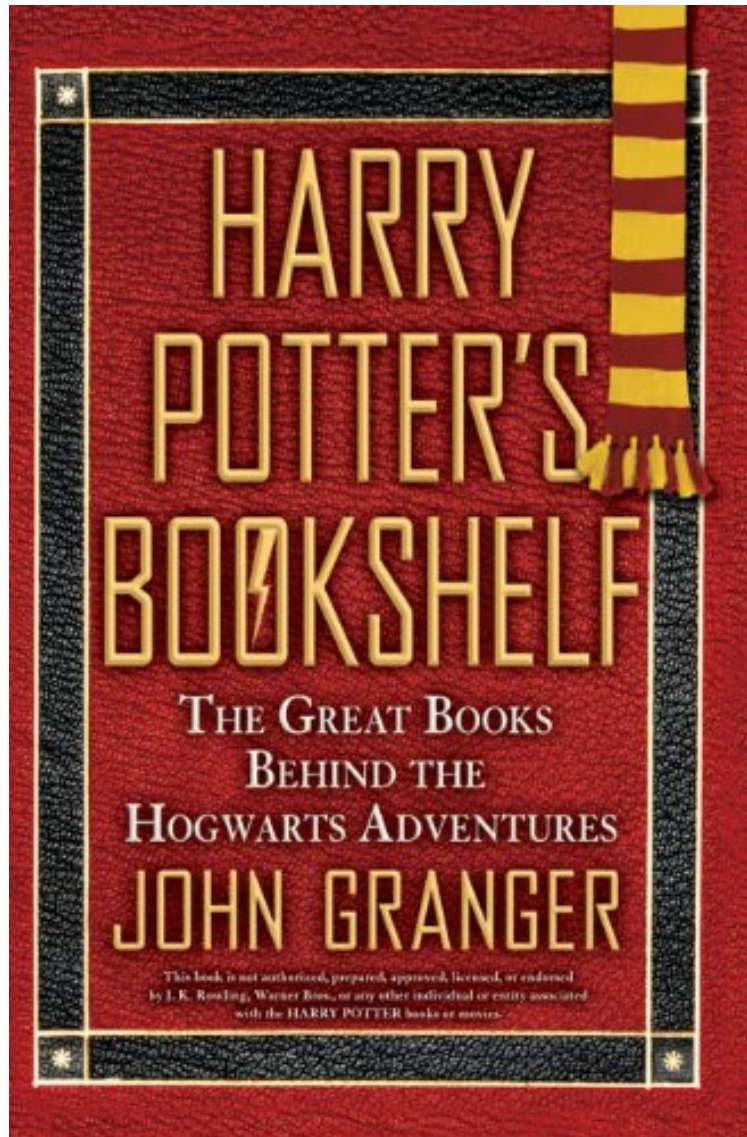


Harry Potter's Bookshelf: The Great Books behind the Hogwarts Adventures

John Granger

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John Granger : Harry Potter's Bookshelf: The Great Books behind the Hogwarts Adventures before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harry Potter's Bookshelf: The Great Books behind the Hogwarts Adventures:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Well worth the read By Todd Kinsey This is a great book, if you're

like me, and think that the Harry Potter series will one day be considered one of the all-time great series. Personally I find her writing far more engaging than Tolkien whom she's often compared to. John does a great job highlighting the classic symbolism throughout the series as well as some of the authors Mrs. Rowling incorporated into the story. I plan to read some of the other books John has written as well. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Most accessible, wide-ranging, and convincing trip yet inside PotterBy Stephen SchumacherJohn Granger was a trailblazer, sniffing out the (not so) hidden Christian and alchemical roots of Rowling's work back when just the first few novels had been published and initial critical discourse was often shallow or misguided (or verged on "Burn the witch!"). John's early prognostications sometimes seemed a stretch back then, but time and further Potter volumes have largely proved them out. The new "Harry Potter's Bookshelf" updates and confirms John's earlier analysis, but widens the field to show Potter's strong connections to what seems like practically all of English literature. Austin, Dickens, Shakespeare, Bronte, E. Nesbit, Dracula, Tom Brown's Schooldays, Gulliver's Travels, Pilgrim's Progress, The Secret Garden, Lord Peter Wimsey, The Brothers Karamazov, ... the hits just keep on coming! (And not just big names - the "Bookshelf" includes surprises like the obscure "The Little White Horse", which Rowling described as her childhood favorite and most direct influence on her Harry Potter series.) This "Bookshelf" is truly jam-packed with good stuff, while staying fun and fast-paced to read - a whirlwind tour rather than a pedantic plod. I don't think John Granger will have too many doubters this time around, as his work has become even more direct, well-documented, and convincing. His literary targets are hit dead-on - then resurrected within the Potter corpus, drawing readers in both directions. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. More great analysis from John GrangerBy Deborah KoganI have read almost all of John Granger's books on Harry Potter, and this is another great one. When I first ordered the book, I thought that it would be arranged with a chapter for each author that influenced J. K. Rowling. Instead, John Granger analyzes the various levels of meaning in the Harry Potter series, and then discusses the authors writing in the various genres that are reflected there. Rowling, in her artistry, seamlessly writes a series that combines many genres, while having four levels of meaning: the surface, moral, allegorical, and mythic or anagogical meaning. Although Mr. Granger has covered some of this in his earlier books, the reader will be introduced to possibly unfamiliar genres and be inspired to check them out. His discussion of various writers with influences on the series will likewise inspire the reader to expand one's reading horizons. I certainly was unfamiliar with most Gothic novels, and Granger writes at length on this genre. I was unfamiliar with Elizabeth Goudge's *The Little White Horse*, an important influence, and because of Granger's book will be inspired to read it. I highly recommend *Harry Potter's Bookshelf*. Explore new horizons!

Harry Potter. The name conjures up J.K. Rowling's wondrous world of magic that has captured the imaginations of millions on both the printed page and the silver screen with bestselling novels and blockbuster films. The true magic found in this children's fantasy series lies not only in its appeal to people of all ages but in its connection to the greater world of classic literature. *Harry Potter's Bookshelf: The Great Books Behind the Hogwarts Adventures* explores the literary landscape of themes and genres J.K. Rowling artfully wove throughout her novels-and the influential authors and stories that inspired her. From Jane Austen's *Emma* and Charles Dickens's class struggles, through the gothic romances of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein* and the detective mysteries of Dorothy L. Sayers, to the dramatic alchemy of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and William Shakespeare, Rowling cast a powerful spell with the great books of English literature that transformed the story of a young wizard into a worldwide pop culture phenomenon.