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The Story of Harry Potter: the Book vs. the Screenplay

In most cases, the book precedes the movie once the book has become a best seller. Usually in the film version, much can be lost. As you cram a 600-word story into 90-minute movie, you expect ruthless cuts. In the case of the *Harry Potter*, books and movies both have been done exceptionally well. Each is a deserved best seller in its own right enjoyed by everyone. They are works of fiction and inevitably, each has its own variation.

Of course, in a book each person reading the authors description will create what they imagine the author means. Whether it is a person, place, object, alien being each readers picture will vary. This is the advantage reading has over films. Reading allows your imagination to soar. Certainly, the material in the Harry Potter books allowed for great flights of imagination.

Movies, on the other hand, are very different. First, the information in the book must be converted into a script suitable for acting and filming, and only then does it reach the audience.

This can take away from the author's original story, and those changes can cause loss of mood and storyline. Apart from the script, writing the film process, then goes through costume designers, and a whole array of special effects that will greatly influence the final result of a movie.

The main result is that the freedom of imagination is impaired. The reader imagines a world, a Harry Potter, but the movie defines it. Harry is no longer the boy your mind imagined, it is now Daniel Radcliffe, who portrays the series' title character, Harry Potter.

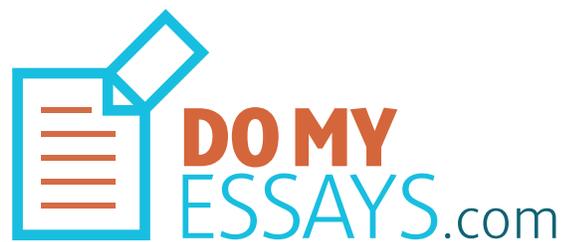
Many people will prefer the book version, and will argue that it is better because you get every word and thought, every subplot and nuance of the story. This is often motivated by the simple law of first impressions. Most who argue the book is superior do so, because they like reading, and read the book before watching the film.

However, many who see the movie may not be strong readers, nor have vivid imaginations. For them the movie takes them into a fantasy world full of fascinating events, people, creatures, parallel worlds, rich with strong special effects. Harry becomes a person they identify, not a figment of their imagination. In *Harry Potter* the screen, effects are awesome. The large vivid pictures and the magical music of the movie generate an emotional experience that enthralls the moviegoers, but cannot be experienced reading the book. The movie engages the mind, fantasies and imaginations of the spectators and creates an enchanted and enthralling experience.

In the *Harry Potter* movies, the storyline is the same as that of the books and the context is intact. Both media, therefore, are worth enjoying. To leisurely read the book, relaxing and letting your mind be delightfully entertained will be enjoyable. At the same time, to go with friends to a Harry Potter movie will let you enjoy and share a rich social event, with much to entertain and stimulate you in the rollercoaster ride of the movies flow of events. Both formats are excellent.

Work Cited

Rawlins, J.K. *Harry Potter*. London: Bloomsberry Publishers, 1986. Print.

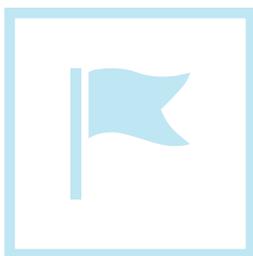


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