

Harry Who?

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A reader has emailed to ask my feelings about the Harry Potter phenomenon. I feel very out of that particular loop...have not read a single one of the books, not seen a single movie. During the past two weeks I got calls from a lot of media, including ABC News, wanting a statement from me regarding HP...but I couldn't reply except in a general way. Certainly the whole thing has been wonderful for the world of books and kids. It got kids reading, and talking about what they were reading, and looking forward to more reading...and three cheers for that.

I feel kind of sorry for J.K. Rowling, though, because she lost any vestige of privacy she ever had, and I don't know if she'll ever get it back. Anonymity is something writers savor, I think. No matter how popular a writer is, he/she can walk down the street and not be mobbed or photographed or intruded upon. But not so, I fear, for Rowling. The books made a celebrity of her and that part of it must be awful. I hope she can get her life back now.

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