

A genre is a style or category of art, music, or literature for example - fantasy. The novels *The Hobbit*, written by J.R.R. Tolkien (1932), *Sabriel*, written by Garth Nix (1995), and *Harry Potter*, written by J.K. Rowling (1997-2007) all show fantasy and the four conventions of it in many ways. Characters, plots, settings and themes are showed perfectly through its many fictional, unreal and mesmerising elements featured in the engaging and fascinating novels.

*The Hobbit*, written by Tolkien, is a classic text that follows all the structural conventions of the fantasy genre taking the reader on a magical journey. Fantasy stories typically invent new worlds and new creatures - Tolkien does both these things on a grand scale. The story takes place in Middle Earth, a fictional world that resembles medieval Europe. "Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort". Tolkien uses contrasting imagery to describe the hole which enables the responder to create their own image of the hole and therefore effectively enables them to create their own fantasy world in their mind as they read the book, they are part of the journey. Therefore Tolkien's *The Hobbit* is a perfect example of a fantasy text as it is set in a world with many magical lands that do not exist in reality, and he is able to create these worlds through the use of visual imagery techniques that captivate the responders in the settings.

Plots are important in the novel as they contribute to the element of fantasy text. Plots of the fantasy genre typically include saving someone/thing. In the novel, *Sabriel* was born dead and is saved by her father, who sends her away from the Old Kingdom to Ancelstierre. *Sabriel* must return to the Old Kingdom to save her father from death after she receives a desperate call from her father for help where she is left having to leave Ancelstierre, and venture into the Old Kingdom. *Sabriel* is born dead where Abhorsen saved her from the clutches of death. Garth Nix uses personification to say Abhorsen saved her from the clutches of death, saying death has hands to clutch *Sabriel* with this enables the reader to develop a new perspective on death. Accordingly, Garth Nix's *Sabriel* is an ideal example of a fantasy text with a typical fantasy plot, Nix composes the novel using literary devices.

Rowling uses a variety of fantastical creatures and magical characters as part of her seven-part series *Harry Potter*. The characters have magical powers and they go to a school called Hogwarts to train and enhance their powers. In some rare cases, some characters can have no powers even though their parents are pure blood. In the *Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter* rode a Hippogriff, "a half-bird and half-horse creature" with "wings and heads of what seemed to be giant eagles, with cruel, steel-coloured beaks and large, brilliantly orange eyes. The talons on their front legs were half a foot long and deadly-looking." She uses descriptive language to make the hippogriff sound scary using words like deadly looking. This makes *Harry* sound very brave since he rode the hippogriff when no one else dared to. Consequently, *Harry Potter* is an ideal example of a fantasy text with magical characters that do not exist in real life.

The *Harry Potter* theme is largely about death, themes include death, good versus evil and love are just a few examples of themes. The books are about death, even at the beginning, it opens with a death - *Harry Potter*'s parents dying to save him against Lord Voldemort. In almost every book somebody dies and in the whole series the good side are trying to kill the evil side. Lord Voldemort's obsession is death, he is trying to conquer death at any price and become immortal. "Sir, I wanted to ask you something... I wondered what you know about... about Horcruxes?". Rowling uses dialogue to describe the conversation which allows the reader to create their own image of the conversation, as a result, allows them to get to know the character and revealing the characters actions and emotions. The theme of death is a major example of a theme in the *Harry Potter* books.

The novels *The Hobbit*, *Sabriel* and *Harry Potter* are all examples of a quality fantasy novel and all three use the main four conventions of fantasy. Characters, plots, settings and themes are all shown throughout these books, all contributing to fantasy in these well-written novels.