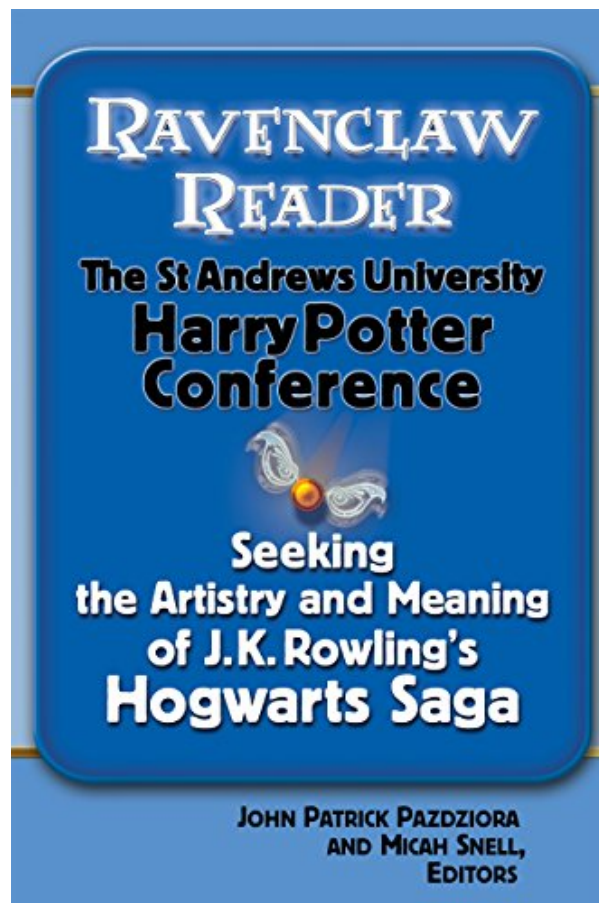


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RAVENCLAW READER

The St Andrews University
**Harry Potter
Conference**



**Seeking
the Artistry and Meaning
of J.K. Rowling's
Hogwarts Saga**

**JOHN PATRICK PAZDZIORA
AND MICAH SNELL,
EDITORS**

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In Ravenclaw Reader, an international gathering of scholars debate the literary merits and demerits of the Harry Potter series. Each chapter is conversation, with the main argument followed by a reply from another critic. Representing a wide range of critical and cultural voices, the discussion includes questions about the portrayal of education in the book, the role of Snape, the landscape around Hogwarts, the structure of the series, the Wizarding World as dystopia, the problem of the Dursleys, and the canonization of Neville Longbottom. Perceptive, incisive, and thought-provoking, this in-depth conversation will engage fans, students, and academics alike. Ravenclaw Reader sets a new standard for Harry Potter criticism.

Developed from the historic St Andrews University Harry Potter Conference, Ravenclaw Reader features contributions by Jessica Tiffin, John Granger, Amy Sturgis, Maria Nilson, Vinita Chandra, Joel Hunter, Travis Prinzi, Gabrielle Ceraldi, Joshua Richards, Amy Sonheim, and more.

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A Wise Choice for any Hogwarts Reader!

By Elizabeth Hardy

Serious scholarship focused on J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books is both inspiring to those who love the series and challenging to those who think "good" literary scholarship is limited only to certain texts. Thoughtful readers know that Harry's story is one that possesses literary merit and is worthy of careful study. As Pepperdine University Professor James Thomas writes in the preface to Ravenclaw Reader: Seeking the Artistry and Meaning of J.K. Rowling's Hogwarts Saga: Essays from the St. Andrews University Harry Potter Conference, the books "are too rich, too deep, too personally meaningful to be forgotten or neglected by those who love books." Happily, the scholars whose work is collected in this imminently valuable volume have neither forgotten nor neglected Harry's adventures, and their insights and revelations will be appreciated by any reader who has been whisked off to Hogwarts for one or dozens of visits. Unlike many published conference proceedings, which just serve as sort of souvenir programs, this collection brings together some truly remarkable articles by some of the most important Potter scholars; John Granger, John Patrick Pazdziora, Joel Hunter, Amy Sturgis, and many, many others are included with excellent essays and responses to the essays of other scholars. Tackling a wide range of topics that will challenge and guide both veteran readers and those who have only just begun to explore the books' fascinating and complex underpinnings, this collection is a must-have for the Potter library, and even includes an enormously helpful series of appendices and recommendations for further reading and study. Though the Ravenclaws are the wisest students at Hogwarts, any student of Harry's world—members of any house or even Squibs and Muggles--will gain a richer understanding and deeper knowledge from this collection.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Taste the scholarship, and enjoy Harry more!

By Louise Freeman Davis

This is Harry Potter, but for the grown-ups. Scholarly conferences about Harry Potter are popping up everywhere, but the 2012 at St. Andrews was one of best known. This book includes 10 of the papers presented there, written by some of the world's leading Potter experts, along with a respectful (even when disagreeing) responses by other scholars. If you want to know why there are college courses and PhD theses devoted to Rowling's series, pick up this book. I challenge anyone to dismiss Harry Potter as "kiddie lit" after reading it. As someone who has written professionally about Harry myself, I look forward to having this as a reference (and I wish it had been available before I submitted my last two papers!)

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