**Harry Potter and Reading Ladders**

Millions of readers have read and reread the books in the *Harry Potter* saga. The magical combination of the story of an underdog learning how to become a wizard and defeat evil in all of its many guises struck a responsive chord for so many readers of all ages. How many times since then have we heard, “Got another one like this?” That is, in part, the guiding force behind reading ladders. Students find a good book and want to read other books “just like it.”

What do students mean when they ask for another book like the one they have read and loved? Our job as educators is to discover just what appeals to readers. In the case of *Harry Potter*, did they fall in love with the magic of Hogwarts and spells and wands? Or was the attraction more to the story of young Harry Potter coming into his own as a more and more mature character, wizard or not? Was the friendship of Hermoine and Ron enticing? How about all of the clashes against Voldemort and the other nefarious villains?

So, it stands to reason that a Reading Ladder for *Harry Potter* might just take off in many different directions. Here are only two possible variations on a *Harry Potter* Reading Ladder. Ladder A centers on the magic and the training of a young apprentice. Ladder B takes readers more into the motifs and archetypes that are present in Rowling’s magnificent world and ties them back to some of the classics of fantasy.

---

**Ladder A: Abracadabra! Magically delicious books**

- **The Once and Future King** by T. H. White
- **Inkheart** by Cornelia Funke
- **Great and Terrible Beauty** (trilogy) by Libba Bray
- **Immortals** series by Michael Scott
  (Alchemyst, Sorceress, Magician)
- **Bartimaeus** series by Jonathan Stroud
- **Skulduggery Pleasant** series by Derek Landy
- **Hunchback Assignments** by Arthur Slade
- **Septimus Heap** by Angie Sage
- **Magic Thief** by Sarah Prineas
- **Harry Potter** series by J. K. Rowling
Ladder B: Motifs and Archetypes in Fantasy

- Lord of the Rings series by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Dark Is Rising series by Susan Cooper
- Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis
- Abhorsen trilogy by Garth Nix
- Golden Compass trilogy by Philip Pullman
- Wizard of Earthsea series by Ursula K. LeGuin
- Lost Years of Merlin series by T.A. Barron
- Circle of Magic series by Tamora Pierce
- Redwall series by Brian Jacques
- Enchanted Forest series by Patricia Wrede
- Wizardry series by Diane Duane
- Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
Thank you for sampling this resource.

For more information or to purchase, please visit Heinemann by clicking the link below:


Use of this material is solely for individual, noncommercial use and is for informational purposes only.