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Vývoj vedlejších postav ságy Harryho Pottera ve fanfiction

Development of Minor Characters from Harry Potter Saga in
Fanfiction

Diplomová práce

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Cíl, metody, literatura, předpoklady:

Diplomová práce pojednává o vedlejších postavách ságy Harry Potter od Joanne K. Rowlingové. Věnuje se jejich vývoji nejen v kontextu původního díla, ale hlavně v oblasti tvorby fanfiction literatury. Analyzuje charakter postav, mapuje jejich vývoj ve vybraných povídkách, novelách či útvarech typu drabble, poukazuje na jejich odlišnosti v různých literárních žánrech a rovněž je zařazuje do širšího rámce obecných charakterů. Okrajově se také zabývá postavami vzniklými pouze v tvorbě fanfiction, tedy v původním díle neexistujících, a pokouší se najít jejich společné či odlišné znaky, které poukazují na otevřenost struktury původní ságy Harry Potter.

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Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla jsem všechny použité prameny a literaturu.

V Hradci Králové dne 1.4.2019

Anotace

FÓLOVÁ, Anna. *Vývoj vedlejších postav ságy Harryho Pottera ve fanfiction*. Hradec Králové: Pedagogická fakulta Univerzity Hradec Králové, 2019. 63 s. Diplomová práce.

Tato práce představuje fanfikci a fanouškovskou tvorbu obecně. Uvádí její historický vývoj, reakce spisovatelů děl, podle kterých fanfikce vzniká a problémy s legální stránkou fanfikce. Popisuje fandom Harryho Pottera a jeho specifika, fandom také porovnává s fandomy ostatních děl převážně fantasy a science-fiction literatury. V praktické části potom analyzuje dvojici vybraných postav a jejich vývoj, které popisuje nejprve z pohledu původního díla, poté z pohledu fanfikce a posléze vývoj porovnává a shrnuje.

Klíčová slova: Harry Potter, Fanfiction, Fandom, Vedlejší postavy.

Annotation

FÓLOVÁ, Anna. *Development of Minor Characters from Harry Potter Saga in Fanfiction*. Hradec Králové: Pedagogical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové, 2019, 63 pp. Diploma dissertation.

This thesis presents fanfiction and fanwork in general. It introduces its historical development, reaction of the original work authors' and legal issues of fanfiction. This thesis describes fandom of *Harry Potter* and its particularities, compares it with other fandoms, mostly fantasy and science fiction works. In practical part it analyses two characters and their development from the point of view of the original work, then from the fanfiction point of view and in the end, it compares and summarizes the development.

Keywords: Harry Potter, Fanfiction, Fandom, Minor Characters

Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že bakalářská práce je uložena v souladu s rektorským výnosem č. 13/2017 (Řád pro nakládání se školními a některými jinými autorskými díly na UHK).

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1 GLOSSARY

Alternative Universe (AU) – a term used to characterize fanworks where author changed certain elements of the canon. Sometimes the AU deviates so far from the original story that it becomes almost an original fiction.

Badfic – fanfiction that is very badly written, either by accident or on purpose of amusement. Usually contains bizarre, absurd or pornographic content, bad spelling and poor structure.

Beta – a reader who has experience with writing, grammar and literature. Helps author by proofreading and therefore improving the quality of the story mainly from grammatical and structural point of view but can also add their opinion and creative ideas after discussion with the author.

Canon – a source that is considered authoritative by the fans. Specific to different fandoms (Books, films, series, games...). This term is borrowed from the theological terminology.

Crossover – a fanfiction, where more fandoms are combined. In story descriptions usually appears with “/” or “x”, so a story written as a crossover of *Harry Potter* and *Stargate* would be tagged either HP/SG, or HPxSG (more frequently the latter).

Curtainfic – a fanfiction where the characters are described in ordinary situation (such as shopping for curtains, cooking, reading books etc.)

Darkfic – grim and sometimes depressive stories written in deliberate contrast to the original story.

Disclaimer – a statement that the author of a fanfiction does not claim any copyrighted characters or concepts for his/her own.

Drabble – a piece of fiction (not necessarily a fan fiction) that is exactly 100 words long. Sometimes used for any extremely short piece of writing. Can appear in a form of double-drabble, triple-drabble, penta-drabble etc.

Fandom – community of fans interacting in some way, discussing, meeting either online or in real world. Differs in size, depending on how wide or narrow the definition of a fandom is (Science fiction fandom X *The Lost World* fandom).

Fanon – element that is widely accepted by fans but does not have to be necessarily originated from canon. It can be a detail from canon that gets more importance outside or a popular and repeated idea of fanfiction writers.

Fluff – fanfiction without difficult plot and unpleasant feeling. The point is to make reader feel good, the atmosphere is warm and uplifting, however it does not focus on sex.

Gen – type of a story where there is no emphasis on romance or sex.

Headcanon – fan's personal interpretation of canon, characters background and relationships between them (may become a fanon if there are enough people to support the idea).

Header – important piece of information about fanfiction, especially for its categorization. Usually contains some of these pieces of information: Fandom, Title, Author, Rating, Summary, Disclaimer, Warnings.

Hurt/Comfort – fanfiction focused on physical or emotional pain of one character, who is cared for by another character.

Mary Sue – a character both in fiction and fanfiction, who is usually talented and competent in many areas, physically attractive and admired by other characters. Generally presumed to be idealized self-insert of author into the story. Male version of Mary Sue is Gary Stu or Marty Stu.

Mpreg – male pregnancy, a story where men become pregnant. Usually explained by alien biology, medical experiments or magic.

Newbie – sometimes called babyfan, is a new member of fandom, who does not yet know its standards, behaviour and terminology.

Original Character (OC) – character created by a fanfiction author, not part of canon. Sometimes can be generally accepted and used by more authors.

Out of Character (OOC) – personality of characters develops differently than in the canon, can be deliberate or accidental.

One True Pairing (OTP) – fan's favourite pairing in the fandom, some fans are not interested in creating or consuming different fanfiction than their OTP.

Pairing (synonymous with **Shipping**) – supporting a particular romantic relationship, it can exist in the canon, but very often does not. There can be more “ships” in one story. Often part

of a header (e.g. if a story contains pairing Draco Malfoy and Hermione Granger, it can be marked by: Draco/Hermione, DM/HG, or Dramione)

Rating – part of a header, it indicates what audiences the fanfiction is appropriate for.

Real Person Fiction (RPF) – fanfiction about real people (celebrities, athletes, historical figures). It is controversial and on some archives it is forbidden.

Slash – fanfiction where characters of the same gender are placed in romantic or sexual situation. Usually refers to male/male pairing, female version is called femslash.

Smut – fanfiction genre where sexually explicit or pornographic features appear.

Wizarding World - a set phrase used by fans of *Harry Potter* meaning the part of the World existing only for wizards and witches – their community and some places like the Ministry of Magic, Diagon Alley, Hogwarts or Hogsmeade.

2 INTRODUCTION

Harry Potter is a phenomenon influencing generations of readers and the opinion that the books are only for children has been long proven wrong. On the contrary, many adult readers can find something of interest, whether it is just an escape from the mundane reality to the magical world or gaining moral lesson on equal rights and personal freedom.

The present diploma thesis maps the phenomenon from the perspective of the world of *Harry Potter* from the fanfiction literature, a phenomenon living and changing every day. To narrow this topic sufficiently I had to select some part of the topic to cover and the main characters of Harry, Ron or Hermione seemed a bit too well-worn. I turned my attention to the minor characters of the novel who are less important in the original story, but in fanfiction they can develop their full potential. But the amount of the stories and ideas described there was enormous. For this reason, I was also forced to limit my original intention of describing more characters. Initially I wanted to describe the Weasley family, Hogwarts staff and some other Hogwarts students who are popular in fanfiction, though were mentioned only briefly in the book. In the end I limited my thesis only on development of Hogwarts staff. Their development is interesting, and in a way, it connects all the other characters, since they interact with them and most of the stories take place at Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The first part of my thesis briefly introduces the phenomenon of fanfiction, its development and current issues, presents the original story of *Harry Potter* written by Joanne K. Rowling, describes fandom of *Harry Potter* and compares it with other fandoms. It also mentions official parodies, derivative works and legal issues concerning them. Many of the ideas and general opinions about fan world are gained from online archives and websites, making the fan world living and dynamic thing. On the other hand, quickly coming to existence, they can just as easily disappear, which makes them a rather problematic source of the thesis.

The second part of my work is devoted to the characters of the story. It analyses two teachers, Severus Snape and Minerva McGonagall - man and woman, head of Slytherin and head of Gryffindor, one character very controversial, one well-liked and steady character. My intention is to compare the characters and their development in the original story with what they become in fanwork, find connections, patterns, archetypes and popular topics. I plan to find out how the development in the fanfiction corresponds or on the contrary differs from the description in the

original story of *Harry Potter* by summarizing the characters in the original story, then in fanfiction in general, demonstrate the development on concrete stories and sum up the result.

3 WHAT IS FANFICTION

Fanfiction is a complex phenomenon. There are many different definitions of the term. Generally, fanfiction is a fiction based on original work (book, movie, series or computer game – referred to as canon), created by a fan, who uses some features from the original work. Fanfiction can be divided into several categories, such as *narrative fanfiction* (sometimes called fanfic or just FF); *songfiction*, when authors use songs or lyrics for their fictional works; *fan art*, which is a visual art equivalent of fanfiction; *fanvid*, when author is using a sequence of clips from movies or series, usually set to music; or *fanfilm*. Sometimes a fanfiction work combines these techniques of expressing author's ideas and intentions. These works are created as a tribute to the original work and are non-profitable.

As the non-literary categories mentioned above are slightly limited concerning their length, content and quality, this thesis will not deal with them. Nevertheless, it does not mean that the work would be much simplified. Fanfiction is a living phenomenon of our age and it is almost impossible to make some generally true conclusions, as they will be outdated tomorrow. Millions of people interested in fanfiction mean many interpretations of the canon, reactions to it and then interpretations of the fanfiction created in response.

The term 'fanfiction' came to existence in the first half of 20th century, however, that does not mean that fanfiction did not exist before. In general, it is a matter of intertextuality in larger or lesser extent. Writers have always reacted to the texts written before, whether they agreed with them or not. That response depends upon acts of reading and interpretation of the older work, building on the basis created by someone else and reaching a different conclusion by adding a new and personal view of the matter. Most experts and critiques agree on the fact that if all the reading and reactions were appreciative only, there would be no progress, both in language and in ideas. In my opinion the main change during the time is, that while in the past the only people who reacted to the texts with their own work were another writers, because the other readers did not feel competent to do that, today, with the massive spread of education, human rights and encouragement in self-development, everyone feels qualified to publish their writing. That leads to one of the critical points of intertextual understanding of literature, which says that the literature is exhausted, everything has already been written and the authors are only repeating

themselves and each other. One of the most interesting opinions on this deep existential problem of literature I have ever read is the one of Harold Bloom, literary critic and professor at Yale university. His thoughts resonate so much with my view of intertextuality and of literature in general, that it probably influenced whole direction of this thesis. Therefore, I think it appropriate to quote his thought from his book *The Western Canon*:

“THE SILLIEST way to defend the Western Canon is to insist that it incarnates all of the seven deadly moral virtues that make up our supposed range of normative values and democratic principles. This is palpably untrue. The Iliad teaches the surpassing glory of armed victory, while Dante rejoices in the eternal torments he visits upon his very personal enemies. Tolstoy's private version of Christianity throws aside nearly everything that anyone among us retains, and Dostoevsky preaches anti-Semitism, obscurantism, and the necessity of human bondage. Shakespeare's politics, insofar as we can pin them down, do not appear to be very different from those of his Coriolanus, and Milton's ideas of free speech and free press do not preclude the imposition of all manner of societal restraints. Spenser rejoices in the massacre of Irish rebels, while the egomania of Wordsworth exalts his own poetic mind over any other source of splendour.”

Bloom goes on about how the most important writers of the Western Canon do not respect any values. Therefore, whoever recommends reading their works in order to find basics of our morality is out of touch of present days social situation. Considering the characteristics of the writers mentioned above, reading these works to inspire ourselves in field of social, political, or personal moral values would destroy ourselves with selfishness and exploitation. Reading the Canon will not improve our personality in social context, it does not make one better or worse person.

“All that the Western Canon can bring one is the proper use of one's own solitude, that solitude whose final form is one's confrontation with one's own mortality.” (Bloom, 1994, 29-30)

The first fanfiction in the sense we understand it today appeared in reaction to Arthur Conan Doyle and his Sherlock Holmes short stories. The authors used a literary technique called pastiche.

“Pastiche is a literary work composed from elements borrowed either from various other writers or from a particular earlier author. The term can be used in a derogatory sense to indicate lack of originality or move neutrally to refer to works that involve a deliberate and playfully imitative tribute to other writers. Pastiche differs from parody in using imitation as a form of

flattery rather than mockery, and from plagiarism in its lack of deceptive intent.” (Baldick, 2001, p. 185,186)

Though this definition is valid, the same could be used for fanfiction. There has been a wide discussion on several websites on this subject, mostly among ‘Sherlockians,’ who seem to have taken term *pastiche* for their own. I tend to agree with the group who states that pastiche is more borrowing the complex literary style of the author, while fanfiction is borrowing certain elements like characters, but the style and form can vastly different. So, for this thesis I will suppose that all pastiche is a fanfiction, but not all fanfiction is a pastiche.

At first, fanfiction appeared in fan magazines, so called Fan-zines, often published for a limited amount of people. A great spread of fanfiction and its popularization came with Star Trek in 1960s, when the communities admiring it started to make meetings. There appeared more space for fan-zines selling and therefore bigger popularity for fanfiction authors who published their stories there. Following *Fan fiction and fan communities in the age of the Internet: new essays* by Karen Hellekson and Kristina Busse it can be mentioned as an interesting fact that even at that time most of the authors were women.

The real boom of fanfiction arrived during 1990s with the era of internet. With a massive access of people many online archives started. One of the most prominent and working till present days is fanfiction.net, which was launched on October 15, 1998 by Xing Li. It consists of thousands of fandoms and hundreds of stories are being uploaded daily (Fanlore.org). Naturally, such number of stories cannot be all high-quality works. Many of them are written by teenage girls and lack both maturity and originality of topics. And though it seems that anybody can write and post anything on these archives, there are certain limits that emerged during the website’s existence.

Songfic was banned in 2005, because some songfic authors copied the lyrics without disclaimers to the real authors of the song, therefore the owners of the website were concerned about copyrights. In the same year the 2nd person point of view fiction was banned, as it was considered possible child porn. The admin of fanfiction.net Gaaras1Girl wrote: “Say, for example, you’re reading a ‘You based fic’ that goes along just fine for a few chapters, but then comes to a part with a lemon (sex scene), that story is having someone run their hands down your buddy, exploring your more intimate attributes, removing your clothes, laying you down, you get the idea, yes? Now lets [sic] say that you’re 13 years old reading this story. The person responsible for writing said story is now guilty of child porn, and if an angry parent found out

they could not only sue the site itself but also prosecute the writer and have them labeled as a sex offender for the rest of their life” (fanfiction.net, Frequently asked questions).

Stories about real people (singers, actors, athletes and other celebrities) were also banned on this website for obvious reasons – frequently they were depicting violence or sexual motives, therefore damaging people’s reputation and it could even be called obsessive stalking. Though these stories are banned on fanfiction.net, there are many other online archives, which are posting them.

3.1 AUTHORS’ REACTION TO FANFICTION

Authors’ attitude to fanfiction differs significantly. Some authors are known to be enthusiastic about fanfiction and they encourage fans to be creative (e.g. Stephanie Meyer, author of *The Twilight* series or Joanne K. Rowling, author of *Harry Potter*). Others are less supportive, sometimes openly hostile towards authors of fanfiction using the world they created (e.g. Anne Rice, author of *The Vampire Chronicles* and George R.R. Martin, author of *A Game of Thrones*).

Though in some countries fanfiction is considered a derivative work and therefore a violation of copyright (e.g. USA – a relevant work on this topic is a paper by Aaron Schwabach *The Harry Potter Lexicon and the World of Fandom: Fan Fiction, Outsider Works, and Copyright*), in most countries it is not possible to take legal actions against it, as the authors usually do not make money by publishing their stories. Many online archives feature a list of authors whose work cannot be used for fanfiction inspiration and therefore respecting authors wish. However, the number of fans and their fanfiction or fanart is so great that it is not possible to effectively control what they do or do not respect.

Some authors change their opinion during the time. J.K. Rowling has limited topics of fanfiction about *Harry Potter* in 2003, asking the authors to avoid sexually explicit themes in their works. Her solicitors also sent letters to creators of websites posting such materials asking them to erase the offensive parts. She and Warner Brothers Entertainment won the lawsuit against Steven Jan Vander Ark, author of a *Harry Potter Lexicon* in 2008. Rowling herself said that she admired Mr. Vander Ark’s work and even used his lexicon to check some details she has already forgotten when writing the last books of the series, nevertheless that was before he expressed the intention to publish and sell his lexicon as a book, not only an encyclopaedia accessible online and free.

As shown above, there are many ways the fans can manifest their devotion to their favourite authors and their works. The *Harry Potter Lexicon* is only one website among many, though one of the few that was started and run for a long time by one person. There are websites supporting one or more fandoms, or giving information about fanfiction and its world itself, like Fanlore, an open encyclopaedia about fans, fandoms and fanworks where anyone can add articles about new facts, discoveries and phenomenon in fan world. On the same basis work most of the websites with information about individual fandoms, like LOTR Wiki (open encyclopaedia about *The Lord of the Rings*), Wookieepedia, the *Star Wars* Wiki or Jurassic Wiki (open encyclopaedia about the films originated in the novel *The Lost World* by Michal Crichton)

4 HARRY POTTER – THE ORIGINAL STORY

The original story of *Harry Potter* takes place in Great Britain during 1991-1998, with a prologue set in 1981 and an epilogue set in 2017. There are seven books written by J.K. Rowling about Harry Potter, each of them covers a year of his life, starting when he turns 11.

4.1.1 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's stone

Until his 11th birthday Harry Potter thinks he is an ordinary boy raised by his aunt and uncle, Petunia and Vernon Dursley, together with his cousin Dudley. He is an orphan, believing that his parents died during a car crash. Occasionally a weird thing happens around him, like hair growing overnight after a terrible haircut done by his aunt, or a pullover getting smaller and smaller, while Harry's aunt is trying to put it on to him. But then the mysterious letters start arriving and though the Dursleys try to prevent him to read them, eventually he gets the letter by a half-giant Rubeus Hagrid, who arrives in the middle of the night on Harry's 11th birthday. Hagrid tells Harry about the world of wizards, existing alongside the non-magical world, that Harry's parents were murdered by a dark wizard Voldemort and that Harry survived his attack with a lightning-shaped scar on his forehead, while Voldemort was banished. In addition Harry finds out that he is accepted to Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Though the Dursleys do not agree with this, they do not have much of a choice than letting Harry attend the school, as they are not courageous enough to argue with a half-giant.

With Hagrid's assistance Harry buys all the necessary things for the school in Diagon Alley, where he meets a number of interesting people, most importantly professor Quirrell, the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher and on the 1st of September takes train to Hogwarts. On the train he gets friendly with Ron Weasley, his future best friend, meets Hermione Granger, the best student of their year and gets in the first argument with his greatest rival at school, Draco Malfoy.

Arriving to Hogwarts castle he realizes he is not behind everyone else, as he feared and that everyone starts at the same level (except Hermione, who has learned all the books by heart before she arrived to school). While they study magic, a series of mysterious occurrences starts happening. By accident they find a giant three-headed dog guarding something in the third-floor corridor. On Halloween Harry and Ron fight a mountain troll which somehow got inside a castle and save Hermione's life, which makes them best friends for the rest of the story. Hagrid

get's a dragon egg from a stranger in a pub and the three friends find out that the thing guarded by the dog is Philosopher's stone, an alchemistic artefact producing gold and elixir of life.

Harry suspects that Severus Snape, the menacing potions master, wants to steal the stone to revive Lord Voldemort, which Harry tries to prevent. With help of Ron and Hermione he goes through all the magical protections set by other teachers to get to the stone first. However, when he arrives, he realizes that he was wrong, and it is Quirrell who serves Lord Voldemort and wants to steal the stone. Quirrell tells Harry that Snape hated James Potter and the hatred continues for his son, Harry, but he also tried to protect Harry's life, when Quirrell tried to knock him off from the flying broomstick with a curse. In the end Harry manages to protect the Philosopher's stone long enough for Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster and the most powerful wizard of the age, to arrive and save him.

4.1.2 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

The summer holidays do not go well for Harry, he does not get any letters from his friends and after a magic done in the house by Dobby the house elf, Harry is locked in his room by his uncle. His best friend Ron Weasley and his brothers save Harry with their flying car and take him to the Burrow, their family house, where Harry happily spends the rest of the holidays.

The long-awaited return to Hogwarts does not bring the joy Harry expected. The very first day he and Ron crash a flying car to the Whomping Willow, a savage tree on the school grounds. Then he has to survive desperately boring classes of Gilderoy Lockhart, the new Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher and furthermore he starts to hear a strange murmuring voice, which nobody else is able to hear.

On Halloween the caretaker's cat, Mrs. Norris is attacked and petrified, the first of the series of mysterious attacks. The legend of the Chamber of the Secrets spreads among the students – the Chamber was created by Salazar Slytherin, one of the Hogwarts founders and may be open only by his heir to purify the school from muggle born students. Majority of the students suspect Harry to be the Heir of Slytherin (though he is sorted to Gryffindor), because he is revealed to poses an ability to talk to snakes, an ability Slytherin was famous for.

While the attacks continue, Harry, Ron and Hermione suspect Draco Malfoy to be the Heir of Slytherin, as he does not hide his approval of attacks on muggle-borns. They make a Polyjuice potion to turn into his friends Crabbe and Goyle (Hermione accidentally uses a cat hair and has to spend some time in the hospital wing), only to find out that Malfoy is not behind the attacks.

In the bathroom where the first attack took place Harry finds an old diary and finds out, that it is magical. It belonged to Tom Riddle and he tells Harry that Hagrid opened the Chamber of Secrets 50 years ago.

Unfortunately, the diary gets stolen and the attacks intensify, Hermione is attacked as well. Hagrid is taken to Azkaban, the wizarding prison, but manages to tell Harry and Ron to follow the spiders to learn the truth. They do it and meet Aragog, a giant spider, who was believed to be the monster from the Chamber of Secrets. He tells them it is not true, and that Hagrid is innocent.

In the end Ron's sister, Ginny Weasley is taken to the Chamber of Secrets and Harry and Ron, who guessed in the meantime where the Chamber might be, go to rescue her. Harry arrives to the Chamber just in time to meet Tom Riddle, who tells him he is in fact Lord Voldemort and his diary is sucking life out of Ginny to return Voldemort to his full power. Harry manages to kill the Slytherin monster, basilisk, with the sword of Gryffindor and to stab Riddle's diary, therefore saving Ginny's life.

4.1.3 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

The third year brings to Harry fear of escaped prisoner, Sirius Black, whom everybody believes to be a killer of Peter Pettigrew and 12 muggles, and now seems to be after Harry. Hogwarts castle is guarded by Dementors, the Azkaban guards, evil creatures sucking happiness of people and if given the chance, stealing their souls. Harry has difficulties when getting near them, because in such case he hears voices of his dying parents in his head and relives the terrible experience from his childhood.

On the other hand, this year they have a great and capable teacher of Defence Against the Dark Arts, Remus Lupin, whom Harry likes and respects for his competence and kindness. Harry gradually finds out that he was a friend of his father and Sirius Black as well, because they attended Hogwarts together. He also finds out that Black is his godfather and that he betrayed Harry's parents to Voldemort.

In the meantime, Black breaks into the castle, first to attack the portrait of a Fat Lady, who guards the entrance to the Gryffindor tower, and then to attempt an attack on Ron in the dormitory full of sleeping people. Nobody understands this weird behaviour and it only increases the atmosphere of fear. Professor Lupin teaches Harry how to defend himself from the Dementors – with a Patronus charm.

Hagrid becomes the teacher of Care for the Magical Creatures with varying degrees of success. After the disastrous first lesson, after which his favourite hippogriff Buckbeak was accused of being dangerous and sentenced to death. On the day of the execution Harry, Ron and Hermione secretly go to visit Hagrid. When returning back to the castle, they are attacked by a huge dog, who turns out to be and Animagus, Sirius Black.

It turns out that he did not commit the murder he was sentenced for and that Ron's pet rat, Scabbers, is in fact Peter Pettigrew, who really betrayed Harry's parents to Voldemort. Remus Lupin arrives as well and confesses that he is a werewolf and his friends, Sirius Black, James Potter and Peter Pettigrew (so called Marauders in their school time), became Animagi to keep him company during the full moon, when he turned into a wolf.

By an unlucky coincidence Pettigrew manages to escape and sets out to find his master. Sirius Black flees from Hogwarts on Buckbeak, therefore saving his own and the hippogriff's life as well.

4.1.4 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

The fourth book starts with Harry having a dream about Lord Voldemort, in which Peter Pettigrew, so called Wormtail joined him and they are plotting Harry's death and Voldemort's rise to power. The pain in Harry's scar is so strong that it wakes him up from this dream. Though he is worried by this occurrence, he suppresses the feeling, because he is invited by his friend Ron to attend the Quidditch World Cup (the most popular wizarding sport, played on flying brooms). They enjoy the match immensely, but the night after the match someone conjures the Dark Mark, the symbol of Lord Voldemort for the first time since he was powerful.

When Harry and his friends return to school, they find out that the Triwizard tournament will take place at Hogwarts that year. They are pleasantly thrilled by the event, until Harry is chosen by the Goblet of Fire as the fourth champion for the tournament. The plot is interspersed by weird disappearances and everyone is afraid, that someone put Harry's name in the Goblet in order him to be killed during one of the tasks.

Again, the suspicion falls on Snape, especially when Harry finds out that he knows Karkaroff, the headmaster of Durmstrang (another wizarding school, famous for its emphasis on the dark arts) and that they both were accused of being Death Eaters – followers of Lord Voldemort. Harry, Ron and Hermione suspect that this is why Dumbledore hired Alastor Moody, a former Auror (dark wizard catcher), to be this year's Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher.

Harry fights his way through the tournament with the maximum support of his friends (not until after the first task – till that time Ron is jealous, because he thinks Harry put his name in the Goblet himself). And Hermione devotes her free time to liberate the house-elves, who often live in terrible conditions as slaves of wizards, but nobody seems to worry about that, because they live in that way for hundreds of years. In this book start the conflicts between Harry and Ron and later between Ron and Hermione, originated in their teenage age. Though they are more reasonable and go through more than average teenagers do, they can not avoid the inevitable relationship troubles from time to time.

The story culminates during the third task of the Triwizard tournament, when it transpires that the Triwizard cup is a portkey (an enchanted object able to transport people for long distances in an instant), which takes Harry and his friend Cedric Diggory, another Hogwarts champion, to an abandoned graveyard. There they meet Lord Voldemort and his servant Pettigrew. Cedric is killed, Harry captured, and Pettigrew uses Harry's blood for an ancient ritual to revive his master. Voldemort rises again, and Harry is lucky enough to escape, bringing Cedric's dead body back to Hogwarts. It turns out that Harry's name was put in the Goblet of Fire by a Death Eater, who was using Polyjuice potion all the year, to look like Alastor Moody.

4.1.5 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Harry hardly has time to pull himself together after the events of the previous semester, when he is attacked by two Dementors in the middle of the muggle town where his relatives live. He is accused from the improper use of magic in front of a muggle (his cousin Dudley was present to the attack) and has to attend a disciplinary hearing at the Ministry of Magic. He is cleared of all charges, but the Ministry uses this situation to damage his reputation in the Wizarding World, because they do not want to admit that Lord Voldemort is back. Harry spends the rest of the holidays in London, in the house of his godfather Sirius Black, who gave this house to the Order of the Phoenix (a secret organisation founded by Dumbledore to fight Voldemort and his Death Eaters) as its headquarters.

Harry returns to Hogwarts, where he finds out that Hagrid is not present, and his post is taken by a substitute teacher. Furthermore, this year Defence Against the Dark Arts became Dolores Umbridge, the senior undersecretary to the Minister of Magic, whom he met during the disciplinary hearing. Umbridge presses hard on the bureaucracy and suppresses the practical magic at her lessons. She forces a number of educational decrees limiting the power of the Headmaster and other teachers, so that Hogwarts are in the control of Ministry. Her punishing

methods are downright torture (appropriate first name chosen by J.K. Rowling), she keeps inspecting her colleagues and it is in her authority to fire them, if she finds them not suitable.

Harry, Ron and Hermione do not agree with this system and decide to establish an organization where they secretly learn practical defence – Dumbledore’s Army (they name it like this, because this is Ministry’s worst fear). Harry keeps dreaming about empty corridors ending in locked doors and occasionally getting flashes of Voldemort’s anger or other strong emotion.

Hagrid returns and tells the three friends that he went to contact the Giants on Dumbledore orders. He is beaten and bruised, but he has no time to explain, as his house is immediately inspected by professor Umbridge. Just before Christmas Harry has a vision of a great snake attacking Mr. Weasley, Ron’s father – his mind seems to be connected with mind of Lord Voldemort. Therefore, Dumbledore decides that Harry should learn Occlumency, a defensive technique of one’s mind against external mental attacks. As Snape is the one who is teaching Harry, the result is as poor as could be expected, because neither of them is able to overcome their mutual antipathy.

Dumbledore’s army is betrayed by one of the members to Umbridge, Dumbledore takes all the responsibility on himself and leaves Hogwarts. Umbridge is appointed as the new headmistress. Snape refuses to teach Harry anymore, because Harry saw one of Snape’s worst memories – James Potter and his friends bullying Snape at school. Hagrid reveals the secret of his continuing injuries, his half-brother Grawp, a giant he brought from his journey to their clan. Umbridge tries to arrest Hagrid with the help of a few other people in the middle of the night, but Hagrid flees, and professor McGonagall is seriously injured. Almost all the members of the Order of the Phoenix are therefore eliminated from Hogwarts, which Harry realizes in the situation when he needs their help most.

During the last final exam, he gets a vision of his godfather Sirius being tortured by Lord Voldemort at the Departure of Mysteries at the Ministry of Magic. Harry panics and rushes to the Ministry to save Sirius together with a handful of friends from Dumbledore’s Army. There they realize that it was a clever trap set by Lord Voldemort, who needed Harry to get a prophecy from the Departure of Mysteries to find out why Harry survived when he tried to kill him last time. A few members of the Order of the Phoenix arrive to help, and Sirius is killed during the fray by his cousin, Bellatrix Lestrange.

Harry meets Voldemort again and witnesses a fight between him and Dumbledore. Minister of Magic arrives just in time to see Voldemort disappearing. Harry is devastated both by Sirius’

death and by the information Dumbledore finally tells him – that Harry is connected with Lord Voldemort by a prophecy, which basically says that neither can live while the other survives. That makes it very likely that one of them is going to kill the other. Umbridge has to leave Hogwarts and the wizarding society is preparing for the war.

4.1.6 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Harry is still destroyed by death of Sirius, but at least he does not have to suffer for a longer time than necessary in the house of his aunt and uncle. Dumbledore comes to take Harry to the Burrow and on the way they stop by at Horace Slughorn, a former colleague of Dumbledore and convince him to return to Hogwarts. Slughorn teaches Potions, while Snape finally gets his long-standing wish and becomes the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher. Slughorn shows favouritism in the most apparent way, has a special club for students from important or well-connected families and enjoys the feeling of being influential.

Surprisingly Harry's best subject suddenly become Potions, thanks to an old potion textbook Slughorn gave him in the beginning of the school year, which is covered by hand-written notes by the previous owner, whose nickname – Half-Blood Prince – is written on the back cover of the book. Harry also takes private lessons from Dumbledore, where he learns about Voldemort's past and the secret how he managed to survive, when the killing curse was deflected. He learns that the secret of Voldemort's immortality are Horcruxes, objects in which a dark wizard can hide a part of his soul, and the key to find out how many of them he made is in professor Slughorn's mind. Slughorn used to be Voldemort's teacher at Hogwarts and he gave Dumbledore a false memory of the conversation he had with Voldemort about Horcruxes. It is Harry's task to get the true memory and though it takes a long time to accomplish this task, Harry manages it.

At the same time Harry suspects Draco Malfoy of being a Death Eater and of having some sinister plan in his mind and trying to find out what Malfoy is up to becomes a kind of obsession for Harry. It culminates when they accidentally meet in the bathroom, duel and Harry injures Draco with a curse he found in his Half-Blood Prince textbook and the curse turns out to be dark magic. Fortunately for both young men Snape manages to save Draco's life and Harry gets detention for the rest of the semester.

After the last Quidditch match of the season Harry dates Ginny, who was his secret crush from the beginning of the year and at last he gets a few weeks of pure happiness in his life. This short

period has to end, however, because Dumbledore takes Harry with him to a place where he thinks might be a Horcrux hidden. They indeed find a place where a Horcrux is supposed to be, protected by a lake full of Inferi (dead bodies enchanted to do dark wizard's bidding). In the meantime, Draco Malfoy fulfils his plan and gets Death Eaters inside the Hogwarts Castle, where they want to kill Dumbledore. When Harry and Dumbledore return, there is the Dark Mark above the highest tower. They get there, Harry under his invisibility cloak and Draco Malfoy disarms Dumbledore. Harry witnesses their conversation about Draco's task to kill Dumbledore, but Draco seems unwilling to finish his task. In the end Snape arrives and kills Dumbledore.

Dumbledore is buried in the white tomb on the Hogwarts grounds. After the funeral Harry decides to go on with the plan Dumbledore set him and his friends – not to come back to Hogwarts the next year and go to find and destroy Horcruxes.

4.1.7 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Voldemort is getting more and more powerful. Harry is staying at his aunt and uncle's house for the last time in his life, because the magical protection the place provided him is about to finish with his 17th birthday. The Order of the Phoenix decides to transport Harry to safety a few days before his birthday. They are attacked by the Death Eaters and though Harry manages to get to the Weasleys' house safely, the Order pays a high price for that – Alastor Moody, one of the most important members, is killed by lord Voldemort.

Harry stays at Weasleys for a couple of days, especially for the wedding of Ron's older brother Bill to Fleur Delacour. However, the wedding is disrupted by the attack of Death Eaters and Harry, Ron and Hermione have to flee.

They stay in the house on Grimmauld place, which was left to Harry by Sirius. Gradually they find out about one of the Horcruxes and the fact that it is now in possession of Dolores Umbridge, their hated ex-professor. The three friends have to plan a break in into the Ministry of Magic, where Umbridge started a Muggle-born registration commission, an organization suppressing muggle-born witches and wizards. They manage to get the Horcrux, but in the wild flight they accidentally reveal their hiding place and Ron is injured. From this moment on they have to travel around the country, live in a magical tent and try to avoid detection, while attempting to find and destroy the remaining Horcruxes.

The high level of discomfort, fear, boredom and constant presence of a Horcrux they got, but were so far unable to destroy led Ron to a quarrel with Harry and Hermione and he leaves the two friends. Harry and Hermione are trying to cope with the loss, but it is difficult for them. They set out to Godric's Hollow, Harry's birthplace, where they want to find Bathilda Bagshot, an old friend of Dumbledore, hoping she could help them with the destruction of the Horcrux. They found out they need a sword of Gryffindor to destroy the Horcrux and they hope Dumbledore might have left it at her house. This turns out to be a trap, Bathilda is dead for several months by the time they get there and Voldemort's snake Nagini is waiting for them. They manage a narrow escape, both bruised, but otherwise unharmed, but Harry's wand is broken. Harry also experiences a strong vision of Voldemort's memory of the night when Harry's parents were killed, and the deflected curse hit Voldemort himself, a vision much stronger than the previous flashes Harry experienced since Voldemort got his physical body back.

Just one day later Harry keeps a night watch at the entrance of the tent, when he sees a mysterious silver doe. He follows her through the forest to a frozen pool and at the bottom he sees the sword of Gryffindor. Harry tries to retrieve it but forgets to remove the Horcrux (a locket) and it tries to drown him. Only Ron's timely arrival saves him and together they destroy the Horcrux.

Reunited again, the friends become more optimistic and follow the clues to Mr. Lovegood, their Hogwarts classmate's father. He tells them about the Deathly Hallows, a set of artefacts (an Elder Wand, a Stone of Resurrection and a Cloak of Invisibility) that enable wizard who possesses them all to become a master of death. It is a tale, but it becomes an obsession for Harry, who imagines himself as master of death and therefore defeating Lord Voldemort, whose Horcruxes would not match the Hallows.

Harry's carelessness leads to revelation of their tent by Death Eaters and they are captured. The Death Eaters take them to the Malfoy Manor, which Voldemort uses as a temporary base. When they arrive there, Voldemort is not present, as he is searching for the Unbeatable wand far away in Europe. Hermione is tortured by Bellatrix Lestrange and with help of Dobby, the house-elf, and manage to take the other prisoners with them, but Dobby is killed.

The shock of Dobby's death helps Harry to break his obsession and make an important decision to find and destroy the other Horcruxes. Harry, Ron and Hermione stay at Bill and Fleur's place, the Shell Cottage together with the other rescued prisoners. From the hints Harry took when

Bellatrix was interrogating Hermione they guess that another Horcrux is hidden in Gringott's bank and they plan a break in together with a goblin whose life they saved when they took him from Malfoy Manor.

Disguised they break in into the bank, get the Horcrux and escape on a dragon, which is guarding the most important vaults at the bank, but lose the sword of Gryffindor. Voldemort finds out about the break in and guesses that the friends are after his Horcruxes. His fury causes Harry another vision of Voldemort's mind and when Voldemort decides to check on all his Horcruxes, he accidentally reveals to Harry the location of the one they needed to find – Hogwarts.

Harry, Ron and Hermione set out to Hogwarts immediately, manage to sneak into the castle with help of Aberforth Dumbledore, Albus's brother and find out that most of the Dumbledore's Army, the defence organization Harry founded two years ago is expecting them in the Room of Requirement, because they heard of the break in to Gringott's. Harry does not know what exactly the Horcrux is, he has the only clue, that it might have belonged to Ravenclaw. He sets out to Ravenclaw tower where he is attacked by the Carrows, the Death Eater twins who are currently teachers at Hogwarts, lead by a new headmaster, Severus Snape. Harry defeats the Carrows, meets professor McGonagall and tells her that they need to defend the castle from Lord Voldemort. Snape is banished from Hogwarts and the teachers and Dumbledore's army are preparing defences, while evacuating the younger students away.

In the meantime, Ron and Hermione get into the Chamber of Secrets, where they destroy the Horcrux from the bank with fangs of the basilisk Harry killed in his second year. Harry guesses what the remaining Horcrux is and where to find it and when the friends meet again, they lose no time in getting the Horcrux. They destroy it and then set out to find the last one, Voldemort's snake Nagini. For Harry it is not difficult to get inside Voldemort's mind, as Voldemort is constantly angry, and his defences are low. Harry finds out that Voldemort is in the Shrieking Shack and the friends set out through the battle that goes on in the castle. They use the old secret passage under the Whomping Willow to get to the Shrieking Shack.

Hidden under the cloak of invisibility they hear a conversation of Voldemort with Snape. Voldemort believes that Snape is the master of the Unbeatable wand, because he killed its last master, Albus Dumbledore. In order to master the wand, Voldemort uses his snake Nagini to kill Snape. Voldemort leaves the shack before Snape dies and Harry gets some memories from the dying man.

Harry, Ron and Hermione get back to Hogwarts, where the battle ceased for one hour, a time limit given to Harry by Voldemort to give himself up and come to the Forbidden Forest to meet Voldemort. The friends are overwhelmed by the amount of people who died defending the castle. In a desperate hope to escape the reality Harry goes to headmaster's study and watches Snape's memories in the pensieve (a magical tool to watch someone else's memories). Harry finds out that Snape was all the time on the side of the Order of the Phoenix, because he loved Harry's mother so deeply it caused him to work against Voldemort, when Voldemort decided to kill her and her child. Dumbledore's death was planned and agreed on by Snape and Dumbledore and Snape was trying to protect Lily Potter's son, Harry, with all his might. Most importantly Harry finds out that he is a Horcrux too, a Horcrux Voldemort never intended to make, but when Voldemort set the curse and therefore split his soul again, the piece of the soul attached itself to the only other living being in the room – Harry.

Harry naturally decides to sacrifice himself in order to make Voldemort mortal again and uses his invisibility cloak to slip unnoticed through the castle. He uses the Stone of Resurrection to call the echoes of his parents, Sirius Black and Remus Lupin (who died during the Final Battle) to give him strength to do what he must do. Harry finds Voldemort in the Forest and lets him to use Avada Kedavra, the killing curse.

After being hit by the killing curse, Harry finds himself on a mysterious empty space, where he meets Albus Dumbledore, who explains everything about the situation that is happening right now, that Voldemort killed the part of his own soul living in Harry. Dumbledore then talks about his obsession with the Deathly Hallows when he was young, death of his sister, the plan of defeating Voldemort. And also about the option of return to the world of living people that Harry has.

Harry does not want to leave his friends and decides to return. He finds himself lying on the forest floor, where he has fallen when hit by the killing curse. He pretends to be dead and is carried by the celebrating Death Eaters back to the castle. Neville Longbottom, Harry's classmate, kills Nagini, the last remaining Horcrux. In the commotion that follows Harry uses his invisibility cloak to get out of sight. The people start to battle and get back in the castle. Molly Weasley kills Bellatrix Lestrange in a duel and before Voldemort can unleash his wrath to the surrounding people, Harry shows himself again. Voldemort does not understand how it is possible and therefore gives Harry a chance to publicly explain what he learned from Snape's memories and his own vision meeting with Dumbledore. When Voldemort tries to kill Harry

again, his and Harry's curses meet mid-air and deflect each other. Voldemort is then killed by his own deflected curse.

An epilogue takes place 19 years later, depicting Harry married to Ginny and Ron to Hermione, seeing their children out on the platform 9 ³/₄ to take a train to Hogwarts.

From this brief description it is obvious, that the number of characters contained in *Harry Potter* is enormous, therefore the process of choosing characters to analyse was complicated. In the end I decided to analyse two Hogwarts teachers, Severus Snape and Minerva McGonagall. The reasons behind this decision were several, one of them is undoubtedly the fact that I myself am studying the Faculty of Education, so it was interesting to research fanfiction authors' attitude to teachers, mingling with their favourite literary world. Furthermore, from their position of teachers Severus and Minerva (together with other teachers) are connecting and influencing most of the other characters of the story. Most importantly, while still minor characters, they were mentioned frequently enough in *Harry Potter* to be important for the story and there is sufficient amount of canonical information to be compared with what they become in fanfiction.

As the fandom of *Harry Potter* is so vast, it sometimes fractions itself into smaller groups of fans and fanfiction authors specializing themselves on certain aspect of the story. Hogwarts teachers are no exception, there are sections of fanfiction websites and forums dedicated just to them, like Hogwarts Staff on fanfiction.net, or Hogwarts Professors on archiveofourown.org. However, all these sections have some features in common and together they create a various and miscellaneous fandom, as shown in the following chapter.

5 HARRY POTTER COMMUNITY

Fandom of *Harry Potter* belongs to one of the biggest fandoms there are. It is because of a mixture of conditions which occurred at the right time. One of the factors is unquestionably an interesting plot, unusual at that time, causing fantasy literature to gain popularity rapidly. Another advantage of *Harry Potter* was a good timing. It was published during the period of massive spread of internet and children who grew up with *Harry Potter* world also grew up as the first generation with internet accessible from every household. The series being published during a decade (1997-2007) gave these children (gradually teenagers and then young adults) time to understand and react to individual books with their own fanwork and therefore insuring wide and stable basis of the fandom. These children are now adults with their own families, but the passion for *Harry Potter* world did not fade away. Often, they inspired also their family members to read and become fans of the story, and though they may not become active members of the community, they offer the support needed for the authors of fanfiction and in a way also improving the quality of the fanwork created. It is not unusual that such a parent encourages the child to read *Harry Potter* and when the child reaches the end, he/she inspires a parent to become a fanfiction author, as the parent invents stories about the world they now both like. These stories are usually a Gen or Fluff genre, as they are intended for children, but can develop in a more serious piece of work, just as the original story did.

The number of fans is enormous and *Harry Potter* fandom quickly established its position among others, which often had a longer tradition and many devoted fans. Indeed, a devoted fan is a necessary condition for fanfiction existence, because they are both ideal creators and recipients of it. Following *Textual Poachers* by Henry Jenkins, the fact that word 'fan' has its roots in Latin 'fanaticus,' originally referring to religious beliefs and worships, later more generally to any excessive enthusiasm or even madness, is crucial here. Many fans become 'fanatics,' in a sense that the world of *Harry Potter* became part of their inner world, their daily existence (though Jenkins demonstrates this phenomenon on different fandoms, as the book was published before *Harry Potter*). Jenkins further suggests that fans (and especially female fans) feel a need to obtain total intimacy with their favourite piece of fiction (or movie, comic, computer game, etc.). Based on these suggestions I believe this to be one of the most important factors there is so much fanfiction written about *Harry Potter*.

Till this day (6.1.2019) there are more than 88 000 stories from *Harry Potter* fandom on fanfiction.net. And that is just one online archive (mostly in English, minority of stories are in other languages). Other nations have their own archives with thousands of stories. The fandom is also supported by existence of websites where J.K. Rowling herself contributes – pottermore.com. It was launched in 2012 and they call themselves a digital heart of J.K. Rowling’s Wizarding World. Readers can explore various features of the story there, being sure that what they find is truly approved by the author, and after logging in they can find out what house they would belong to or what wand they would get.

There are also other works related to *Harry Potter* created or collaborated on by Rowling, as a theatre play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, or *Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them* movies, for which Rowling wrote a screenplay (as her debut in this area). For make the Wizarding World more interesting internationally, Rowling described some other wizarding schools from all over the world, although they were not mentioned in the original story (Castelobrujo in Brazil, Ilvermorny in North America, Mahoutokoro in Japan or Uagadou in Africa). In this way she made it easier for fans to identify themselves with the world which was created hundreds and thousands of kilometres far from their cultural area.

Harry Potter community is so wide that there is a number of meetings every year, ranging from smaller gatherings and local meet ups to international conferences and symposiums which allow fans to commune with professionals from the fields of literature, psychology, sociology or ethics, enjoying their professional opinions and analysis of various aspects of their favourite fiction. Some of them are focused more on enjoying the atmosphere, meeting with movie stars, attending performances of music bands and buying various merchandise, others are a kind of cross between a fan convention and an academic symposium which can result in a highly instructive and useful collections of essays, e.g. Selected Papers from Nimbus-2003 Compendium: We Solemnly Swear These Papers Were Worth the Wait (the name of this paper is a reference to *Harry Potter* as well. One of the magical artefacts Harry gains in his third year is unlocked by a phrase “I solemnly swear that I am up to no good”). To mention just a few of the meetings: Nimbus in Orlando, 2003; Lumos in Las Vegas, 2006; LeakyCon taking place in different cities from 2009 till present.

5.1.1 Harry Potter Parodies

Though mentioned before, I return to the topic of *Harry Potter Lexicon* and legal issues with fanfiction, this time focused on the Wizarding World of J.K. Rowling. The Lexicon is not so

much of a narrative fanfiction, as an encyclopaedia of Harry Potter and logic can be seen in the decision of the court that it should not be published and profited from. There are others however, that are probably more controversial than *Harry Potter Lexicon* and they are being published around the world. One of the most famous is *Tanya Grotter* by Russian writer Dmitri Yemets. Though he claims that *Tanya Grotter* is a parody and a cultural reply to *Harry Potter*, it was decided that his work is a plagiarism, therefore it was banned to publish it in Great Britain. Rowling and Warner Brothers tried to do the same in Russia, the homeland of Tanya Grotter, but failed in obtaining a cease and desist order there. In Russia, Tanya Grotter gained the same popularity as Harry Potter, if not greater. It contains many features that refer to Russian and Slavonic culture, such as Baba Yaga or rusalki, but the similarity with Harry Potter is too significant, to be overlooked. The best comparison is shown in the following table, which for lack of other sources had to be copied from Wikipedia:

Harry Potter	Tanya Grotter
Harry's parents are killed by an evil <u>wizard</u> , <u>Voldemort</u> (in Russian translation, Volan-de-Mort)	Tanya's parents are killed by an evil witch, Chuma-del-Tort
He thinks they were killed in a car crash	She thinks her mother was killed in an avalanche, and her father is in prison
He has a mysterious scar on the forehead	She has a mysterious birthmark on the nose
He is left on the doorstep of his aunt and uncle, Vernon and Petunia <u>Dursley</u>	She is left on the doorstep of her second cousins, Ninel and Germain Durnev
They treat him poorly, spoiling their own son <u>Dudley Dursley</u>	They treat her poorly, spoiling their own daughter Penelopa ("Pipa")
When he is 11, having no previous knowledge of his powers, he is invited to Hogwarts, a school for wizards and witches	When she is 10, having no previous knowledge of her powers, she is invited to Tibidox, a school for difficult-to-raise mages
The remote Hogwarts can only be reached by train from a secret platform	The remote Tibidox can only be reached by flying or teleportation
He makes two special friends	She makes two special friends
He becomes an outstanding player of <u>Quidditch</u> , flying on a <u>broom</u>	She becomes an outstanding player of Dragonball, flying on a <u>double bass</u>
Voldemort seeks the <u>Philosopher's Stone</u> , hidden at <u>Hogwarts</u>	Chuma-Del-Tort seeks an amulet, which turns out to be Tanya's birthmark

The story's climax is at the school's depths	The story's climax is in the school basement
Harry and friends fight Voldemort's henchman	Tanya and friends fight Chuma-del-Tort
They win, but the Philosopher's Stone is purposefully destroyed.	They win, but the amulet is lost
Harry's first school year ends	Tanya's first school semester ends

There are however parodies which are widely accepted and sold around the world and were not sued for a breach of copyright. To mention a few of the most successful and well known, there are e.g. *Barry Trotter* series by Michael Gerber published in the UK, *Porri Gatter* series by Andrey Zhvarevskiy and Igor Myt'ko in Russian, *Harry Cover* comic book by Pierre Veys in French or *Harry Trottel* series by Peter M. Jolin (pen name of Jana Divišová) in Czech.

While parodies are popular within the fandom, they are just one small part of it.

5.1.2 Comparison with Other Fandoms

There are many ways in which fandom can develop. Certainly, the general direction is determined by the original work around which the fandom is created. The fans identify themselves with the story or with various characters. Often the most devoted fans create groups or communities which gain a name after some time, e.g. Potterheads (fans of *Harry Potter*), Sherlockians (fans of *Sherlock Holmes*), Trekkies (fans of *Star Trek*).

There are many fanfiction romances in *Harry Potter* with various pairings, but the percentage is not as high as e.g. in *Twilight* fandom. High number of slash stories also appears in *Harry Potter* fandom, but not so much as in the *Lord of the Rings* fandom (but that can be simply the fact that J.R.R. Tolkien did not use many female characters, so fanfiction authors nowadays seem to struggle with this fact either by putting in their OCs – often Mary Sue – or writing slash stories). When considering *Stargate* fandom, most of the stories focus on saving Earth (or some other world indeed), adventures of the main characters and importance of bravery and self-sacrifice. All these features can be found in *Harry Potter* fanfiction too.

Harry Potter fandom is one of the largest, which provides plenty of space for all the genres and topics of fanfiction possible. J.K. Rowling used an unusually high amount of characters with many features, strengths and weaknesses, social and psychological patterns and prejudices.

Therefore, the fandom itself is various and universal and it cannot be described as taking one general direction.

6 HARRY POTTER FANFICTION

6.1.1 Stories Filling in the Grey Areas (Missing Scenes)

Stories filling in the grey areas are in my opinion the best, as they do not contradict the original story. Authors are bounded by the events that happened in the book, so the main challenge of these stories lays in developing a completely different background for them and opening a wide field for different interpretation of these events. Popular method is also retelling the events in more details, for example the memories of Dumbledore and himself that Snape gives to Harry to convince him to sacrifice himself in order to defeat Lord Voldemort.

A rather specific kind of these stories are those which try to fix or explain mistakes made in books. These prove that their authors spent a great deal of time thinking both about the original stories and about their own story, so that they fit with each other. One example for all is from the last book, when Harry, Ron and Hermione are attacked by the Death Eaters in a café and Hermione says that she has never done a memory charm before, but she knows the theory. This must strike the readers as strange, as she stated before that she modified her parents' memory and sent them to Australia. In this particular case ("Phoenix Tears or, Hermione Granger and the Deathly Hallows" by *Grangerous*), Hermione realizes the mistake immediately and though Harry does not notice anything, Ron asks her about that. Her offered explanation that erasing and modifying someone's memory is something completely different is sufficient for Ron and he does not question her any further.

Popular are also biographical stories, where authors develop their heroes with a few original information, but the result is completely believable and in harmony with the character described in the books. An example can be drawn from Czech authors – a writer who works under a nickname KattyV and her story "McGonagallova dcera". As the name indicates, this story deals with the life of Minerva McGonagall from her early childhood, through the period of time the books deal with, till the time after the Final battle when she becomes the headmistress of Hogwarts. When mentioning this story, I must also point out that the author did a very good job in presenting political situation, historical events and geography of Scotland without being boring or too descriptive.

Fanfiction that takes place in future lies on the edge of the category of stories that fill in the grey areas and Alternative universe stories. The authors are safe in sense of not contradicting the story and free to work with the characters and their development as they wish. Very popular heroes of these stories are the children of the original characters (both those mentioned in J.K. Rowling books and those completely invented by the fanfiction authors). An example definitely worth reading can be found also among Czech authors – Richenza and her story “Bless the Child”. However, she changed one of the facts in the original story; she let Severus Snape survive. The main hero of “Bless the Child” is Joshua, the son of Hermione Granger and Severus Snape. He is a Child of Destiny, predestined to fight the worst dark wizard of all ages, Gellert Grindelwald (killed in the original story by Lord Voldemort), who, according to Richenza, also had a horcrux and survived the killing curse, just like Lord Voldemort did when he tried to kill Harry Potter. This story is in length comparable to the original books, maybe even longer, as it is not yet finished. The author creates a kind of all-embracing Pan-European work connecting mythology of ancient Celts, Slavonic traditions, Machiavellian principles, current politic situation, history, fights for religion freedom, racism and magic. She also used several direct references to wide range of many existing books (J.R.R. Tolkien - *The Lord of the Rings*, several works of Machiavelli, G.R.R. Martin – *The Game of Thrones*, H. Arendt - *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, works of F. Kafka, V. Havel and many others), and other fanfiction authors and their works.

In addition to all this she manages to start every chapter with a song, which perfectly fits some of the events described in the chapter, so Richenza connects a bit fanfiction with songfiction. Though it seems that with so many influences and inspiration sources the final work would be confusing and chaotic, it is not true. In my opinion it is a masterpiece of literature set in the world of *Harry Potter*. Just the form of serial makes it slightly uncomfortable to read. Readers can forget many things mentioned some years ago, but the author managed to cope with this as well – for each of her ‘books,’ she created a list of characters with brief description, ordered according the group which the character belongs to, timetables of Hogwarts school and lists of subjects the students take in her story.

6.1.2 Other Stories (Alternative Universe)

There are many stories that do not follow the facts of original stories. Either they turn away at some point of the story (for the fact that they came to existence before the last book was published, or simply because the author does not agree with the development J.K. Rowling

created), or they simply begin at some point during the original story and continue differently. In fanfiction these stories are called “AU,” which means alternative universe and usually it is mentioned in a header of the story.

In these stories there are many characters or situations that did not appear in the original story, though it is not always a bad thing. Of course, most of these works cannot be called anything else than pulp fiction. There are all the ideas imaginable – Harry being Snape’s son, some characters becoming vampires, unlikely relationships between characters, Harry being sorted to Slytherin and changing all the development of the story, characters out of character (OOC), sexual and romantic motives, crossovers between different fandoms.

In long narratives this feature does not work well (though there are several exceptions, as mentioned above), usually the authors find out they cannot finish the story, because it does not make sense anymore, or if they finish it, it is a jumble. It often happens that they find out they made the story too complicated, hitting dead ends and the characters they created are not what they wanted them to be. In almost all the cases of unfinished or badly done fiction they are stories the authors started publishing before they finished them. Nevertheless, there are stories worth reading. In some stories, there are some characters so OOC, that it becomes a characteristic feature of whole story and it becomes a successful parody.

Where OOC works particularly well however, is drabble – short story of exactly 100 words length, or its varieties, double or triple drabble (200 or 300 words). They should be fast paced stories with strong point and work only in case that both the author and the reader know the fandom very well, as there is no space for explanations. Either they are published separately, or as a series – a collage of situations connected in some way (character, place, time, topic). They serve as a light reading, joking inside fandom, but also arousing strong emotions. Some websites also publish regular drabble challenges. They set topic and authors have time limit for publishing their drabbles, which the others judge and commentate after.

Many fanfiction authors are shaped during their creative process, not only for the form of the stories, which is understandable – not everyone is able to write a good novel, while great novelist does not necessarily write excellent drabbles or poetry. Some authors specialize in their favourite field within the fandom as well, like the Founders era, the Marauders time at Hogwarts or the Next Generation, children of the characters of original *Harry Potter* stories.

7 HOGWARTS TEACHERS

Fanfiction stories dealing with teachers at Hogwarts school are as frequent as any others. In fact maybe more than that, as the most controversial character of the story, Severus Snape, is also a member of staff of Hogwarts and he is one of the most popular characters for fanfiction authors.

Frequent are short humorous stories, often drabbles, from a life of staff at Hogwarts. Commonly they are written by teachers, who are fans of Wizarding world and can see parallels between their life and wizarding teachers. Such a story is for example *Old Habits* by randomdork11, describing several years of Friday evenings of Severus Snape and Minerva McGonagall spent in front of the staffroom fire with a glass of good drink, during Harry Potter's time at Hogwarts. As both of them are strong personalities and feel deep (yet ambiguous) emotions towards Harry, it is not surprising that these meetings were not always calm, friendly chatting. Nevertheless, these stories bring a different point of view to everyday life at Hogwarts. There are also pure parodies, like a short AU story called *The Owl Chronicles* by Mouse. It is a story with only two chapters, where a Muggle Studies field trip is forced upon Severus Snape, Minerva McGonagall, Sybill Trelawney and Gilderoy Lockhart. As the name indicates, the story is written in letters and notes from one teacher to another (owl post is common for wizards) and fulfils the expectations of a magic school trip to muggle world, led by two over-strict and two completely useless teachers.

Then there is a vast number of stories where a kind of relationship or romance between teacher and students/former students appear. Some stories are primarily focused on the romance, some of them are adventures, where the relationship appears as a side effect, still others are psychological works analysing the inner world of one character. But all the same, the motif of strong emotions between teachers and students is very popular, of course with different degree of appropriateness and maturity of the story itself.

Having read several stories of this kind, I started wondering if this motif could be something exceeding the field of fanfiction. One of the obvious reasons to write these stories is the fact that most of the original story takes place at a school. But I was interested why people ship students and teachers so often, if it is just a coincidence or there is another reason behind it.

A brief research in this area was enough to bring a number of interesting articles and studies about erotic of pedagogy and mentorship. Even though talking about students who are of age, mostly studying at universities, it is a particularly sensitive and controversial topic. It inspires heated discussions as well as interesting topics to think about both in academic and lay circles.

While it might seem the intimate relationships between students and teachers are only a phenomenon of recent time (supported by affairs overstated by media), it is not true. There are number of cases since antiquity, the age of massive spread of philosophy and pedagogy. Some of them are described as platonic, others in rather more physical and sexual level, the fact remains – from the beginning of pedagogy there were strong emotions involved in the process of teaching. Particularly interesting was bell hook's article "Passionate Pedagogy; erotic student/faculty relationships," whose work was surprisingly unbiased compared with some other feminist authors. Unlike the others she criticises the efforts of many institutions to somehow restrict or reduce pedagogy. "Passionate pedagogy in any setting is likely to spark erotic energy. It cannot be policed or outlawed. This erotic energy can be used in constructive ways both in individual relationships and in the classroom setting" (hooks 50).

She also does not put female students in the position of victims, on the contrary, she emphasises that they are also free human beings with their right to make decisions, be responsible for them and even though the decisions might turn into mistakes of judgement, female students should feel free to regret them or not. Many authors point out that teachers ought not encourage any level of intimacy with their students (in every meaning – physical or intellectual), as it can be seen as taking advantage of their position of power.

The power imbalance tempts to see teachers as a kind of predators (especially male teachers), while students are seen as innocent victims. This argument is indisputable and relevant, though in my opinion it is not a problem of student/teacher relationship, more in the personality of that particular person and misuse of power in general, which can happen anywhere. Therefore, some kind of relationship (and I do not mean only sexual, overwhelming majority of these relationships are purely platonic) of student with the teacher can help student to mature and gain experience both in personal and academic field.

After reading all these articles and opinions I realized that another attraction of this topic in fanfiction literature is, that it is a situation we all have been through. Finding a mentor whose level of knowledge and skill in our field of interest highly exceeds ours is a situation every university student knows. And when this person is at the same time passionate for the subject and is able to ignite interest in others, it is easy to confuse the passion for the subject for the passion for the person. Especially for young adults it can be just a physical response to intellectual excitement. Only then emerges the problem if the teacher is not able to work with this energy – if correctly used it works as a great motivation for students to learn and 'consume' the subject, while if neglected or dismissed by the teacher it can have the opposite effect.

All these facts reflect in *Harry Potter* fanfiction and especially in the stories dealing with teacher/student relationships. It indicates that this kind of fanfiction is a way of realizing the intellectual excitement and transforming it into a story, making it socially acceptable and at the same time pay homage to people's favourite literary work. That probably answers the interesting phenomenon of shipping Hermione Granger with Severus Snape (in her case probably with every other member of faculty, as she is passionate about every single subject she takes), Neville Longbottom with professor Sprout or slash stories about Harry Potter and Remus Lupin.

7.1 SEVERUS SNAPE

7.1.1 Severus Snape in the Original Story

Severus Snape is a complex and controversial character of the whole *Harry Potter* book series. Openly hostile towards Harry from the very first minute and yet the reader does not find out why for a long time. Being depicted as a greasy-haired man with sallow skin, hooked nose and eyes so black and empty, that they evoke dark tunnels, does not improve his attractiveness (Rowling, 1997, 94, 102) He uses the first lesson of Potions to humiliate Harry in front of whole class and through the books there are several hints that he never misses an opportunity to do so later on.

During the story the reader finds out about the grudge Snape had against Harry's father, James Potter. They studied at Hogwarts in the same year and developed mutual antipathy from their first journey by the Hogwarts express. In the third book it is mentioned, that James saved Snape's life and that made Snape hate him even more. As Harry bears a striking resemblance to James, it is not surprising that Snape sees in him what he saw in James and refuses to see any good part of Harry's character. Remus Lupin, another schoolmate of James and Severus, tries to explain these painful and sensitive relationship to Harry, but as a teenager boy he has no chance to understand. Especially when only person who knows the whole story is Albus Dumbledore and Snape himself.

7.1.1.1 Early Life

Severus Snape was born 9 January, 1960 and grew up in a small industrial city with his witch mother and muggle father. His childhood was generally unhappy, partly for his parents' arguments and their poverty and partly because he was the only wizarding child around. The latter improved greatly when he met Lily Evans. The young girl from a muggle family did not believe him at first, but then became his best friend. This friendship lasted for several years, even when Lily was sorted into Gryffindor and Severus into Slytherin, two Hogwarts houses that traditionally hate each other. Severus' friendship towards Lily slowly melted into a deeper, nevertheless one sided, affection. Their friendship started to crumble when Severus joined a group of Slytherin students, who were a kind of forerunners of the Death Eaters. Lily did not understand what he saw in them, because she thought they were evil. The final moment of their friendship was, when James Potter was bullying Severus, and Lily tried to defend him. In his humiliation he called her mudblood, a very rude name for anyone of muggle origin. Lily did

not accept his apologies afterwards and as far as readers know from the books, did not talk to him till her death. Soon after they finished studies at Hogwarts, Lily married James Potter.

As Lily was probably the last reason why he has not yet joined Lord Voldemort and his Death Eaters, he did so very shortly after their friendship ended. Though not anymore friends, his love for her did not fade away. For this love he also switched sides and became a spy for Dumbledore and his resistance group, the Order of the Phoenix. Severus accidentally heard a part of prophecy about Lord Voldemort downfall and did not waste any time to tell him. The Dark Lord deduced that the prophecy means Lily Potter, née Evans, and her son, Harry Potter. In his horror that Voldemort is going to kill her, Severus ran to Dumbledore and promised to do anything in return, only to keep her safe. Dumbledore did his best to protect the Potters, but not even a whole year after that they were betrayed by Peter Pettigrew, their supposed friend and were killed by Lord Voldemort. As Lily died for her son, she gave him the strongest protection that exists, and Voldemort was not able to kill him. The curse backfired and hit him instead. Nevertheless Lily's death added pain of guilt into Severus' life that never quite disappeared.

This was also the motive to protect Harry when he arrived to Hogwarts. Severus' lasting love for the dead woman and feeling indebted to James for saving his life once, he did everything he could to safe Harry's life when he sensed danger from Quirrell. He even insisted on refereeing one Quidditch match instead of Madame Hooch, just to make sure he would be able to help in case of troubles. From this can be deduced that Snape were a decent flyer when he was able to referee a match. Harry met him very often in the corridors because Snape wanted to make sure nobody attacked him. Nevertheless, though protecting Harry, Snape could not stop hating image of James, so he behaved very rude to him, deducting house points with the merest pretexts. After Quirrell's death Snape ceased a bit in his efforts to protect Harry, though he never stopped entirely.

7.1.2 Severus Snape in Harry Potter Books

As a teacher Snape is known as a severe perfectionist, spreading around him an aura of fear. Usually he does not have any troubles with discipline in his classes. He does not need to raise his voice during the Potions lessons, because mostly the students are simply too terrified to speak in his presence. His teaching methods are harsh, sometimes even brutal, however effective - his students usually do not have any problems with passing the end of year tests. Though it is necessary to admit here, that they probably do not have much choice. Snape himself says in the fifth book - "I think it appropriate to remind you that next June you will be sitting

an important examination, during which you will prove how much you have learned about the composition and use of magical potions. Moronic though some of this class undoubtedly are, I expect you to scrape an 'Acceptable' in your O.W.L., or suffer my... displeasure." (Rowling, 2003)

There is also the question if he shows a dry sense of humour and irony or doing it just out of spite, when he sets the students to make a potion of forgetfulness in the end of the year tests. He definitely used a heavy sense of irony while the second book, when he talked with Lockhart about the Chamber of secrets and said how lucky they are that Lockhart is there to get rid of the basilisk. That was, of course, impossible, as Lockhart was one of the most useless wizards ever teaching in Hogwarts. Minerva McGonagall mentions in the first book that she could not look in the face of Severus Snape for weeks after last year Quidditch final where Gryffindor was flattened by Slytherin and a couple of years later she says she hopes the Gryffindor team to win the cup, because professor Snape was kind enough to remind her that they did not get it for seven years in a row. It is hard to say if this was only because Snape was sour and hostile to everyone, or it was an example of friendly bickering and joking between two colleagues who usually get on well with each other.

Snape has always been deeply interested in the results of the Quidditch tournament. As mentioned before, he did not keep his biting notes for himself but was also blind to many minor misdeeds the members of the Slytherin Quidditch team did before some important matches - like hexing Gryffindor chaser, so that her eyebrows grew extremely fast. He also booked the pitch for Slytherins so often, that it was difficult for the other teams to find time for practice, or gave his team special permission to practice, even if they booked it first (like when Draco Malfoy became a new Slytherin seeker). He never missed a single Slytherin match, if there was not some duty of special importance to prevent him from attending, usually wearing green-silver colours of his house and sitting in the front row.

Snape also showed his brilliance in his defence of the Philosopher's stone. Unlike the other teachers, who used complicated spells, he used simple logic. That was in fact a very logical step itself - as young wizards enter Hogwarts at the age of 11, they can either attend first few years in normal muggle schools or they are educated at home by their parents or private teachers. As abstract logical thinking develops between 11 and 12 years of age (according to the Piaget's theory of cognitive stages), they do not have many chances to practice it properly, because none of the subjects taught in Hogwarts gives them that opportunity. There may be only one exception, which is Arithmancy, but as Harry never took this subject, readers never truly

discovered what this subject is about. Hermione just mentioned that it is her favourite subject and much more precise than Divination. So as it is mentioned in the book - many wizards, though skilled and talented in magic, would not pass this task, as Snape very well knew.

Severus Snape is known to desire the job of Defence Against the Dark Arts (DADA), nevertheless he does not get it until the sixth book, the Half-blood prince. There is a rumour that the place is jinxed, and later in the story this rumour is confirmed - nobody can teach DADA for longer than a year and it brings bad luck. As it is Lord Voldemort himself, who put the jinx on the place, it works. One dead, one insane, one locked in a trunk for a whole year, while the impostor was teaching instead of him and one kidnapped by the centaurs. Probably the best of these unfavourable endings is the one of professor Lupin, who as only one did not get any physical or psychological injury. Under these circumstances it is understandable that Dumbledore was not willing to give Snape this job. Readers can only speculate what made Dumbledore to change his mind. Maybe it was the certainty of his own death and the last year of his headmastership that gave him the idea that the jinx might be broken by his death. Or perhaps he hoped that if a Death Eater took the job, the Dark Lord would remove the jinx himself. Nobody knows for sure, as it is not mentioned anywhere else. It is not surprising then, that Snape was particularly suspicious and hostile towards anyone who got the job. And he had his reasons for it, for almost every time Dumbledore appointed someone obviously substandard, with only one possible exception of Remus Lupin, who was adequate to do the job well, but on the other side he was one of the Marauders, together with Sirius Black, Peter Pettigrew and Harry's father, James Potter. They got Snape such a hard time at school, that he was not able to deal with his feelings even 15 years later and it was because of Snape, that Lupin had to leave, as Snape 'accidentally' let it slip that he is a werewolf. For the others it was obvious why he disapproved of Dumbledore's choice - Quirinus Quirrell would get scared of his own shadow and what is more, he was a servant of Lord Voldemort, Gilderoy Lockhart was the most useless wizard Hogwarts have ever seen, Alastor Moody, the former auror was convinced, that Snape remained a faithful Death Eater, and Dolores Umbridge was hated by everyone except Filch, the caretaker, who deeply approved of her dictatorial regime.

Mentioning Marauders, I must certainly focus on Sirius Black. He spent 12 years in Azkaban, the wizard prison, for being wrongly accused for the murder of the last of the Marauders, Peter Pettigrew, who faked his own death. Sirius was together with James one of the leaders of the group and never missed a chance to bully Severus, as well as spending half of his school time out of bounds. When Sirius escaped from Azkaban and broke into Hogwarts several times,

Snape was one of the keenest to catch him and give him back to the Dementors, the Azkaban guards who cause depressions and even can suck out human soul. Even after it is clear that Sirius is innocent, and starts to work for the Order of the Phoenix, the resistance movement against Lord Voldemort, they are not able to forget the old rivalry and bitterness. They are forced to work next to each other by Albus Dumbledore, however, every time they meet there is a great tension and in one occasion it led almost to a duel. In the end Sirius dies only 3 years after his escape at the Ministry of Magic and Harry blames Snape. Harry thinks that Snape's taunts and lack of communication led to his godfather's early death, though Snape hardly could do anything without raising a suspicion of Dolores Umbridge, who was a headmistress at the time and it was essential that she did not find out that Snape worked for the Order all the time. And accordingly, from the books it does not seem that Severus Snape was particularly sorrowful about Sirius' death.

Though rude and rough to everyone who speaks to him, Severus Snape works immensely hard to protect Hogwarts and students in there. In Harry's first year it was already mentioned protection of the Philosopher's stone, in the second never ending guard duties through the nights against the unknown enemy and in the third year the same, though this time the enemy is known - Sirius Black. In the fourth year he does everything he can to prevent Harry Potter attending the Triwizard tournament, though his attempts are heavily wrapped in his usual cover of insults and roughness. He also kept an eye on Igor Karkaroff, the former Death Eater, all that year and as soon as Lord Voldemort had risen again, Snape joined the re-established Order of the Phoenix and started his former role of a double agent again. In the fifth year he gives Dolores Umbridge fake Veritaserum, when she wants to interrogate Harry about Dumbledore and Sirius Black, and on Dumbledore's request he tries to teach Harry Occlumency, though this attempt was bound to be disastrous - Snape was not able to manage his negative feelings towards Harry's father and godfather. In the sixth year he tried to find out as much as possible about Draco Malfoy's plans and therefore prevent possible injuries or deaths, and even helped to heal Katie Bell when she is hurt by the curse hidden in a necklace. And finally, in the seventh year he had the most difficult task of protecting students, as the Carrows, Death Eater siblings, are appointed there as teachers of Defence Against the Dark Arts and Muggle studies. Doing so and not raising any suspicion was very difficult task indeed.

Severus Snape died during the Battle of Hogwarts on 2 May, 1998. He was killed by Lord Voldemort himself, who used his snake, Nagini, to tear Snape's throat not because his double

role was revealed, but because Lord Voldemort believed that with Snape's death he can master the Wand of Destiny (Rowling, 2007, 526-528).

7.1.3 Severus Snape in the Fanfiction Literature

There are many approaches to Severus Snape in the fanfiction literature, but they have usually one common feature, which originates in J.K. Rowling's story. It is miserable and cruel childhood. In fanfiction it varies from merely unhappy marriage description till child abuse. With this basic element, most of the stories also keep the fact, that he does not possess a kind-hearted nature, though he is mostly on the side of good with the Order of the Phoenix. In minority of stories he is on the side of lord Voldemort, many of them were written before the last book of *Harry Potter* saga was published. Then of course almost everyone changed their opinion of Severus Snape, after the big revelation that he worked secretly for the Order even after Dumbledore's death and the murder of Dumbledore was planned between them.

A large number of stories also counts on the fact, that Snape literally survives his death. There are plenty of solutions the authors use, e.g. Harry, Ron and Hermione managing to save him and transport him to safety, Snape being able to heal his injuries when they leave him, Hermione alone saving him with healing charms or theory that he could have the antivenom to the venom of Voldemort's snake, Nagini, whose bite ended Snape's life.

As Snape is one of the most controversial character full of contradiction, it is not surprising that he is one of the most popular characters for the fanfiction authors. Therefore, there are many combinations of pairing him with other characters, most frequently Hermione Granger, less with Ginevra Weasley or Bellatrix Lestrange. There are also pairings with Harry Potter, Draco Malfoy or Remus Lupin (called slash), which deal with homosexual relationships of main characters. Surprisingly it is not only romance stories where these relationships appear, but also stories primarily adventurous, detective or humorous.

7.1.3.1 Severus Snape in "Missing scenes" stories

The development of Severus Snape in this kind of stories is demonstrated here on the story written by Grangerous. It has three books, two of them correspond with the last two books of *Harry Potter* saga, the third is completely invented by the author. In the beginning of the first book, called "Phoenix Song or, Hermione Granger and the Half Blood Prince," which takes place just in the end of the fifth book, Severus Snape is depicted exactly as he is in the books.

The author describes Hermione Granger's injury from the Department of Mysteries from the Ministry of Magic in more details and also the process of healing, which is done by Snape. In the very first chapter readers can understand why all the author's books have some connection to phoenix – Hermione calls Snape a phoenix, when he is healing her injury (accidentally caused by the curse invented by himself) with a spell resembling to a song – she calls it a Phoenix song. This spell is taken from the original story, where Snape uses it to heal Draco Malfoy after he duels Harry.

When discussing healing of Hermione later with Dumbledore, Snape gets a task of teaching her secretly all the important things she will need later, when they fight Lord Voldemort. Hermione becomes a member of the Order of the Phoenix under the leadership of Dumbledore, who gives her a rather specific task – keep Harry alive. As it is most important that Lord Voldemort does not realise the double-agent role of Severus Snape, it is necessary to keep her lessons secret even from her two best friends. Logically Snape teaches her first Occlumency (the ability to defend one's mind against external attacks) and when she manages it, they continue with defensive and basic healing spells, various potions and Legilimency (ability to penetrate someone other's mind) (Rowling, 2003, 530-531). Severus is still depicted as prickly, argumentative and hot-tempered man, but also as a man with highly developed sense of sarcasm and dark humour.

There are also mentioned a few friends that Severus Snape has (though none of them was mentioned as such in the book) – Minerva McGonagall, Poppy Pomfrey, Rolanda Hooch, Albus Dumbledore and Lucius Malfoy. None of them directly contradicts the canon either. With Lucius Malfoy he attended the school, for Dumbledore and the Order he worked for many years. All the other characters are Hogwarts staff as well, so he must have known them for at least 10 years. Definitely he was in touch with Poppy Pomfrey, because it is likely it was him who supplied the infirmary with healing potions and he is mentioned to heal Katie Bell after she touched a cursed necklace. With Hooch, the flying instructor he probably communicated as well, first for his lively interest in Slytherin Quidditch team and he probably had to practice flying occasionally, to be in form to referee a Quidditch match (though even once). And finally, with Minerva McGonagall his interactions are clear even from the original story. Usually they are a bit antagonistic and sarcastic, nevertheless they can be easily interpreted as friendly bickering.

These friends soften a bit the picture of Severus Snape, cold and menacing and give another dimension for his never ceasing fight for the side of Good. During this story he also becomes

friendly with Hermione Granger, who attends their private lessons not as a student, but a member of the Order of the Phoenix (being almost a year older than her classmates, she comes of age in her sixth year and in this particular story becomes an Order member the very day of her birthday). As the time passes their friendship melts into a mutual respect, deep confidence and in the end into a different, stronger feeling, but neither of them wants to admit it till the last chapter of the trilogy. None of these facts influence Snape's behaviour to the other people, he is the same rude, biased and malicious man as ever. It only brings a better insight to this behaviour. Being like this to students means that there is order in his classes, which is essential for teaching potions and Defence against the dark arts, as there are so many opportunities for being grievously injured by accident. It is also a kind of defence against people – from this story readers can sense that Severus fears relationships and terrible disappointment and pain they can bring to life. Useful side effect of this behaviour is producing a lot of memories the Dark Lord expects to see, when Snape is in his proximity. As a double agent he would not have a chance of survival if the Dark Lord suspected him of being a spy.

All this changes in the second part of the story, "Phoenix Tears or, Hermione Granger and the Deathly Hallows." When Snape kills Dumbledore (as they agreed on before), his position among the other Death Eaters is as good as he could hope for. Here I must stop for another point based on the original story (though many people would not understand it during the first reading of the book), highlighted in this fanfiction. The point is, that Dumbledore was a master of the Elder wand, the first of the Deathly Hallows. He wanted Snape to kill him, therefore to become a new master of the wand. At the same time, it is very likely that Dumbledore wanted Harry to possess all three Hallows, as he left the Resurrection stone in the golden snitch to him in his testament and he told Snape that he must convince Harry to sacrifice himself when the right time comes. The only logical conclusion is, that his original plan was make Harry so angry with Snape that he would kill him, was he about to meet him, and finally become the master of all three Hallows. It is not known if Snape was aware of all these circumstances in the original story, but in this fanfiction, he was not. The ethical issues of this plan are questionable indeed, and as ethic is one of the main pillars of this story, it is one of the crucial moments.

Overall, this story provides plenty of opportunities for the missing scenes material, as it happens during *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, in which Snape took several important actions to help the Golden trio. In the very beginning of the second part of the story he helped Hermione Granger to change her parents' memory before she left for stay at the Burrow, the Weasleys' house and also saved the muggle born students of Hogwarts by sending their addresses to Viktor

Krum, who was able to get them safely out from the country (as they agreed before). Hermione Granger remains the only one at this stage of the story who knows that the murder of Albus Dumbledore was arranged between them and Snape's position is more dangerous than ever before. After becoming headmaster of Hogwarts his position is depicted as a wearing line of administrative, protecting students from his Death Eater colleagues without raising suspicion and keeping school in strict order. He and Hermione use the picture of Phineas Nigellus Black to get information about the other's actions, though they use it for direct communication very rarely. It is one of the theories that is favoured among fans of *Harry Potter*, that Hermione had to know, or at least suspect, that Snape remained loyal to the Order of the Phoenix, otherwise she would not put the picture into her handbag (Rowling, 2007, 186-188). Not using the room where the picture hung would be much easier and effective solution for not to be eavesdropped.

The author also uses the popular situation when Harry has to obtain the sword of Gryffindor from the forest lake (laid there by Snape previously) and Ron helps him, which means Hermione is alone in the tent. However, it does not turn into the usual cliché of romantic nature, the author lets Hermione stay asleep and Snape, though tempted to wake her, does not do it and only takes a strand of her hair, which would enable him to track her, if necessary. There is only one time he does not resist and endangers the cover so carefully planned between him and Dumbledore, and that is after Hermione is tortured in the Malfoy Manor. He goes to find out if she survived and finds out they got safely to the Shell Cottage, home of Ron's brother Bill. They meet on the beach where Hermione went for a walk and though their confrontation is rough in the beginning, it ends in a friendlier tone and Snape helps Hermione to deal with the torture by his own experience with the Cruciatus curse and his expertise with Occlumency (here it is possible to see the features of hurt/comfort genre, often appearing in this story, though not excessively, so it does not disrupt the story and its continuity).

The Final Battle happens almost exactly as depicted in the original book, with one change – the author lets Hermione to save Snape's life by dosing him by antivenom to Nagini's venom, strengthening solution and blood replenishing potion, while Harry and Ron listen to Voldemort's speech and do not pay attention. After they leave the place, he is able to get back to safety, and later Hermione gets to his house and heals his wounds with the same spell Snape used to heal her in the very beginning, therefore opening way for the third part of the story, which can be either understood as Missing scenes, or Alternative Universe, as it happens after the original books finish.

The third part of the story, named “Phoenix fire, or Hermione Granger and the Elder Wand,” continues in the Rowling tradition of one year spacing. As the name indicates, the story deals with destruction of the Elder Wand, or the Wand of Destiny. The author decided that such a powerful artefact probably could not be destroyed so easily as implied in the original story. The pairing of Severus Snape and Hermione Granger that was hinted in the previous two parts accentuates here, though in the first half of the story Hermione is still romantically linked to Ron.

Snape finally accepts the fact that he is in love with her but has no intention of ever revealing this fact to her and in fear of being inappropriate he tries to drive her off from his life completely. This attitude is difficult, as he returned to his old position of the potions master and sees her every day in classes, though he tries very hard to ignore her all the first semester. Then, however, he needs her expertise in Arithmancy to help him with his experiments with Wolfsbane potion and they become closer again. Ron turns out to be gay and his relationship with Hermione only a desperate effort to be ‘normal,’ yet it remains a secret for everyone except her till the end of the story. Even here the author does not turn away from the slightly unpopular epilogue of the original story, where Ron and Hermione are parents to two children – Hermione promises Ron to have his children, when he settles down with a partner and wants to have a family.

After helping Snape with the Wolfsbane project they return to their defence lessons and Hermione studies wandless magic with him, which proves to be a crucial weapon for her later on, when she needs to defend herself from the attackers who hope to kidnap her and blackmail Harry Potter into giving them the Elder Wand. In the end they manage to destroy the Elder Wand by an ancient sung sympathetic magic, thanks to realizing that this artefact was passed from dark wizard to dark wizard for so long, that only manifestation of strong love can destroy its twisted soul.

This story is interesting for several reasons. The author managed to keep her story in an ‘appropriate’ line – though pairing Severus Snape/Hermione Granger (SS/HG) is heavily hinted, nothing untoward happens between them while she is still his student. It is a proof of maturity of the author, as she realizes full well that such actions usually lead to awkwardness in the relationship later on that is difficult to deal with. The length of this story allows the author to gradually intensify their relationship, so that the reader does not realize exactly where stops the student-teacher crush and where starts the true, deep feeling. Grangerous also managed a rather intricated task of not getting the characters OOC. Snape becomes a war hero, but that

does not mean he would behave nicely to everyone – he is rude, prickly, sarcastic and sharp as ever.

7.1.3.2 Severus Snape in AU stories

AU stories about Severus Snape are full of extremes. There are stories where he is a nice, kind, down-to-earth person with a family, slash stories where he is shipped with anyone from Harry Potter to Albus Dumbledore, or stories where he has not joined the Order of the Phoenix at all and remains loyal to the Dark Lord. What almost all fans seem to share is the desire for him to stay alive in some form.

An original idea of continuing the story of Severus Snape and not contradicting the canon appeared in the story “Život v rámci rámců” by Regi, a kind of short detective story consisting of 50 drabbles. The story is set about two years after the Battle of Hogwarts and the main hero is Severus Snape, but in a form of picture. The author worked with the fact, that the headmasters and headmistresses of Hogwarts appear in the picture in the headmaster office after they die and as all the pictures in Hogwarts, they can move and talk. Regi inserted there one OC, Harriet Evans, who turns out to be an ancestor of Lily Evans, Harry Potter’s mother. She goes missing and the portraits in the headmaster’s office assign Severus to find her. He has to solve the mystery, because in the world of the pictures it is not possible to disappear, get injured or die. I classified this story rather as AU than Missing scenes, because it is set in future and Snape behaves a bit too friendly and openly than one would expect.

As hinted above, many stories about Snape are slash. Some of them are meant as lightly teasing, some are downright pornographic. Very often appears the phenomenon of male pregnancy, though Snape is usually not the one from the couple who is getting pregnant. The authors usually explain it by using ancient, forgotten magic used intentionally or accidentally. They do not have to be bothered by any complicated explanations, as they can set their own rules in the world of magic.

The stories considering Severus Snape a true Death Eater are rarer and mostly written before HP and the Deathly Hallows was published. They often contain violence, sexual abuse, BDSM practices, humiliation and are hurt/comfort, angst, darkfic or smut genre. Occasionally they are set in future where Lord Voldemort won the war and both magic and muggle Britain is under his rule.

7.1.3.3 Summary of the Character

Severus Snape is a controversial and mysterious character in the original story and remains so in most of the fanfiction stories. His complex personality makes him one of the most popular fanfiction characters. It seems that people can not resist the urge to add their own interpretation of his life and actions. Whether they consider him predominantly good or mean, they are attracted to him. Readers remain touched by strength of Snape's love for Lily and equally strong hatred for her son, Harry. By his willingness of sacrifice himself for the greater good. And most importantly, his death and its reasons seem to outrage readers even decade after the last book of the story was published.

7.2 MINERVA MCGONAGALL

7.2.1 Minerva McGonagall in the Original Story

While professor Snape's early life is at least briefly depicted in the books by J.K. Rowling, personal information about Minerva McGonagall are rare indeed. On the other hand, her detailed biography can be found on pottermore.com and as it was written by the author herself, I shall consider information published there as canonical.

Minerva McGonagall was born on 4th October 1935 (McGonagall's year of birth can be calculated as 1935 from her Pottermore biography and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Chapter 15 (The Hogwarts High Inquisitor), which reveals she began Hogwarts in December 1956 after working for the Ministry for two years immediately after graduation. This places her graduation in 1954, her first year in 1947, and her birth in 1935 (because of her October birthday, she was almost 12 when starting at Hogwarts). She was the only daughter of a witch, Isobel Ross, and reverend Robert McGonagall, Scottish Presbyterian minister.

For a long time, her father did not know her mother is a witch and she had to tell him only after little Minerva started to display unmistakable signs of magic – her father's bagpipes played themselves in distant rooms, which made her chuckle, or their cat appeared to do her bidding before she could talk. Isobel named Minerva after her own grandmother, an immensely talented witch, which caused many raised eyebrows in the community of little Scottish village (J.K. Rowling's inspiration by mythology is striking here - Minerva was the Roman goddess of wisdom and the author made a little joke here in connecting this name with the surname McGonagall, who is one the worst poets in British history). Isobel's confession wounded the relationship between her parents, and though Robert loved his wife and they had another two children (sons Malcolm and Robert), the trust had been broken. While Minerva was a talented witch like her mother, in character she resembled more her father, upright and honest.

When Minerva arrived to Hogwarts, she drew attention to herself the very first evening by becoming a Hatstall (it took the Sorting hat five and half minutes to decide whether to sort her to Ravenclaw or Gryffindor, finally deciding on Gryffindor). Her Hogwarts career resembles the one of Hermione Granger – top of her year, Prefect, Headgirl, but unlike Hermione she was a promising talent in Quidditch. She did not continue in this sport after leaving Hogwarts due to a serious injury caused by foul of a Slytherin player. Nevertheless, she was very keen fan of the sport itself and took a deep interest in Gryffindor team work. She also became an Animagus under an expert guidance of her Transfiguration teacher, Albus Dumbledore, and her Animagus form is a tabby cat with square markings around eyes, resembling her spectacles.

The summer after graduating from Hogwarts Minerva returned to the village of her childhood. She wanted to spend some time with her family before going to London, where she was offered a job at the Ministry of Magic. Unexpectedly, she fell in love with a young muggle, Dougal McGregor and after a short romance he proposed to her. She accepted, but after a night full of doubts she went to find him and told him she changed her mind, probably sensing the same fate which met her mother. And that idea was not acceptable for ambitious Minerva. She left for London three days later, leaving devastated Dougal behind (she could not even give him any good reason for her decision, because of the International Statute of Secrecy).

Moving to London was not the happy era she imagined. Though successful at work, she missed Scotland and her family. She was not much popular among her colleagues, but her older boss, Elphinstone Urquart was very fond of her and their friendship lasted even when Minerva refused the offered promotion and sent a letter to Hogwarts with a request for a teaching post instead.

She was accepted, and she returned to Hogwarts, this time as a Transfiguration teacher. Being in touch with her family was much easier and she had finally made some friends, especially Albus Dumbledore (who told her some of his own family history after finding her in tears after she found out Dougal McGregor got married to another girl) and Pomona Sprout, whom she already knew from her student years. After some time, Elphinstone visited her, confessed his love and proposed to her. Minerva turned him down, still being in love with Dougal, but they remained friends.

After many happy years at Hogwarts, she got a message that Dougal died and though it was traumatic news, it freed Minerva somehow. When Elphinstone proposed again (as he did from time to time), she accepted. Though Elphinstone was from a notable pureblood family, Minerva decided to keep the surname of her father, probably both because of her respect for him and because she was known as professor McGonagall to several generations of students. They bought a small cottage in Hogsmeade, so Minerva could travel to work every day easily. The marriage, though short, was a happy one. Elphinstone died three years after from a Venomous Tentacula bite. Minerva was not able to remain alone in the cottage, so she packed her things and returned to Hogwarts, throwing herself to work, to hide her suffering. She has stayed there ever since.

7.2.2 Minerva McGonagall in Harry Potter Books

Minerva McGonagall is a deputy headmistress, a Transfiguration teacher and head of Gryffindor House in the era of Harry Potter. She is depicted as a strict looking, tall, black-haired witch wearing square spectacles. Her face is stern and the first impression she makes on students is that she is not someone to cross. Just as professor Snape, professor McGonagall has no problem with keeping order in her class, her own words from the introductory class of Transfiguration prove it: “Transfiguration is some of the most complex and dangerous magic you will learn at Hogwarts,” she said. “Anyone messing around in my class will leave and not come back. You have been warned.” (Rowling, 100, 1997)

Though strictly following rules and not having problem in deducing points from her own house, Gryffindor Quidditch team proves to be her weak spot. She could not resist when she spotted Harry Potter’s extraordinary talent for seeking – not only that she did not punish him, she also introduced him to the team. She does not miss a single Quidditch match, usually sitting right next to the commentator, wearing Gryffindor scarf. Occasionally she does not give the students homework before important matches, so that they can use the time for practice.

Professor McGonagall is always protective of the students and from her actions is clear that she cares deeply for them. Whether speaking about facing the unknown danger of Basilisk in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, tyranny of Dolores Umbridge in the *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* or Voldemort himself in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Minerva McGonagall always did maximum for protect those under her care, even though it often meant throwing herself into danger. These motives also led her into some radical punishments, like taking 50 points from Gryffindor for each person, when Harry, Hermione and Neville were caught in the corridors after curfew in their first year or forbidding everyone to tell Neville the password to the common room after he lost the paper with passwords when the castle was under thread of intrusion of Sirius Black. She also wholeheartedly supported Snape’s detention to Harry Potter, after he attacked and grievously injured Draco Malfoy, even though it meant Harry could not participate in the Quidditch final. However, her affection for the students shows also in more pleasant ways, like secretly giving Hermione the time turner, so that she can manage several lessons at one time or supporting Neville in taking different subjects than his grandmother wants, saying she should “learn to be proud of the grandson she’s got, rather than the one she thinks she ought to have.” (Rowling, 165, 2005) The strongest proof is probably from the last book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, when first professor McGonagall

with pride in her voice tells Amycus Carrow that she does not know why Potter would go to Ravenclaw tower, when he belongs to her house, and when Harry tells her Voldemort wants to attack Hogwarts, she arranges defensive and evacuation plan without any hesitation. She throws herself into battle and participates by a great deal on defence of the castle. Later still, when Harry appears to be dead she screams so desperately, that Harry could not believe it would be possible for her to make such scream. (Rowling, 477, 584, 2007)

Being always strict even with herself, McGonagall did not have patience for her less competent colleagues, whom she usually treated with biting sarcasm, e.g. professor Lockhart or Trelawney. On the other hand, she was able to passionately defend both those, who she admired and trusted (Albus Dumbledore) and those who she did not like but were treated unfairly (Sybill Trelawney). Her Gryffindor courage also shows up when she runs to help Hagrid, when he is attacked by professor Umbridge and a group of Aurors. She gets four stunning spells directly to the chest and survives the attack, though she has to use a walking stick for some time afterwards. She is also known member of the Order of the Phoenix, re-established by Albus Dumbledore after the return of Lord Voldemort.

Though there is no mention of her family or privacy in the original books, a deep connection with her native Scotland can be deduced from a few hints, like her accent is stronger when she gets emotional and she often uses tartan pattern, namely a tartan dressing gown, or tartan dress robes, which she completed with a thistle on her hat. As for the relationships can be assumed that her closest friend was Albus Dumbledore, also a Gryffindor, with deep interest in Transfiguration. Minerva was loyal to him without any doubts, as she was ready to fight the Ministry forces alongside him, but he refused her help, reasoning that Hogwarts need her. She was also fond of Hagrid, though he was not a competent teacher, she probably appreciated his loyalty to Dumbledore and kind-hearted nature. It is mentioned in the books that she went with Hagrid, professor Flitwick and Cornelius Fudge, Minister for Magic, for a drink to Hogsmeade (in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*), and she tried to defend Hagrid from the Ministry forces later (in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*). And as mentioned before in the chapter about Severus Snape, they never missed an opportunity to needle each other about their house's Quidditch team, though it is difficult to say if it was a friendly bickering or signs of antagonism.

Minerva McGonagall became headmistress of Hogwarts after death of Severus Snape.

7.2.3 Minerva McGonagall in Fanfiction Literature

Something in Minerva McGonagall's rigid personality seems to affect also the fanfiction authors. There are not many who dare change her completely, they rather work with the features given by J.K. Rowling and develop them, so that they fit their stories. She is one of the most inspiring and competent teachers described in the book, and these characteristic traits follow her into fanfiction stories. Often authors use her skills as Animagus to spy for the Order of the Phoenix, teaching this particular skill to others (especially Hermione, who is often depicted as member of Hogwarts staff in stories which take place after the Battle of Hogwarts), or simply using it for patrol the corridors for students being out of bounds.

Many short stories and drabbles contain fans' ideas how she became an Animagus, or theories about why her Animagus form is a cat and not some larger animal. One of the most credible (and cute) explanations comes paradoxically not from a story where Minerva McGonagall would be a main hero, but from a story mentioned above, Phoenix Fire, or Hermione Granger and the Elder Wand by grangerous, where the author expresses an idea, that not only magical and physical strength matters for the size of an animal Animagus becomes, but also age at which the first transition happens. It is commonly accepted rule among the fans that stronger wizards and witches become stronger and larger animals, deducing from Animagus form of James Potter (stag), Sirius Black (huge dog), Peter Pettigrew (rat) and Rita Skeeter (bug). Minerva McGonagall does not fit this theory somehow, as she is depicted as exceptionally skilled and powerful witch. Grangerous' explanation that Minerva first transformed as a 4 months old baby is neat and effective without contradicting a generally accepted theory.

7.2.3.1 Minerva McGonagall in Missing Scenes stories

Her rather eventful and detailed biography published on Pottermore.com invites on biographical stories, an invitation which many authors happily seized. There is a number of stories which differ in length, thoroughness and form - like "Queen of Swords" by Cassandra 147, or "The Presbyterian Witch" by writer writing. I will mention one example for all - a detailed story written by KattyV in Czech - "McGonagalova dcera." It is a story of 33 chapters divided into 4 books, giving a detailed story of Minerva's life using the facts given by J.K. Rowling. KattyV's writing style in general is very kind, she prefers showing important things through details and continues in Rowling's habit of mingling world of muggles and wizards together. She expresses many interesting ideas in the story, but one of the most catching is the

one, where she offers a theory that every human being has some part of magic inside, it is one of the talents people have. She finds a parallel with being musical - almost everyone has some level of musicality in them, just the level is not the same.

The first book focuses on Minerva's childhood. Her far most favourite family member is grandfather from her mother's side. He calls her Minnie and explains everything about magic and most importantly shares a great deal of life wisdom and kindness with her. There is also described a rather complicated relationship of Minerva and her father, whom she respected and admired, though he was often strict with her and she was a bit intimidated by him. There is a number of facts about World War II seen through the eyes of small girl from Scottish Highlands, who is struggling to understand both muggle and wizarding world.

The first book finishes with Minerva's first year at Hogwarts, where she finds vast differences between the school houses, but also finds a few friends in her year. There is explanation why she was fond of Hagrid later on as well, she met him in her first year and though there was the rumour that he caused death of a student by opening Chamber of Secrets some time previously, she immediately liked him for his love and caring for all living creatures. Each chapter begins with a tale as her grandfather used to tell her – about werewolves, Snow White, golf or cats, but no matter if the topic is wizarding or muggle, there is always a moral lesson.

The second book covers Minerva's last year at Hogwarts and early adult life as a student of advanced Transfiguration at madame Salome in Paris. Minerva has to solve still more complicated situation in her family and living in different country only adds to her loneliness. In this part of the story she also deals with her childhood love, Dougal McGregor, as was mentioned in her biography before. The author describes their young love with passion and her decision to reject Doug is painful, yet understandable.

Minerva tries to find solace in her new work at the Ministry of Magic, which she takes with seriousness and responsibility so typical for her. Despite the effort she puts in the work, it does not make her happy, even the short romance with Alan Potter (father of James Potter) does not improve her situation. Only when she meets Albus Dumbledore about two years later, her life takes a completely different direction. He offers her a teaching post at Hogwarts, which also closes the second book. Each of the chapters begins with a poem this time, the author chose varied mix of authors, like Paul Verlaine, Robert Burns or A.R. Ammons.

The third book covers about 12 years of Minerva's life as a teacher of Transfiguration and head of Gryffindor. The author also squeezes there another year of master's study in Prague, which

is an interesting insertion in her biography. This book maps Voldemort's first rise to power, pureblood rhetoric in the society and founding of the Order of the Phoenix. Minerva's private life becomes purely happy for the first time, as she improves her relationships with both her brothers and gets married (as the last one from the three siblings) to her former boss Elphinstone. The author lets the marriage to last longer than the original 3 years mentioned on Pottermore.

Minerva has a lot of work at Hogwarts, because of the Marauders arrival. They make her busier than the rest of the students together, but she has a soft spot for them, as Sirius and James are children of her classmates and friends. She also finds out that Severus Snape is son of her friend Eileen, whom she hasn't hear about since her school days. Unfortunately, too late to prevent him joining the Death Eaters after several year torment from Marauders at school. The protectiveness she feels for her students is pervading this part heavily, as she calls young Gryffindors as her cubs or lion cubs, both suggestion of Gryffindor lion emblem and her feline Animagus form. She gets friendly with Lily Potter, her former student who married James and often visits them and their son Harry, whom she likes very much. When Lily asks her why she never had her own children, Minerva reveals that she can not have children even with help of magic, but Lily suggests trying a new muggle method of conception and Minerva gets pregnant. The same year Lily and James are murdered by Lord Voldemort and Harry survives the attack with a scar on his forehead, while Voldemort is destroyed and banished, however temporarily. In the chaos after this the Longbottoms are tortured until they lose their mind, there are several other attacks including the one on Minerva's husband Elphinstone, who dies. Minerva tries to save him, but the physical and magical exhaustion cause the miscarriage.

The only other person at Hogwarts as devastated as her is probably Severus Snape and in their pain starts a tentative alliance, which later becomes friendship. In this book are also explanations of things that are only mentioned in passing in original Harry Potter books, like what happened to other Harry's relatives or who were Fabian and Gideon Prewett and how they died. These events are not directly connected to Minerva's life, but they help to depict the terror and despair that covered the country. Each chapter begins with a quotation expressing the events described.

The fourth book deals mainly with events after the battle of Hogwarts, the author skips the events from the original story, as she thinks they were described thoroughly enough there. As KattyV changes several facts from the canon, the last book of her story should be probably classified more like Alternative Universe than Missing scenes – she lets Snape survive and later

on she melts this story with another one of hers (Amber), which deals with relationship of Severus and Hermione Granger.

Minerva McGonagall becomes a headmistress of Hogwarts, Harry Potter the Defence against the Dark Arts teacher and Hermione Granger teacher of Transfiguration. They have to deal with another danger from a former Death Eater, Lucius Malfoy, and they manage to defeat him. Minerva's grandfather dies, but after full and happy life she understands that death is a part of life. Back at the village where she grew up she meets doctor Fleming, an old friend of her brother, and they fall in love. Together they spend a happy, quiet old age.

KattyV is one of the authors who accompany their literary work with their own fanarts, usually she creates banners for each book and most of the chapters contain one or more pictures of characters or places. Mostly she creates collages or works with the photos so that they look more like a painted picture, but they definitely help her to create the atmosphere she wants. Occasionally she recommends a song that inspired her as well.

7.2.3.2 Minerva McGonagall in AU Stories

Many fanfiction authors seem to combine Minerva's (over)protectiveness for her students and her seeming loneliness from the books into stories, where they want to compensate her lack of family, just as mentioned in the last book of the story above. Often it results in fluff or hurt/comfort stories where she adopts Harry as her son either alone, or with a husband who is usually someone known from wizarding world (Albus Dumbledore, Elphinstone Urquart, Remus Lupin or Severus Snape). The hurt/comfort pattern appears very often, Harry is usually abused by his relatives, the Dursleys, and Minerva finds him either accidentally, or because she patrols around the house often in her Animagus form. Minerva nurses him back to health and by various means convinces Dumbledore never to give him back to Dursleys.

As witches and wizards age slower than muggles it is not unusual that fanfiction authors ship Minerva with a generation younger or older men (or women). Interesting is, that though her relationship with Harry is mostly motherly, with other students and especially Hermione Granger there are number of stories focused on friendly or even romantic relationship (femslash). Logically, she is shipped with people who share her passion for Transfiguration, like Hermione or Sirius Black, for whom she often becomes an Animagus and Transfiguration tutor. Or vice versa with Albus Dumbledore with whom she often shares a close friendship or

a romance, when the authors decide not to respect J.K. Rowling's opinion that Dumbledore was homosexual.

The authors who ship Minerva McGonagall with Severus Snape usually base their relationship on common conviction of opposites attraction to each other (frequently highlighted by a title like "The snake and the lion" or "That Damnable woman"). As they are so antagonistic, it is easy for the authors choose whatever genre and style they like, so they appear in dramas, passionate romances, humorous stories of various lengths from drabbles to novels. In most fanfiction works Minerva remains heterosexual, though there are also femslash stories where she partners Hermione Granger or a bit surprisingly Madam Hooch, the flying instructor (probably for Minerva's past Quidditch skills and remaining passion for the game). While it might be difficult to get used to Minerva McGonagall as a lesbian, it usually does not contrast with her personality depicted in the original story.

OOO Minerva McGonagall appears in many stories as well, plenty of them being fluff, smut or parody and therefore not bringing anything new to the character and its development.

7.2.3.3 *Summary of the Character*

Minerva McGonagall remains one of the steadiest characters of *Harry Potter* and its fanfiction world. Strict and stern, never even tempted by the dark arts, devoting her life and extraordinary magical power to education of the next generations of witches and wizards she is often set as an example of moral fibre and celebrated Gryffindor bravery. This remains valid even in the fanfiction stories, indicating the main challenge and motive of writing stories about Minerva. Though the authors may often change some features of her character, making her more playful, mischievous, relaxed or friendly (especially when students are not present), the main personality traits remain untouched.

8 CONCLUSION

This thesis has summarised fanfiction as a phenomenon of internet era, though its history begun long before. Internet has given fan communities opportunities they could only dream about in the age of fan-magazines and stories shared among friends – it has given them an opportunity to share ideas all over the world in a second, to communicate, support each other and most importantly, keep their fandom alive with all the various kinds of fan work. The topic of fanfiction itself is so vast that it provides plenty of material for research from various scientific disciplines, therefore I had to limit my research just on the basic elements.

Both the advantage and disadvantage of internet is the speed with which it is changing. It proved both ways while I was writing this thesis. Most of the sources are accessible online and therefore very comfortable to get. At the same time online archives and websites are dependent on their owners and servers and if their owners stop maintaining them, they get either deactivated (in better case still accessible for readers) or directly shut down, just as it happened to the largest Czech *Harry Potter* fanfiction websites <https://fanfiction.potterharry.net> during Autumn 2018.

When researching fanfiction history, I naturally discovered several large fandoms with millions of fans worldwide. *Harry Potter* is no exception, its fandom is one of the largest there are, breaking barriers of different languages, age categories, gender or social status. The saga has influenced generations of readers, turning many of them to devoted fans who made the wizarding world part of themselves. They admire and absorb every single little detail and fact they can find. Fans have made even the minor characters of the story significant in their own work and the extraordinary amount of characters J.K. Rowling used in her books gives them plenty of space for that. Through fanfiction fans can fulfil the urge to own at least a small part of the story they love and participate in its development, no matter how temporarily and unofficially. Many of them have discovered their so far dormant talent for literature, arts, music or acting thanks to fan labour and the effort they put into it.

From several hundreds of characters of *Harry Potter* saga, I chose only two to analyse, Severus Snape and Minerva McGonagall. They are often put in contrast both in the original story and in fanfiction (though in fanfiction the cliché of opposites attracting each other is used more than frequently). Both these Hogwarts teachers were mentioned frequently enough in the original story that there has been plenty of fanfiction written about them, yet not so much that the amount would get unmanageable to skim through and find interesting connections. The advantage of Rowling's characters is that they are not black and white, though their general direction in the

story is clear. It attracts fanfiction writers who often base their version of the character on a minor personality trait mentioned in the original story.

The characters of Severus Snape and Minerva McGonagall are presented here as an example of how a minor character from the original story can develop to its full potential in fanfiction work. The character description from *Harry Potter* is completed with the character's background available from the books or from Rowling's other projects or statements and then compared to fanfiction. The development of the characters in fanfiction and its accordance or difference from the original books is then demonstrated on concrete fanfiction stories.

In the world J.K. Rowling created and mingled with the real one, the fans have gone even deeper. Sometimes readers can lose track of what is real, what is based on Rowling's story and what is fanfiction. Especially when fanfiction authors insert their own characters or existing people into their stories.

I am aware that this thesis has not analysed an important piece of classical literature. It is meant as tribute to millions of fans who devote their time and energy to keeping the fandom alive, although they must be aware of transience of their work. If in 50 years someone finds an old copy of *Harry Potter* in the attic, reads it and then searches for an interesting fanfiction, it is highly probable that all the stories mentioned in this thesis will be long gone, giving space to the next generation of fanfiction writers.

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