

**Neville Longbottom and a Different Kind of Magic:**

**A Leadership Theory Analysis of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series**

An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)

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## ABSTRACT

As scholars, theorists, and visionaries have attempted to define leadership, many have likened the power of the leader to real-world magic. The wizarding world of *Harry Potter* and the magic within it uniquely invite a reading through the lens of leadership theory. As witches and wizards face trials that allow us to see where they fit within the wizarding world, we can also see applications of several leadership theory models analyzed in this thesis: trait theory and the great man theory, adaptive/situational leadership, the five bases of power, transformational leadership, followership, empowerment, and emotional intelligence. This analysis focuses on two characters in particular: Harry Potter and Neville Longbottom. Some readers may have been surprised by the prominent leadership role Neville plays in the final installment; however, a look at his character development throughout the series through the lens of leadership theory demonstrates that this progression is not only understandable, but it is also inevitable.

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## KEY WORDS

Leadership studies; trait theory; power; situational leadership; transformational leadership; followership; empowerment; emotional intelligence; fat studies; Neville Longbottom; *Harry Potter*.