

Doing the Wrong Thing for the Right Reason

When I first read *Harry Potter*, I didn't feel drawn to the main characters, the confident, grandiose ones. Rather, I was drawn to the quiet, brilliant, talented young girl who had the potential to be the greatest of her time. I related to her most, because at the time, I too was an awkward, bookish, messy-haired, big-toothed little girl who didn't talk much and had two friends, both of them boys. And I loved to learn more than anything. When I read about Hermione, I lived with her in the pages of the books. When she looked beautiful in the Yule Ball, I walked down the hall with her; when she shrunk her teeth down, I sat in the hospital bed next to her.

Hermione Granger is incandescent. She can do anything, and she will do anything for her friends. She truly displays every pillar of character, but she is especially caring. There was this moment, where she broke the rules for the first time because her friends needed her, when she took the blame for the troll in the girl's bathroom. She was willing to do something wrong for the people she cared about. If Hermione had not foregone her beliefs for the people she cared about, then the series would have ended right there, with Hermione trying to stay out of trouble and preserving herself, instead of protecting her friends.

Today, I'm still not drawn to the big characters, but my favorite little girl isn't who she was when I began either. Over the years, as Hermione grew up into a remarkable young woman, I was growing up with her. I'm not who I was when I first read about Hermione, and I believe I owe it to her. She made me want to be exceptional too; to be extraordinary, and especially to care for others no matter what. Most people think that heroes should be real people. In my case, even though my heroine isn't real, she is just as powerful as any real person. Even though Hermione Granger isn't real in our world, she has had a big impact on mine.