



Travis Prinzi, Author

Travis Prinzi, expert on the Harry Potter series and student of fantasy fiction in the tradition of the Inklings (C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien), is available to speak at universities, colleges, libraries, schools, and churches on J.K. Rowling's bestselling series.

Travis is the author of *Harry Potter & Imagination: The Way Between Two Worlds* (Zossima Press, 2008). He holds an M.A. in Theological Studies and an M.S. in Education.

He has spoken at Prophecy 2007: A Harry Potter Symposium in Toronto, at Convention Alley 2008 in Ottawa as a Keynote Speaker, at Portus 2008: A Harry Potter Symposium, and at LaSalle University as a guest Harry Potter lecturer for their philosophy department. He has been published on Harry Potter in Rochester, NY's major newspaper, Democrat and Chronicle.

He runs the successful website and podcast The Hog's Head (thehogshead.org), which has an international readership and analyzes the Harry Potter series in the context of literature, religion, and cultural studies.

Recommendations:

"With insightful literary analysis and a keen grasp on issues of contemporary relevance, Travis Prinzi opened up Rowling's Harry Potter books for my students in fresh new ways that engaged our interests and challenged our assumptions. Out of an obvious love for the series and its characters, Prinzi made difficult concepts easy to understand and sparked discussion that led us deeper, not only into the wizarding world, but also the profound problems facing our own muggle communities."

~ S. Joel Garver, PhD, Professor of Philosophy at LaSalle University, PA

"Travis Prinzi gets to the heart and soul of literature, and he conveys his insights in a way that will fascinate and delight any audience. Whether speaking to fans, interested layreaders, or fellow scholars, Mr. Prinzi challenges his audience members to consider the deeper questions and meanings behind the texts they love. His talks are proof that entertainment and education can go hand in hand."

~ Amy H. Sturgis, PhD, Professor at Belmont University, author and editor of several books, including "Harry Potter is a Hobbit" and *Past Watchful Dragons: Faith and Fantasy in the World of C.S. Lewis*

"Travis Prinzi has been a favorite speaker at HPEF, Inc. conferences since 2007. He most willingly engages himself with his audience to share his knowledge and talent. His presentations give breadth and depth to the Harry Potter fandom while also bringing enjoyment to his audience. As an organizer, I feel he is an ideal guest. He communicates well and provides information in a timely manner. He is polite, humble and a pleasure to speak with. If our audiences are any indication, Travis will be extremely well-received and gain new fans wherever he goes." ~ Jennifer Clack, Advisory Board Member, HPEF, Inc., Chair - Infinitus 2010.

Examples of Presentation Topics

Harry Potter as Fairy Tale - Fairy tales have always been an important part of culture. How does Harry Potter work as a fairy tale in our culture?

Mythology in Harry Potter - Did you know that “Fluffy” has its roots in Greek mythology, where a three-headed dog called “Cerberus” guarded the Underworld? J.K. Rowling has creatively borrowed elements of myth and folklore in her series. This presentation examines those elements.

Archetypes: Character Studies in Harry Potter - There are heroes, shadows, wise old men, shapeshifters, great mother figures, and more! This presentation discusses your favorite Harry Potter characters through the lens of mythological archetypes.

Rowling Among the Greats: George MacDonald, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Madeleine L’Engle, Ursula K. LeGuin - J.K. Rowling has taken her place among the great storytellers of all time. This presentation compares and contrasts her work with that of her predecessors.

Hogwarts, a (Haunted) History: Fear in Harry Potter - Are the Harry Potter books too scary for children? No! They are a great way to confront and resolve fear. A great presentation for Halloween!

The Christian Content of Harry Potter: Why the Christian Protest Against Potter Gets it All Wrong - Fundamentalist Christians have put Harry Potter on the top of all recent book-banning lists. Why? This presentation examines how these protests miss the point entirely.

Quills, Queries, and Quests: Literacy Learning in Harry Potter - Set in a Boarding School, Rowling provides insightful commentary on education throughout her series. What can we learn about literacy and education from Harry Potter?

Of Fountains, Fabians, and Freedoms: Dumbledore’s Deconstruction of the Wizarding World - From the slavery of house-elves to the controversy over blood status, the Harry Potter series is filled with sociocultural commentary. This presentation unlocks the door to the political commentary and J.K. Rowling’s social vision in Harry Potter.

Mythmaking: Why We Create Stories to Live By - Is good literature just a way to “escape” the “real world?” Or does it “instruct while delighting,” helping us to learn how to live in the real world?

Travis is also willing to craft a talk specifically to meet the needs and requests of your programming, and he is planning several talks for the forthcoming Half-Blood Prince movie. If you would like to have Travis speak at your venue, email him at tprinzi@gmail.com or call him at 585-208-7425.