



APA citation	Rowling, J. K. (2005). <i>Harry potter and the half-blood prince</i> . New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc.
Number of pages	652
Illustrator's name	GrandPre, M.
Genre	Fantasy
Age range	Grades 4 and up
Brief summary	<p><i>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</i> is yet another chapter of brilliance in the story of the most popular wizard of our time. While JK Rowling's popularity may indicate otherwise, her literary style is not considered amongst "the canonical greats of children's literature." However, her story line, character development, imagination, and her ability to subtly provide a powerful statement about sacrifice and friendship without preaching is exceptional. (Douthat, 2005) As the reader matures with Harry, there are pervasive messages of loss – loss that began with his parents and continued throughout the series - as well as the strength of friends - and, once again, subsequent sacrifice. For the adolescent reader, these are themes with which they can identify, sympathize, and empathize. Furthermore, the growing pains and onset of puberty that effect the trio of Harry, Ron, and Hermione are familiar to the readers. The fact that the Harry Potter books have captured and maintained their popularity across all ages and demographics in the genre of fantasy and myth is a testament to the quality and achievement of Ms. Rowling.</p>
Brief evaluation	<p><b>16/18</b></p> <p>While I consider myself an avid fan of Harry Potter and am confident that I have carefully read each book in the series, I find myself having to look back within Book 6 and revisit the first 5 books at various points throughout the story. While I don't think this is a huge downfall in Rowling's masterpiece, I think she would provide a great service to her readers by refreshing their memories of previous episodes in context.</p>
Awards	Quill Awards Book of the Year & Children's Chapter Book/Middle Grade Category

**Literature for Children & Young Adults**  
**EDST 6301 NA**  
**Rubric for Book Title Evaluation**

Criteria for Evaluation	0 Does not meet curriculum standards	1 Acceptable but not a first choice	2 Satisfactory	3 Right on target!
Plot	The plot is not interesting.	The plot holds the reader's attention and engages the reader.	The plot is intriguing and enjoyable.	The plot is engaging and provides a story line that invites the reader to turn to the next page!
Issue/Theme	The issue/theme is not pertinent to and/or inappropriate for the intended age group.	The issue/theme is engaging but is not handled in an impressive manner and/or does not thoroughly address the issue/theme.	The book carefully and effectively addresses a critical issue/theme for the intended age group.	The book appropriately covers relevant matters and enables the reader to critically think about his/her position on the issue/theme.
Characters	The characters are undeveloped.	The reader gets a sense of the characters and is somewhat able to get inside their thoughts and motivation but character development could be stronger.	The characters are well-developed. The reader is able to understand their motivation and behavior.	The character development is strong. The reader is able to empathize with their situations, understand their actions and reactions, and critically think about how s/he would behave in the characters' situation.
Dialogue	The dialogue is not effective and does not flow.	The dialogue strengthens the story and character development but is, at times, misplaced and overused.	The use of dialogue is appropriate and effectively provides character attributes, motivation, and assists with story development.	The dialogue is strong and the author makes careful word choices, effectively telling the story while letting the story tell itself.
Writing Style	The writing style is poor, the story line unclear. It is difficult to follow the progression of events.	The writing style and fluency is acceptable. The reader may be confused on occasion as to sequence of events.	The writing style is enjoyable and the story flows in a natural, coherent progression.	The book is well-written, clearly relays critical information, and exemplifies exceptional mechanics of writing.
Reaction & Response	The book does not provide insight or provoke independent thought, opinions, or ideas.	The book causes the reader to think about the story, characters, and theme but may send conflicting messages that are too confusing for the intended age group.	The book effectively evokes a personal reaction to the text.	The book elicits some sort of a strong emotional reaction while provoking further contemplation of the theme and guiding the reader to independent thought.