

"While we may come from different places and speak in different tongues, our hearts beat as one."

— *Albus Dumbledore*

Most parents believe that it's important to instill social responsibility in their children, but it can be difficult to find meaningful sources or projects for children to get involved.

In addition, many social action projects are not relevant to children, and a lack of relation can lead to a lack of engagement.

The Harry Potter series of books by J.K. Rowling are an excellent way to immerse children in the idea that one can work to make the world better.

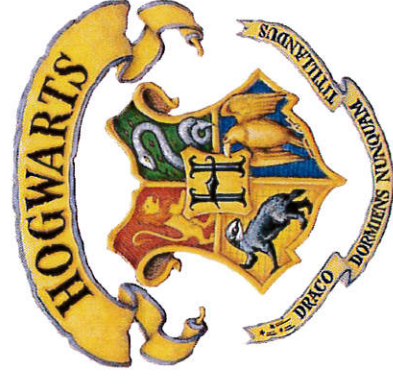
Harry Potter, like other pop culture, can allow children to discuss important social issues with peers.



UU & YOU at Hogwarts

Exploring Unitarian Universalist Principles through the magical world of Harry Potter! Join in the adventure at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse!

September 2017-June 2018



6726 Center Rd, Traverse City MI, 49686

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Grand Traverse



The Curriculum

Written by Unitarian Universalist Educator, Karen Hager – creator of the *Imagine-RE* UU curriculum series, this curriculum is a fun way to get children and middle-school youth excited about our UU principles and social justice.

This curriculum seeks to help participants learn that change is possible through multiple avenues, and can happen whether the problem is local or worldwide. Students will have the opportunity to make a difference in their community and the world in a meaningful way through hands-on projects that will also teach them social responsibility.

Children pre-k-5th grade are invited to participate as UU Hogwarts students, and middle-school youth are invited to be “prefects”, or “upper-classmen” with additional (but FUN!) responsibilities. The curriculum includes many fun wizarding activities, but the main purpose of the curriculum is social action. The class forms a chapter of Dumbledore’s Army and engages with “Horcruxes” during the year. The “Horcruxes” that will be explored this year include: Hunger, Literacy, Poverty, Sickness, & the Environment.

Where is the UU Connection?

The themes reflected in the Harry Potter story strongly support the Seven UU Principles. The characters work toward the goal of a peaceful world community with justice for all. They employ the right of conscience, and show a deep respect for the interdependent web of life.

Consider the story as it relates to UU principles:

1st Principle: *We believe that each and every person is important.* One theme that runs throughout Harry Potter is the inherent worth of every individual. Each person is considered a gift.

2nd Principle: *We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.* Many of Harry’s friends are shunned for a variety of reasons, but Harry treats everyone with dignity. Dobby the house-elf, muggles, etc. are all deserving of respect.

3rd Principle: *We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.* Harry is mentored by many adult wizards, who help him grow into an adult himself. There is great diversity in the different characters who help and teach each other.



4th Principle: *We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.* People freely choose to follow or fight Voldemort, following one’s own beliefs. Each person is free to follow their own path.

5th Principle: *We believe that all persons should have a say about the things that concern them.* Harry questions authority. He challenges authority and doesn’t follow rules when not doing so is for the greater good.

6th Principle: *We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.* Harry and his friends show compassion for others throughout the book, and work toward a just world. The entire series of books is a fight for peace, fairness and freedom for all.

7th Principle: *We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.* Harry and his friends show a deep respect for other living things.

Contact Us

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