

Annotation with The Boy Who Lived



Presented by Catherine F. King, *LeakyCon West 2022*

“The word *grammar* comes down to us from the Ancient Greek meaning “a line of writing.” Writing, aka grammar, was the first step in the course of classical study that molded all educated men... However, one barbarian tribe mispronounced the word as “*glamour*.” In other words, **whoever has grammar—whoever can read—possesses magic inexplicable.**”

— Thomas Cahill, *How The Irish Saved Civilization*

Scholastic Annotation

Taking notes in a book in order to enhance your understanding

- Note new vocabulary words
- Write down historical context
- Analyze the elements of the book
 - Plot
 - Characterization
 - Prose

... and much much more!

My Annotations of Harry Potter

Began as an exercise while I was writing my thesis paper for English

More than ten years' worth of my history with these books

Everything I've learned

Every connection I've made

Everything I've built around these books

& Painted it onto the page



Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of no. 4, Privet Drive

“Privet”: A kind of shrubbery. Almost identical to “Private.”

What kind of life are the Dursleys building?

Mr. Dursley goes to work; Mrs. Dursley stays at home with the baby

Show, don't tell: they are financially stable

They COULD care for Harry

Historical context: Thatcherism

What's in a Name?

The name "Harry" has two possible sources

Harold, Old English, "Leader of the army"

Henry, Germanic, "Home ruler"

Another motif in *Potter* names: Flowers

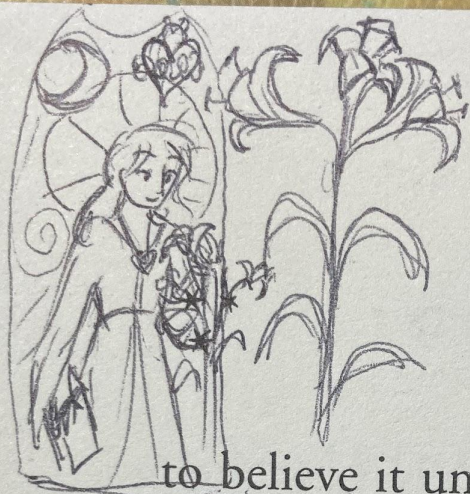
Petunia, Lily, Narcissa, Rose

Consider the symbolism of flowers

“People, upon meeting Dumbledore for the first time, formed three impressions: that he was intelligent, that he was English, and that he was gayer than a tree full of monkeys on nitrous oxide.”

With thanks to *Good Omens*, by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett





to believe it until

however, was choo

“What they’re s



he carries

use he put it back in his

it was he who told you I'd

Two small “stained glass” style annotations: Lily, surrounded by lilies, and James, flanked by his Invisibility Cloak and Animagus form

Dumbledore surrenders Harry to the Dursleys

Reason given in this book:

Anonymity will be better than
celebrity for Harry's development



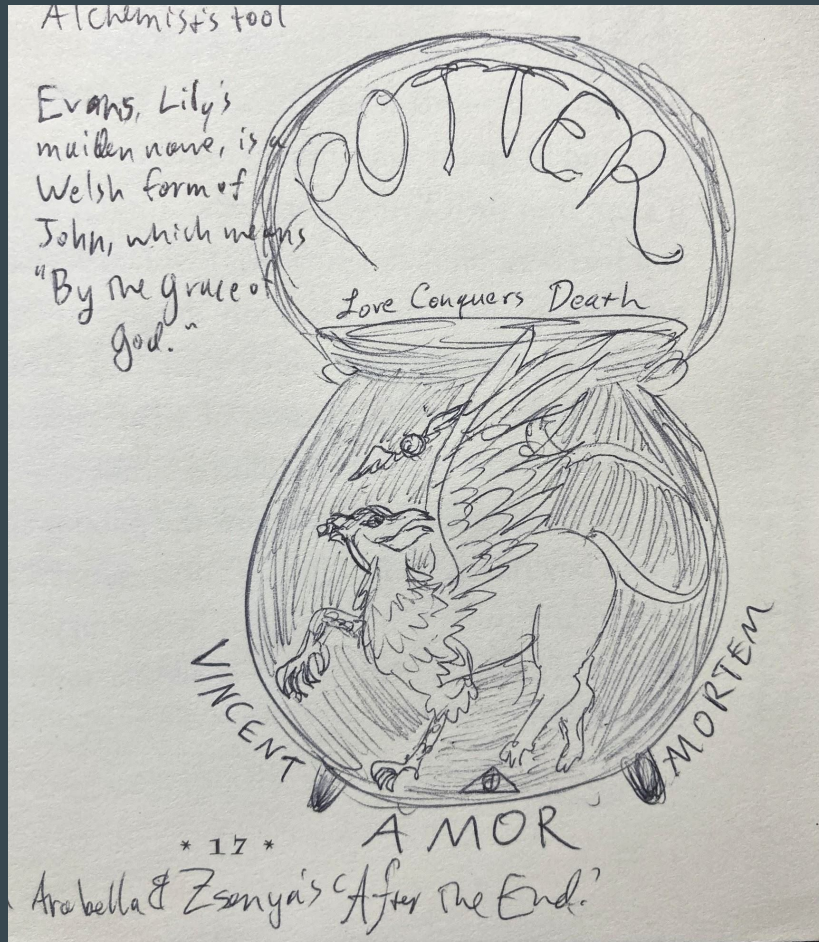
Reasons given in later books:

Lily's sacrifice imbues Harry with
protective magic

Dumbledore enchanted Petunia's
home, so that Harry will be safe there

Dumbledore hopes the Dursleys will
treat Harry with decency

How very wrong he was



Crest for "House Potter"

From a line in Arabella & Zsenya's fanfiction "After the End"

In a cauldron, or pot, a griffin plays with a Golden Snitch

The Latin (should) read "Vincit Amor Mortem": Love Conquers Death

Additional text reads, "Evans, Lily's maiden name, is a Welsh form of John, which means 'By the Grace of God'"

"Pot = Crucible = Alchemist's Tool"

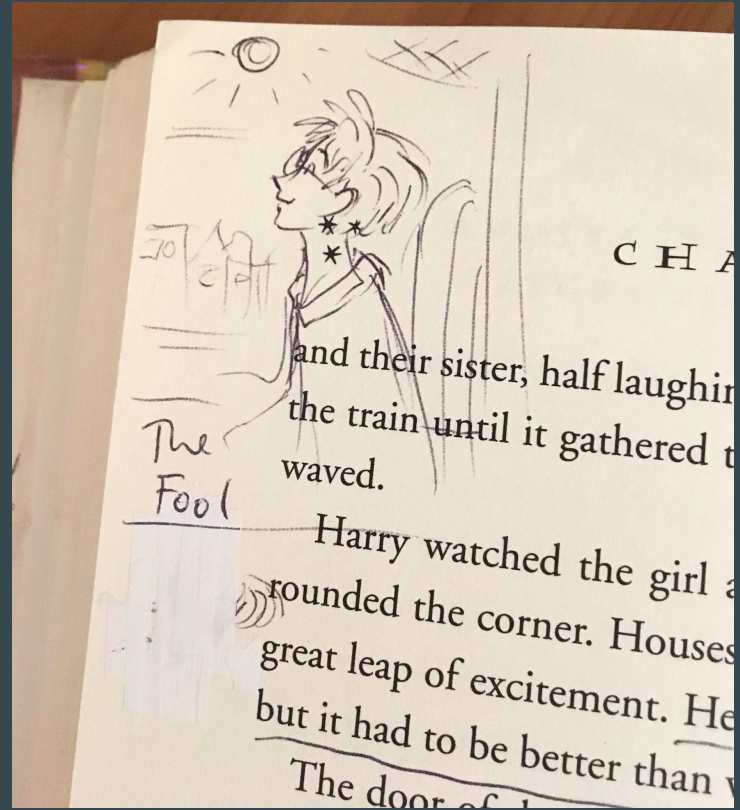
Tarot Annotations

Harry Potter, on his first journey on the Hogwarts Express. He is in profile, looking up to the sun.

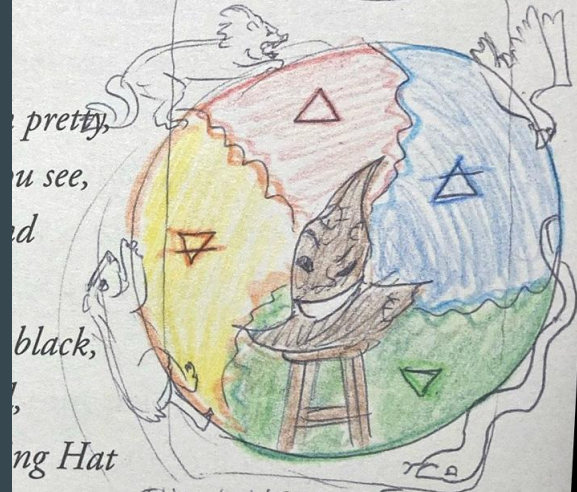
“The Fool” is a card from Tarot

The protagonist of the Tarot journey

Indicates new beginnings, plunging into the unknown



When the hat twitched. A rip
with — and the hat began to



THE WHEEL OF
FORTUNE

your head

you

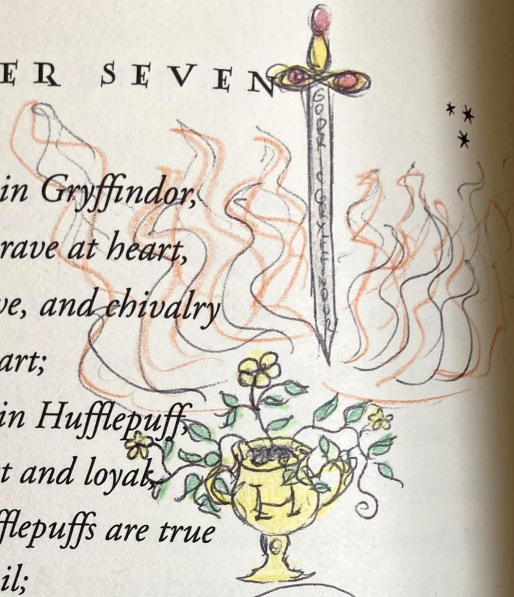
Placement: the Sorting Hat's first song
Tarot allusion: The Wheel of Fortune
Twists of fate, change, movement

Intertextuality:

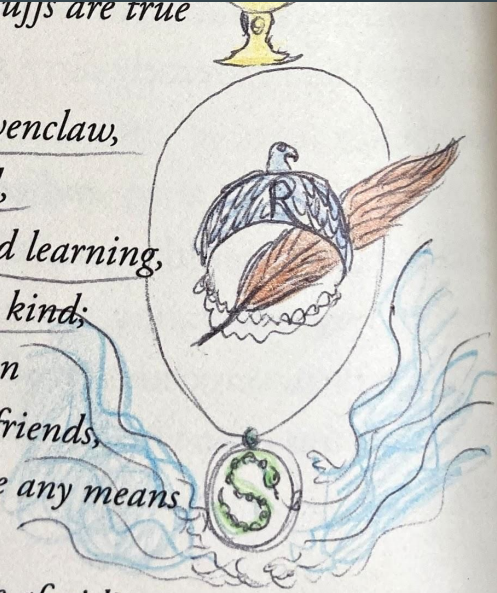
"The greatest illusion of this world is the illusion of separation. ... We are all one people, though we live as if divided."
From Avatar the Last Airbender, s2e19, "The Guru"

CHAPTER SEVEN

*You might belong in Gryffindor,
Where dwell the brave at heart,
Their daring, nerve, and chivalry
Set Gryffindors apart;
You might belong in Hufflepuff,
Where they are just and loyal,
Those patient Hufflepuffs are true
And unafraid of toil;*



*Hufflepuffs are true
of toil;
old Ravenclaw,
y mind,
wit and learning,
d their kind;
Slytherin
er real friends,
folk use any means
er ends.
Don't be afraid!
a flat!*



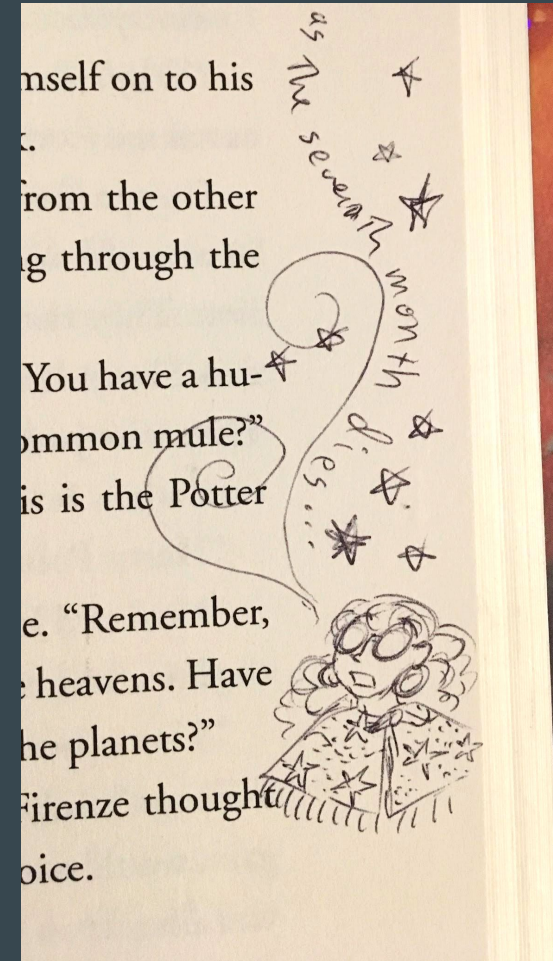
Detail of the relics of the four Founders of Hogwarts: this also foreshadows later books



Colored version of Mary Grandpre's illustration from chapter 9. Additional drawings depict other paintings of Hogwarts, with a few surprises.

Placement: when the centaurs Firenze and Bane have an argument regarding Harry Potter and "what is written in the stars"

Description: Sibyll Trelawney in a trance, looking up; the words of her first prophecy trail upward on the page. The words read "Born as the seventh month dies..."



"Sooner - much sooner - than I had anticipated, you found yourself face-to-face with Voldemort. You... fought a man's fight. I was... prouder of you than I can say."

- A. P. W. B. D., OorP.

**
*

C H A P T E R S E V E N T E E N

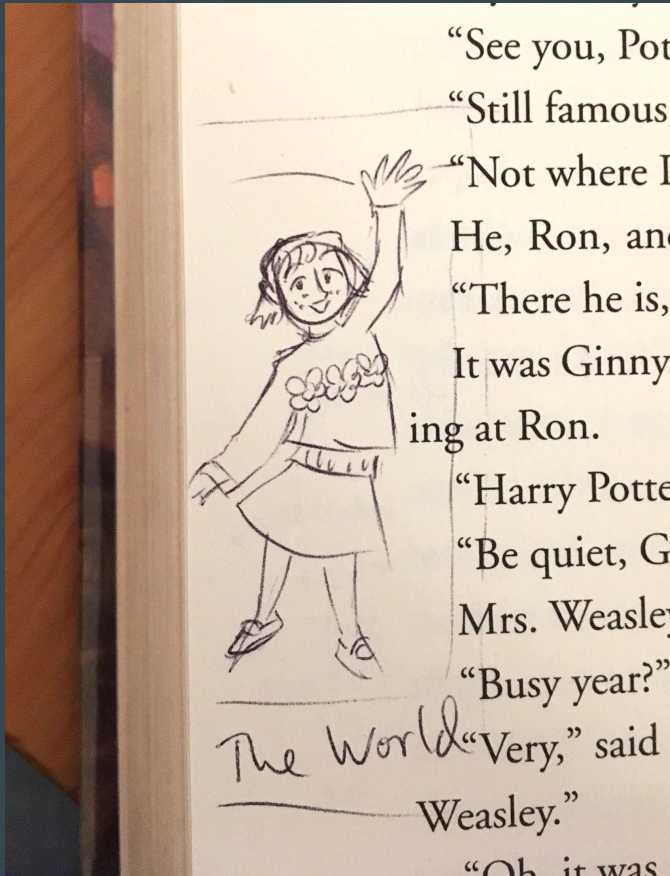
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ch. 37, The Last Prophecy

Harry stared at him. Then he remembered: "Sir! The Stone! It was Quirrell! He's got the Stone! Sir, quick —"

"Calm yourself, dear boy, you are a little behind the times," said

Harry's chat with Dumbledore, with a little perspective courtesy of Dumbledore in *Order of the Phoenix*.



Final Tarot annotation

Placement: the last page of PS/SS.
Ginny Weasley as "The World."

Signifies completion & joy

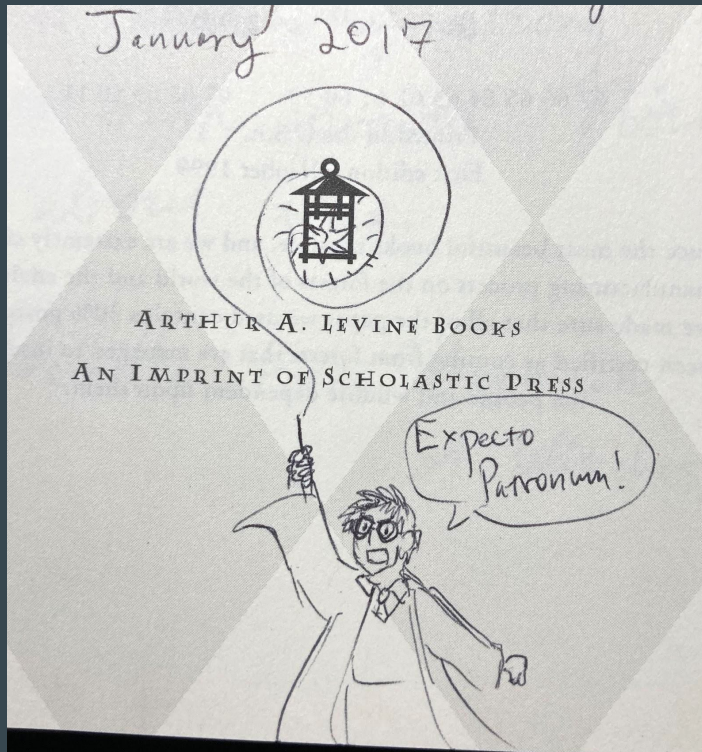
One cycle ends, another begins

In the Epilogue, Ginny's daughter
Lily fills this role

Epigraph for Prisoner of Azkaban

“But no one may know the shape of the tale in which they move. And, perhaps, we do not truly know what sort of beast it is, either. Stories have a way of changing faces. They are unruly things, undisciplined... That is why we must close them up into thick, solid books, so they cannot get out and cause trouble.”

Catherynne M. Valente, *The Girl who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of her Own Making*



Prisoner of Azkaban

“Arthur A. Levine Books, an Imprint of Scholastic Press”

Their symbol, a lantern, recurs in each of the American editions of *Harry Potter*

Harry lights the lantern with “Expecto Patronum!”

“In the air hung every element of Gryffindor student life. It was a rich, wonderful, dusty smell— old books and chess sets and late night fires, muddy broomsticks and victory parties, the tang of bursting Christmas crackers, the sour of spilled potions, and the old wetness of uniform cloaks, all heavy with the damp of holiday snowball fights... **The common room rang with a thousand years of courage.**”

From *After the End*, a fanfiction by Arabella and Zsenya

Notes for the Artists

If you want to try your hand at annotation, here is my advice

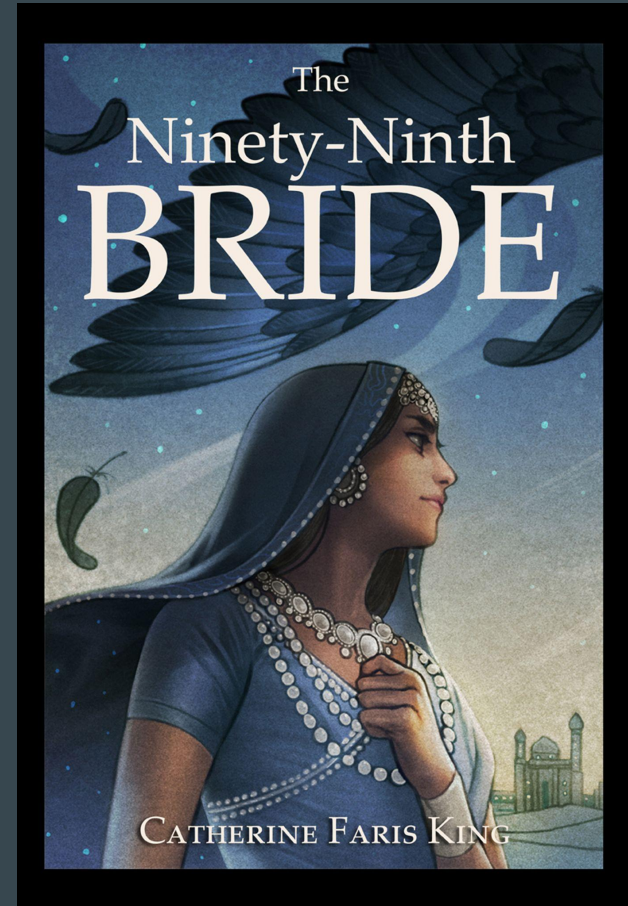
- Trust that YOUR voice matters
- You'll discover your preferences and tastes
- Take your time, enjoy the journey
- This is art!
 - Take chances, make mistakes, & get messy!

The Ninety-Ninth Bride

A YA fantasy retelling of *The One Thousand and One Nights*

A tale of sisterhood, survival, and a kingdom on the brink of disaster

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Catherine F. King

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House: Ravenclaw

Wand: Dogwood & unicorn hair

Thank you

