

Abstract

This essay explores the various prejudices shown in the *Harry Potter* book series by J.K. Rowling. Hogwarts is the only wizarding school in Great Britain and as every witch or wizard in Great Britain passes through the doors of the school, the school has an enormous influence on the magical community. At Hogwarts rivalry between the four houses is encouraged and the students are conditioned to look down on the students of the other houses and anything they associate with each house. Outside of Hogwarts, adults face a variety of prejudices. The most obvious is the discrimination based on blood-status, in which pure-bloods believe themselves superior to those with muggle blood. These ranks between wizards are not the only ranks in the societal hierarchy however. Human beings without magic, whether they are born in a magic family or not, are looked down for their lack of magic, but even non-human magical creatures are disliked. As such, it is clear that the wizarding society believes wizards to be superior to all other members of the society and that certain wizards are better than others. The overall argument of this essay is that the environment at Hogwarts influences these prejudices by separating the students into the four houses and encouraging rivalry between them, which conditions the students to discriminate against anyone who does not belong to their specific group. This house rivalry then evolves into a dislike based on blood status and a belief in the superiority of wizards as the students grow up in the hostile environment at the school. These prejudices are the leading cause of the two large wars fought in the wizarding world in the 20th century. As such, the cause of the hostility and discrimination in the wizarding society actually originates in the way Hogwarts is structured.

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Introduction

J. K. Rowling's series about the young wizard Harry Potter and his adventures at Hogwarts – School of Witchcraft and Wizardry has become one of the most popular franchises today. First published in 1997, the seven books series has since become an enormous success worldwide, having sold over 450 million copies and been translated into 79 languages as well as eight film adaptations (“About us”).

The series follows eleven year old Harry Potter as he discovers that he is a wizard and has been accepted into Hogwarts, a boarding school for young witches and wizards, and enters the magical world hidden right before the eyes of muggles, non-magical people. Harry then discovers the truth about his parents' death, they were murdered by an evil wizard named Voldemort who tried to kill him too but failed. Throughout the series Voldemort makes several attempts to regain his power and eventually succeeds at the end of Harry's fourth year at Hogwarts. That starts a horrific war which lasts until the end of what would be Harry's seventh year when Harry finally manages to defeat Voldemort for good.

Each of the seven books details the events of one school year while Harry attends Hogwarts. The first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published in 1997 and tells the story of how Harry discovered his hidden magical abilities and starts attending Hogwarts (I will use a shortened version of the title for the other books). His first year is filled with new discoveries as Harry gets to know the magical world he never knew existed. Harry and his friends discover that a servant of Voldemort is attempting to steal the Philosopher's Stone which has been hidden inside of Hogwarts so that Voldemort can use the stone to regain his power. *Chamber of Secrets* is the second book of the series, published in 1998, and describes the events of Harry's second year as an unknown monster has been released from the Chamber of Secrets, hidden by one of the school's founders, and is targeting muggleborn students. As it turns out, the monster is a gigantic basilisk that was being controlled by the spirit of Voldemort who possessed a first year student. Harry eventually finds the hidden chamber and defeats the basilisk, preventing Voldemort from rising again for the second time. The third book of the series, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, was first published in 1999. In Harry's third year a vicious murderer and one of Voldemort's most loyal supporters has escaped from Azkaban, the wizard prison, and is searching for Harry to revenge his master's defeat. As it turns out, Sirius

Black, the alleged murderer, is Harry's godfather and was wrongfully imprisoned. The real criminal is Peter Pettigrew, who had been hiding in plain sight disguised as Ron Weasley's pet rat. Unfortunately, Pettigrew escapes before Harry and his friends manage to clear Sirius' name. In the *Goblet of Fire*, which was first published in 2000, Harry is enrolled in a dangerous tournament without his consent. Just as Harry is about to win the tournament it becomes clear that his enrolment was a plot devised by Voldemort to gain back his power. *Order of the Phoenix* was published in 2003 and describes the events of Harry's fifth year as the Ministry of Magic refuses to acknowledge Voldemort's return and attempts to discredit both Harry and the headmaster of Hogwarts. In the *Half-Blood Prince*, published in 2005, the danger of Voldemort becomes undeniable as he starts attacking wizards who oppose him. Meanwhile, Professor Dumbledore teaches Harry how to defeat Voldemort by destroying his horcruxes. The war finally culminates in the final instalment of the series, *Deathly Hallows*, which was published in 2007, as Harry goes searching for the horcruxes before finally defeating Voldemort.

While Harry visits several other places throughout the series, Hogwarts is the story's main location. The school building itself is a large castle hidden somewhere in Scotland and with enchanted ceilings and moving staircases, the building is every bit as magical as the world it resides in.

Hogwarts is special in many ways, but one of the most notable things about Hogwarts is the house system. All students are assigned to one of the four houses when they first arrive at the school and these houses shape the students' experience at the school in a variety of ways. The houses decide where the students sleep, who they interact with, and who they share their meals with, but also how the rest of the school sees them and indeed how they see the rest of the school. The ongoing house competition leads to intense rivalry between students and even staff members and results in a rather hostile environment for the students. The hostility, while heavily influenced by the school, does not end in Hogwarts however, the magical community as a whole is riddled with prejudices. These prejudices, which are the leading cause of the largest wizarding wars in the 20th century, originate within Hogwarts and the division of students between the four houses. This essay will examine the various prejudices shown in the magical community in all seven of the *Harry Potter* books, starting with the rivalry between students of different houses while at Hogwarts and then moving onto the prejudices all members of

the magical community encounter outside of Hogwarts, focusing on the relationships between the different degrees of blood status, magical and non-magical human beings as well as wizards and non-human magical creatures who are members of the society.

1. The House System

The wizarding community creates a certain degree of hostility between the Hogwarts houses, stemming from years of intense rivalry and prejudice. Students are sorted into houses at an early age and are expected to conform to their house's ideals from the very start. The first thing young witches and wizards do when they enter Hogwarts at the age of eleven is to get sorted into a house. In *Philosopher's Stone*, the very first thing the first years are told when they arrive at Hogwarts is that their house will become like their family: that they will share classes with their house and that any free time will be spent in their house's common room. Not once does Professor McGonagall mention or encourage the group of eleven year olds to interact outside their houses during her speech (122). It is not hard to believe that impressionable young wizards would take this to heart and interpret McGonagall's speech as an encouragement to stick to their own house rather than branching out.

The Hogwarts houses date back to the early days of Hogwarts – School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The school was founded by a group of four witches and wizards, Godric Gryffindor, Rowena Ravenclaw, Helga Hufflepuff and Salazar Slytherin. Each of the founders of the school had their own ideas regarding the type of student they wished to accept, so they each established their own house within the school as a compromise. The founders named their houses after themselves and then divided the students into these houses based on the traits and attributes each founder valued the most in their students. To ensure the tradition would be honoured after their death and the students would be sorted properly, they created the Sorting Hat by enchanting the hat of Godric Gryffindor (*Goblet of Fire* 150). The enchantments allow the Sorting Hat to speak and retain intelligence from the founders as well as to use Legilimency (Rowling, “The Sorting Hat”), a form of magic that allows whoever uses it to extract another person's thoughts from their mind (*Order of the Phoenix* 490), to examine the students' thoughts in order to sort them properly (Rowling, “The Sorting Hat”).

Each of the founders had an idea of what their ideal student would be and every year the Sorting Hat describes this to the new students in a song at the start of the Sorting ceremony. In *Philosopher's Stone*, the Sorting Hat describes Gryffindors as brave and chivalrous, Hufflepuffs as patient and “unafraid of toil”, Ravenclaws as wise and “of wit

and learning” and finally, Slytherins as cunning and willing to use any means necessary to achieve their goals (126).

The founders, while good friends, disagreed on more matters than just which traits their students should value (*Order of the Phoenix* 189). Slytherin wished to only admit students from magical families, believing that Muggleborns were untrustworthy. This eventually led to an intense argument between Gryffindor and Slytherin which resulted in Slytherin leaving the school for good (*Chamber of Secrets* 159). Throughout the series the rivalry between Gryffindor house and Slytherin house has been portrayed as more intense than any other combination of houses and it is likely that it has been so from the very start of the school. Slytherin leaving the school in a fit of rage was also most likely the beginning of the popular belief that any evil witch or wizard must have been in Slytherin, as Hagrid tells Harry “there’s not a single witch or wizard who went bad who wasn’t in Slytherin” before Harry even steps his foot into Hogwarts (*Philosopher’s Stone* 86). As the students’ house is decided based on personality, the houses each have their reputation and stereotypes.

Gryffindors are brave, bold, and daring (*Order of the Phoenix* 190). A study conducted in 2015 by interviewing fans of the *Harry Potter* series who had been sorted into their Hogwarts house through the Sorting Hat quiz on the Pottermore website indicated that fans who were sorted into Gryffindor are slightly more extraverted than those sorted into the other houses (Crysel et al. 176). The Gryffindor students are not afraid to stand up for what they believe in and often rush into things without considering the consequences.

Ravenclaws are described as clever (*Goblet of Fire* 177), intelligent (*Order of the Phoenix* 189), and willing to learn (*Philosopher’s Stone* 126). The entrance to their common room is not guarded by a password but a riddle, which the students must answer correctly in order to be let in and if they fail to answer the question, they must wait for someone else to get the right answer (*Deathly Hallows* 478). Thus Ravenclaws are required to think on their feet and be able to apply logic and reason to the problem they are presented with in order to reach their common room. According to the 2015 study people sorted into Ravenclaw have a higher Need for Cognition and thus are more likely to pursue and reflect on information than members of the other houses (Crysel et al. 176).

Harry does not interact with many Ravenclaws throughout the series. Up until the creation of Dumbledore's Army, often called the DA for short, in *Order of the Phoenix* the only Ravenclaw students he has any contact with are Cho Chang and Luna Lovegood and even as the DA starts meeting regularly, the two girls are the only students out of the six Ravenclaw members with whom Harry has a personal relationship beyond that of the tutor-student relationship he has with all of the members of the DA. Luna is quite eccentric and appears to be alienated from her peers because of it, but she depicts plenty of Ravenclaw behaviour in her own eccentric way. She is the one to tell Harry about the entrance to the Ravenclaw common room and answers his question regarding how students who fail to answer the riddle get into the common room with a "that way you learn, you see?" (*Deathly Hallows* 478) implying a belief that even entering one's common room should be a learning experience if possible. She is also very knowledgeable and although most of her fellow students, Ravenclaws especially, do not consider her area of expertise, which is mostly focused on obscure knowledge of unknown creatures or forgotten myths, a worthy one it comes in handy during the search for Voldemort's horcruxes. Luna is the one to lead Harry towards Ravenclaw's diadem, an object which according to the legends had been missing for centuries which led to it being immediately dismissed as a possible horcrux by Luna's fellow Ravenclaws (*Deathly Hallows* 475). Luna however was right as the diadem was indeed used by Voldemort to create a horcrux (519).

Slytherins are cunning, ambitious, and willing to do whatever it takes to meet their goal. According to the 2015 study by Crysler et al, fans sorted into Slytherin scored higher in the so called "dark triad" personality traits, that is: Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy (177). The house has a reputation for believing in blood purity which started with Salazar Slytherin himself who only accepted pure-blood students into his house (*Order of the Phoenix* 189). The Sorting Hat does not seem to adhere to Slytherin's demand for blood purity however, as there have been a number of confirmed half-blood students sorted into Slytherin, including notably Tom Riddle (*Chamber of Secrets* 331) and Severus Snape (*Half-Blood Prince* 503). There have been no confirmed muggleborn students, but the majority of the students' ancestry is unconfirmed. As Ron claims most wizards are half-bloods nowadays (*Chamber of Secrets* 122), it is possible that the number of pure-bloods is so low that the house would be nearly empty if in addition to valuing or

exhibiting the Slytherin traits, students would have to be pure-bloods to be sorted into Slytherin.

According to the Sorting Hat, Hufflepuffs are hardworking, loyal, and patient (*Philosopher's Stone* 126). Helga Hufflepuff also appeared to see fault in the house division and is quoted by the Sorting Hat to have said "I'll teach the lot and treat them all the same" (*Order of the Phoenix* 189), indicating that she did not care for the house division and believed all students should be equal. Throughout the series Harry does not interact with many Hufflepuff students on regular basis, so the narrative does not offer as detailed a picture of interactions with Hufflepuffs as the other houses, although Harry is on friendly terms with a number of his Hufflepuff classmates. Harry himself admits that he gets along fairly well with Ernie MacMillan and Justin Finch-Fletchley (*Goblet of Fire* 247) and they often exchange small talk during classes and are friendly with each other, but their interactions are superficial and focus on school events more than anything else. In *Goblet of Fire* Harry interacts with or observes Cedric Diggory quite often as they are competing against each other in the Triwizard Tournament. During the tournament Cedric shows many qualities of his house, he is fair, honest, and works hard. When Harry and Cedric are tied at the very end of the tournament, it is Cedric who insists that Harry take the cup symbolising the victory as Harry had helped him throughout the tournament, believing it only to be fair that Harry win. It is Harry who insists that they take the cup together and end the tournament in a tie (532-534).

These four houses are pitted against each other in various ways throughout the school year, which has caused a serious rivalry between them. The school appears to encourage this rivalry by continually setting up an environment in which the students must compete against each other for the sake of their own house's success.

One such competition is the House Cup, which is awarded to the house with the most points at the end of the school year (*Philosopher's Stone* 122). It is taken very seriously by the students at Hogwarts. Students who gain points for their house are celebrated and students who lose points are ignored and even insulted. An example of this would be when Harry, Hermione and Neville lose 150 points in one night for being out of bed after curfew. This caused the rest of their house and even Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw to stop talking to them entirely, unless it was to insult them, until they were granted enough points to surpass Slytherin again (*Philosopher's Stone* 263). Even a

student's performance in the classroom affects the house cup, as students can receive points for answering a question correctly (*Chamber of Secrets* 96).

In addition to the House Cup, each house has a Quidditch team which competes for the Quidditch cup each year. The Quidditch cup, besides being an competition on its own also affects the House Cup standings, as winning a game grants the winning team a number of house points (*Chamber of Secrets* 193), although how many points a win is worth is never explicitly stated. Unlike the House Cup, where each student can assist their house by earning points, only the seven players of the team have any effect on the Quidditch cup standing. Nevertheless, the race for the Quidditch Cup is just as intense as the House cup and the entire school is fraught with excitement around any major games.

With the intensity of the house competition, students often try to sabotage each other to further their own house's standing. Prefects have the ability to hand out punishments for misbehaviour, such as giving detentions (*Order of the Phoenix* 174), which is quite a responsibility in such a competitive environment. Not everyone appears to be deserving of this responsibility, in *Order of the Phoenix* Draco Malfoy becomes the fifth year prefect for Slytherin house and threatens to give Harry detention from Gryffindor after intentionally riling Harry up on the train ride to Hogwarts, before they even arrive at the school (179). In that same school year, members of Professor Umbridge's short-lived Inquisitorial Squad are given the authority to deduct points, which Draco immediately takes advantage of. He deducts points from Gryffindor for superficial reasons, including taking five points on Harry's behalf because he does not like him and ten points because Hermione is, in his words, a mudblood (*Order of the Phoenix* 577-578).

Sabotage is also common around any major Quidditch matches as students try to harass the opposite team's players and unnerve them enough to affect their performance. Draco Malfoy and his cronies, Crabbe and Goyle, try to scare Harry into falling off his broom during a game between Gryffindor and Ravenclaw in *Prisoner of Azkaban* by dressing up as Dementors (280), who had interrupted a previous game which resulted in Harry falling off his broom, which gave the Hufflepuff seeker the chance to catch the snitch and thus to win the match (190). If their scheme had worked and Ravenclaw won, Gryffindor would have been out of the running for the Quidditch cup (275) but as it did not, Gryffindor moved up to second place (259). These imitation tactics tend to have the

desired results, making the affected party nervous and insecure, but the Gryffindor team at least usually manages to pull themselves together and win the game despite this.

Even the teachers are affected by the competitive spirit of the school. While Professor Snape goes to extraordinary measures to not only obviously favour his own house but also bring the other houses down, Gryffindor especially, and terrorize his students while he is at it, he is not the only teacher to show a preference to his own house. Others have also been known to show favour to their houses and sometimes even bend the rules to benefit them. In *Philosopher's Stone*, Professor McGonagall, the Head of Gryffindor House and Deputy Headmistress, gets special permission from Headmaster Dumbledore for Harry to join the Gryffindor Quidditch team (162) and equips him with a top of the line broom (176), despite first years not being allowed to bring racing brooms to school (72) and thus presumably not being allowed on the Quidditch teams either. She admits that her willingness to bend the rules is because she believes Gryffindor desperately needs a better team than the year before and mentions that they lost gruesomely to Slytherin, which resulted in her being unable to look Snape in the eye for weeks (162), making it clear that even the Heads of Houses take House competition seriously. In *Goblet of Fire*, Professor Sprout, the Head of Hufflepuff house, whose behaviour towards her students is usually nice and caring acts colder towards Harry after he is chosen as the second Hogwarts champion in the Triwizard Tournament, presumably because she, like many of her Hufflepuff students, felt he was stealing their spotlight (247). It could even be argued that the Headmaster of the school, Professor Dumbledore, shows favour to Gryffindor, the house he belonged to during his stay at Hogwarts (*Philosopher's Stone* 113). At the end of Harry's first year Professor Dumbledore waits until the very last minute to grant Gryffindor extra points and makes sure to give them just enough to surpass Slytherin, who had been in the lead up until that point and were the presumed winners of the house cup as the Great Hall had already been decorated in their colours in celebration (328-330). If not even the Headmaster of the school can be depended on to be unbiased, it is no wonder that hostility and rivalry surface. With the two highest authority figures at the school, both the Headmaster and the Deputy Headmistress, siding with Gryffindor and thus, against their archenemies in Slytherin, it is not surprising that the Slytherin students would lash out.

Bullies and bullying are a universal constant in any school but it is interesting to note that throughout the series any major conflicts between students almost always involve Slytherins and Slytherins are nearly always the instigators. There are many instances in which Draco Malfoy is seen bullying and ridiculing other students. While the rivalry between Draco and Harry, which developed early on in their acquaintanceship, is relatively equal in nature with Draco usually being the instigator but Harry unafraid to fight back or stand up for himself and others, Draco is often seen antagonizing other students as well. In *Philosopher's Stone* alone, there are various examples of him mocking and bullying Neville Longbottom, he steals Neville's remembrall after Neville falls off his broom (158), jinxes him with a Leg Locker Curse simply because Neville is standing there (234), and calls him brainless (239). Draco also seems to particularly dislike the Weasley family, who are well-known muggle sympathisers (Rowling, "Pure-blood"), a feeling he appears to have developed well before he even met them. His first words to Ron Weasley were derogatory comments about his family's size (*Philosopher's Stone* 116) and throughout the series he continues to ridicule the Weasley family's size, lack of wealth and their habit of associating with muggles and is quick to insult any of the Weasley siblings he encounters. He mocks Hagrid regularly, calling him pathetic (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 312), an oaf (119) and a savage (*Philosopher's Stone* 84) and even tries to get him fired on several occasions. Draco's prejudices appear to mostly originate from pureblood superiority. The Weasleys are known for their reputation as blood-traitors, Hermione is a muggleborn (*Philosopher's Stone* 112), Hagrid is a half-giant (*Goblet of Fire* 362) and while it was never expressly stated it is fair to assume that Neville's parents were considered blood-traitors as well, as they were both Aurors who fought against Voldemort and eventually tortured into insanity by Death Eaters (*Order of the Phoenix* 475). Draco's views are not unexpected, considering his father is a known Death Eater (*Chamber of Secrets* 30). It is interesting to note however that he disliked Remus Lupin long before anyone discovered that he was a werewolf, and thus a half-breed, but he made several disparaging remarks regarding the state of Lupin's attire. Lupin's clothes are described as shabby (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 78) and as Draco often disparages the Weasley family's lack of money it is likely that his dislike of Lupin stems from the fact that he is poor. The Malfoy family is quite wealthy, enough so that Lucius Malfoy could buy brand new, top of the line brooms for the entire Slytherin Quidditch

team when Draco joined it (*Chamber of Secrets* 116), and have always made a distinction between the wealthy and the poor, even when it comes to muggles (Rowling, “The Malfoy Family”).

Slytherin students are also shown to join together as a group to taunt other students. There are various instances of the Slytherin Quidditch team ganging up on other students, especially members of the Gryffindor Quidditch team, including a time they showed up during the Gryffindor team’s practice and loudly jeering as the Gryffindor team attempted to practice (*Order of the Phoenix* 269). In *Goblet of Fire*, nearly every member of the house wear buttons proclaiming their support for Cedric Diggory as the Hogwarts champion in the Triwizard Tournament and denouncing Harry with the taunts “Potter Stinks” (252). Many Hufflepuffs are seen wearing these badges as well (271), believing that Harry had stolen their glory by becoming the unprecedented second Hogwarts champion and thus competing against the Hufflepuff champion, Cedric Diggory (247). This was perhaps the only time in the series that another house sided with the Slytherins, but shows that even the fair and loyal Hufflepuffs are not above seeking glory for their house.

The Slytherin students are not the only bullies at Hogwarts, however. Professor Snape, the Head of Slytherin house seems to derive sadistic pleasure from abusing and terrorizing his students. He is portrayed as cruel, unfair and spiteful towards any student who is not a member of Slytherin house and especially so towards the Gryffindor students. Perhaps the most effective example of this is his treatment of Neville Longbottom. Throughout the series Snape is seen bullying Neville, an already insecure student, by making countless derogatory remarks about him personally and his magical abilities, and even at one point threatening to poison his pet toad (132). His treatment of Neville is so atrocious that early in Neville’s third year when the students have to face a boggart, a magical creature which takes the form of their greatest fear (140), in their Defence Against the Dark Arts class Neville’s boggart takes the form of Professor Snape (142). He has also made degrading comments regarding his students appearance, most notably in *Goblet of Fire* when Hermione is hit by a hex which causes her teeth to grow grotesquely, to which he said “I see no difference.”(253)

When a student exhibits behaviour not typical of their house, their house mates tend to tease or look down on them for it. Luna Lovegood’s dreamy personality and ardent

belief in magical creatures whose existence has not been proven does not sit well with the Ravenclaws' logical and academic attitude and thus has made her a target by her fellow students. The derogatory nickname Loony is used by members of other houses too (*Order of the Phoenix* 170), but only a fellow Ravenclaw could have stolen her belongings from her dorm and hid them, which she claims was a common occurrence (793). For his first few years at Hogwarts, Neville Longbottom is insecure and timid, two traits unbecoming of the brave and bold Gryffindors, and consequently ends up being left out by his classmates. Percy Weasley is often teased by his brothers for his ambition and bookish nature. Gilderoy Lockhart, the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher in *Chamber of Secrets*, is an interesting example of an adult who displays traits typically suited to another house than his own. As a student Lockhart was a Ravenclaw. He is clearly intelligent, but rather than employing his intelligence to further his own knowledge and abilities, he has mastered ways to steal credit for other people's accomplishments (Rowling, "Gilderoy Lockhart"). It is unclear how his fellow students, Ravenclaws especially, reacted to this behaviour, which one might rather expect of a Slytherin, although Rowling describes him as "never very popular" (ibid.) which might suggest that he was disliked by his fellow students.

The Hogwarts environment appears to be structured in a way that fosters hostility and dislike within itself. In fact, if compared to research surrounding intergroup conflict Hogwarts would be the ideal environment created to maximize intergroup conflict. By dividing students into the four houses with distinct differences, separating the houses and making sure it is obvious which house a student belongs to, making them compete for the house cup and allowing teachers to favour one house above the others the school administration has created an environment in which it is nearly impossible for the four houses to get along with each other (Beers and Apple 37-39). Through this, the students are not only taught to behave in certain ways but also to look at their opposing houses in certain ways. They start seeing the members of the other houses as one entity rather than individuals and impose their own stereotypes on them. All Slytherins are evil, all Hufflepuffs are idiots and so on.

The houses' relationship with each other can be compared to a class system. The Slytherins consider themselves the pure ones, they believe themselves to be above their fellow students and often look down on them and bully them. In return, they are the most

disliked house, so much that the other three would rather team up with each other and support each other than to let Slytherin win anything. Despite their differences, the other houses are all united in their dislike of Slytherin. As such, Slytherins could be seen as the aristocracy of Hogwarts. They are the most likely to abuse any privileges they have to further their own agenda and in any conflict they are always the villains and the oppressors. If Slytherin is at the top of the Hogwarts hierarchy, Hufflepuff is at the bottom. While they are certainly better liked than the Slytherins, no one but the Hufflepuffs would want to be in Hufflepuff. The other three houses consider themselves above them. Ravenclaw and Gryffindor are happy to accept Hufflepuff's help against their common enemy, but do not consider them equals. Meanwhile, Gryffindor and Ravenclaw land somewhere in the middle of the scale. They ardently dislike Slytherin and look down on Hufflepuff, but do not appear to have any such notions about each other.

2. Heritage

Heritage is clearly important in the magical community and is a deciding factor in how someone is regarded. Wizards are divided into three categories based on blood status: muggleborns, half-bloods and purebloods. Muggleborns are witches and wizards born into seemingly muggle families, although Rowling confirmed in an interview in 2007 that all muggleborns are bound to have a witch or wizard ancestor somewhere in their family tree from whom they inherit their magical ability (“J.K. Rowling and the Live Chat”). In contrast, pure-bloods are wizards with no muggle blood in their lineage (Rowling, “Pure-blood”). Half-bloods are a step in between the two, witches or wizards born into wizarding families but still have some muggle blood in their lineage. Harry himself is a half-blood, born to a pure-blood father (Rowling, “The Potter Family”) and a muggleborn mother (*Philosopher’s Stone* 57). So are both Severus Snape and Tom Riddle, both of whom were born to a pure-blood mother and a muggle father (*Half-Blood Prince* 503; *Chamber of Secrets* 331). Both Hermione Granger, Harry’s best friend, and Lily Potter, Harry’s mother, were muggleborns (*Philosopher’s Stone* 112; 57). The Weasley family however are all pure-bloods, as are the Malfoys (*Philosopher’s Stone* 105; 84).

As a continuation of the class relationships inside of Hogwarts, outside of the school pure-bloods represent the aristocracy. In fact, at least one pure-blood family believed that their family name was akin to royalty (*Order of the Phoenix* 102). The pure-blood families are typically rich and look down on those without money. They clearly believe themselves to be superior to those with muggle blood and look down on pure-bloods who associate with muggles or muggleborns.

The blood prejudice in the magical community is also a clear metaphor for racism. The belief that a wizard with muggle-blood in his lineage is not as desirable as one with purely magical blood is rooted in the idea that a person’s worth is defined by their ancestry, just as the idea that the colour of a person’s skin can somehow influence their value. Thus heritage and ancestry is clearly important in the magical community.

Professor Slughorn claims that it is very common for family members to be sorted into the same house (*Half-Blood Prince* 58). A look at the various families introduced in the series supports this claim, as the majority of them seem to be drawn to the same house. All seven of the Weasley siblings are proud Gryffindors as well as their parents (*Philosopher’s Stone* 114). Even Percy who at first glance might be better suited to

Ravenclaw, with his academic prowess, or even Slytherin, considering his ambition, was a Gryffindor. Draco Malfoy proudly tells Harry that all of his family has been in Slytherin (83) although it is uncertain how far back in his family tree he is counting. James Potter, Harry's father, proudly proclaims his father was a Gryffindor while on the Hogwarts express on his way to Hogwarts for the first time, where he too was sorted into Gryffindor (*Deathly Hallows* 548-549).

Whether this is a matter of learned behaviour, wherein the traits learned from the parents' stay at Hogwarts influence their actions and behaviour which they then in turn teach their children or a more obscure form of perhaps magical or biologic inheritance is uncertain. Harry Potter is a Gryffindor, just like both of his parents (*Deathly Hallows* 549), but he was raised by his muggle aunt and uncle and never even met his parents so it is clear that he at least did not learn Gryffindor-like behaviour from his parents. Likewise, Teddy Lupin was raised by his Slytherin grandmother, Andromeda Tonks with help from Harry Potter, his Gryffindor godfather ("J.K. Rowling and the Live Chat"), but was sorted into Hufflepuff (jk_rowling), the same house as his mother was in during her days at Hogwarts (Rowling, "Nymphadora Tonks") despite her dying before he was a year old (*Deathly Hallows* 540). These examples suggest that the traits that designate which house a person is sorted into are passed down biologically rather than it being learned behaviour, but regardless of which it is their Hogwarts house is clearly a part of these wizards' inheritance from their parents.

3. Prejudice

The magical community is riddled with prejudice and discrimination. It starts at Hogwarts, where the environment conditions the students to dislike those who are not a part of their own group, but slowly develops throughout the series to start focusing more on blood status and the superiority of wizards in general.

The house rivalry has caused a number of stereotypes to surface as students start to view their rivals as a unit rather than individuals. Hufflepuffs are generally looked down on despite their seemingly positive attributes. When discussing which house they might end up in, Draco Malfoy tells Harry that he would rather leave Hogwarts than be sorted into Hufflepuff (*Philosopher's Stone* 83) and Hagrid calls them “a lot o’ duffers”(86). Slytherins are generally believed to be evil or at the very least, the worst house. They are usually pure-bloods who consider their blood status an important part of their identity and as such, the other houses start to consider Slytherin, evil and pure-blood interchangeable.

Muggleborns experience a lot of prejudice because of their blood status. They enter Hogwarts with a distinct disadvantage compared to their fellow students who were raised in the magical world. While most first year students stand similarly in ability when they start Hogwarts as the magical community does not typically teach their young any spells until they begin their schooling, muggleborns are thrown into a whole new world which they know nothing of and as such, are often surprised by many of the things those raised in the magical world take for granted. A common slur used by pure-bloods against muggleborn is the word mudblood. The word itself suggests that muggleborns have dirty blood and thus are below pure-bloods (*Chamber of Secrets* 122). Draco Malfoy calls Hermione Granger this word several times without any serious consequences. He also uses the word quite loudly in a large group of people but is not reprimanded for it (147). This certainly suggests that even if everyone does not necessarily agree with the use of the term, they do not consider it harmful enough to intervene when it is used.

Pureblood extremists are a common sight in the series. The argument whether those with muggle blood are equal in status to pure-blood wizards is a major factor in Voldemort's propaganda and many of his followers even believe muggleborns are unworthy of magic, and as seen when Voldemort succeeded in taking over the Ministry they will even go as far as to claim that muggleborns are not magical and simply stole

their wands from proper witches or wizards (*Deathly Hallows* 211). This belief originates from Salazar Slytherin, who argued against allowing muggleborns students into Hogwarts. When Salazar Slytherin left Hogwarts permanently because of his disagreements on the subject with Godric Gryffindor, his beliefs were considered unusual by the vast majority of the population. It was not until the International Statute of Secrecy was implemented in 1692 and the wizarding community went into hiding to avoid persecution that views began to change. The pure-blood doctrine gained followers and the idea that it was unnatural to marry a muggle and that it would “contaminate magical blood” spread. As marriage between muggles and wizards had been common for centuries, those proudly declaring themselves pure-blood following the implementation of the Statute of Secrecy were not pure-bloods by modern wizarding society’s standards. To declare themselves pure-blood was not a descriptor of their actual heritage but rather, a declaration of their intent to keep their bloodline free of muggle blood in the future (Rowling, “Pure-blood”).

During Harry’s time at Hogwarts, blood prejudice is prevalent throughout the wizarding society, perhaps at an all-time high. By this time, the idea of what a pure-blood is had evolved from the previous declaration of intent to a statement on their ancestry. Despite this, most wizards are half-bloods (*Chamber of Secrets* 122) and many proclaimed pure-blood families would secretly remove muggles or squibs from their family trees to maintain their pure-blood image. Some, like the Black family, remove any conceived blood traitors from their family tree as well. In Walburga Black’s case, she does so quite forcefully by blasting their name of the family tree tapestry hanging in Grimmauld’s place, the Black family home (*Order of the Phoenix* 102).

The wizarding society in general does not appear to know much about muggles or squibs and appear to hold some prejudice towards them, even those who consider themselves muggle sympathisers. Not even the Weasleys, despite their reputation as muggle sympathisers and blood traitors, are exempt from society’s prejudices regarding wizarding superiority. When Harry asks Ron whether his entire family is magical, Ron replies that he thinks so but they have a second cousin who is an accountant and they never talk about (*Philosopher’s Stone* 105). This suggests the unnamed cousin might be a Squib, a person with no magical powers born into a wizard family (*Chamber of Secrets* 154).

The magical community's ignorance of muggles is shown clearly throughout the series. Even those who one might expect to be familiar with muggles or the muggle society appear to lack a basic understanding of the non-magical world. Arthur Weasley, for example, who dedicated his life to protecting muggles and muggle artefacts from harmful magic as the Head of the Misuse of Muggle Artefacts Office (*Chamber of Secrets* 32) and often spends hours tinkering with muggle appliances in his shed, is often confused or amazed by even the simplest muggle appliances, such as electricity and electric plugs (*Goblet of Fire* 39). Muggles even feature as a comic book series for wizards' entertainment in the comics *The Adventures of Martin Miggs, the Mad Muggle* (*Chamber of Secrets* 42) which implies that although not everyone might share Mr. Weasley's intense fascination with muggles, they still hold some allure for the general public of the magical community.

Even Tonks, who is the half-blood daughter of a pureblood witch and a muggleborn wizard (*Order of the Phoenix* 104), does not appear to have any basic understanding of muggles or muggle life. In *Order of the Phoenix* she comments on the cleanliness of the Dursley's house on Privet drive and states her surprise over this as her muggleborn father is a slob and asks "I suppose it varies, just like with wizards?" (46) suggesting that prior to her visit to Privet Drive she would have assumed all muggles behave the same way her father or his family do.

Another sector that is generally looked down on by the wizarding society is squibs. The Ministry of Magic does not keep any form of register of squibs and Cornelius Fudge, the Minister of Magic, does not appear to understand the squibs' abilities other than their lack of magic, as shown when he has to ask his fellow Wizengamot members whether squibs can see dementors, much to the indignation of Mrs. Figg (*Order of the Phoenix* 132). The existence of a squib in a pure-blood family was often hushed up and the squibs would often be encouraged to integrate with the muggle community and sent them to muggle school, rather than have them be treated as a second class citizen in the magical community (*Deathly Hallows* 124).

While a lack of magic is a cause for aversion in the magical community, that does not mean all members of the community are equal as long as they have magic. As a society, wizards seem to consider themselves superior to other magical creatures. Attempts have been made to integrate certain magical creatures into wizarding society by

granting them legal status, although magical creatures are divided into two categories, one being 'beasts' and the other 'beings'. Newt Scamander, the author of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* defined beings as "a creature worthy of legal rights and a voice in the governance of the magical world" (Rowling, *Fantastic Beasts* 11-12) and explained that while early attempts to distinguish between the two were disastrous, in 1811 the magical community finally settled on definitions which the majority found acceptable. Thus the definition of a being became "any creature that has sufficient intelligence to understand the laws of the magical community and to bear part of the responsibility in shaping those laws." (12)

Both centaurs and merpeople chose to separate their affairs from wizards and manage them by themselves, which the Ministry of Magic accepted reluctantly (*Fantastic Beasts* 13). Considering that despite their status as beings, these creatures do not have representatives in any legal proceedings and the Ministry's reluctance to allow centaurs and merpeople to separate from the Ministry, it appears that wizards consider themselves to have the right to govern over these creatures and thus implying they consider themselves above them. This is supported by simply taking a step inside the atrium of the Ministry of Magic. At the very centre of the room there is a large fountain decorated with golden statues. These statues depict a wizard, larger than the other figures, pointing his wand into the air. Surrounding him are a witch, a goblin, a centaur, and a house elf. The three creatures are looking up at the witch and wizard with an adoring look on their faces (*Order of the Phoenix* 116). That this statue is located at the Ministry of Magic, the magical community's main authority and shows what should be equal members of the society looking up at wizards with adoration is a clear indication of the society's beliefs.

One group which everyone, regardless of blood status or affiliation, seems to find inferior is the house elves. House elves are small elves who live with wizards, usually in wealthier pureblood households, and take care of any chores designated by their masters (*Chamber of Secrets* 14; 30). They do not get paid for their labour nor do they get time off and thus are essentially slaves to the wizard they belong to. Despite this, most house elves appear to enjoy their existence and are scandalized at the idea of wages or holidays (*Goblet of Fire* 84). When Hermione discovers the truth about the house elves' situation in *Goblet of Fire*, she is horrified that wizards are taking advantage of these creatures by enslaving them. Her efforts to free them are not appreciated by the house elves nor

Hermione's fellow wizards as they claim that since the house elves do not wish to be free, it does not count as slavery (189).

Werewolves also face discrimination from the magical community and are feared by everyone. It has been debated whether werewolves classify as beasts or beings and no definite classification has been made. Even the offices relating to werewolves have moved between the Being and Beast divisions at the Ministry of Magic as no one could make up their mind regarding where they should fit. Although werewolves are for all intents and purposes human aside from one night a month, it is that one night that makes them so feared and disliked as they lose their human sense of right or wrong (Rowling, "Werewolves") and thus transform into murderous beasts (*Fantastic Beasts* 60). To avoid being persecuted, most werewolves tend to keep hidden and live together in packs ("Remus Lupin"). Around the same time that Professor Snape outed Remus Lupin as a werewolf, Dolores Umbridge drafted an anti-werewolf legislation which made it nearly impossible for werewolves to gain employment (*Order of the Phoenix* 281). Considering the timing of this legislation, it is likely that it was the Ministry of Magic's response to outrage over Headmaster Dumbledore hiring a werewolf as the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher. Even Mrs Weasley, who is in most ways kind and accepting of anyone, displays a fear of werewolves, even after having spent a summer sharing a house with Remus Lupin and thus having gotten to know the werewolf well. While her husband is in St. Mungo's being treated for a snake bite, he shares a ward with a werewolf and questions whether it is safe for him to be in there with Mr. Weasley, despite it being two weeks before the full moon (*Order of the Phoenix* 451).

Each of these groups' relationships with each other show a hierarchy that implies that certain citizens are better than others. When it comes to wizards in general, pure-bloods are better than half-bloods or muggleborns, but all wizards are better than squibs, muggles or other magical creatures.

4. The wars

The magical community experienced the uprisings of two dark wizards in the 20th century. The first was Gellert Grindelwald, who was eventually defeated by Albus Dumbledore in 1945 (*Philosopher's Stone* 109). The other was Lord Voldemort, who was killed by Harry Potter in 1998 at the Battle of Hogwarts (*Deathly Hallows* 608). Grindelwald considered himself a revolutionary and wanted to establish a new world order in which the International Statute of Secrecy would be abolished and wizards would rule over muggles. It is uncertain how much support his campaign had from the general public, but as he managed to raise an army and build a prison stronghold to contain his enemies and was considered one of the most powerful dark wizards of all times it appears that he had significant support from the general public. His slogan was "For the Greater Good" originated from his belief that wizards are the superior race and it would be in everyone's best interest that they rule the world as benevolent leaders. It is unclear when he actively started to gain power, but it is known that in the last years of the 19th century he befriended Albus Dumbledore as a young adult and the pair started to form the foundation of Grindelwald's revolution. However, the two had a falling out and went their separate ways after a duel which caused the death of Dumbledore's younger sister (291-293). Whether Grindelwald started his rise to power immediately is unknown, but in 1945 he was at the height of his power when he was defeated by his former friend and partner 45 years after they separated.

Voldemort's goal was to rid the magical community of all muggle blood but he did not appear to have any intention to take over muggle society or abolish the International Statute of Secrecy. The majority of his known supporters are pure-blood wizards although a number of half-bloods supported him as well. Voldemort himself was a half-blood and loathed his muggle father, who abandoned him and his pure-blood mother before he was born. He started to gain power slowly and quietly, gathering followers who were collectively known as Death Eaters. While many joined his cause out of support for his anti-muggle propaganda, others joined out of greed for power, fame or wealth. Many also did not have a choice, as Voldemort was not above using blackmail or cursing to force people to join his cause (*Order of the Phoenix* 85). As Voldemort gained power, wizards became terrified. His campaign was not public at first, but the magical community caught on as people started to disappear, presumably ending up dead. As the

general public became more aware of him, more people started dying and being tortured for opposing him. No one knew who to trust as no one knew who his supporters were and his frequent use of the Imperius curse to gain followers meant that anyone could be under his control (*Goblet of Fire* 444). His first reign ended on Halloween in 1981 as he attempted to murder Harry Potter, but as he was protected through his mother's sacrifice the curse rebounded on him and nearly killed Voldemort instead (*Philosopher's Stone* 321). For the next 14 years, he was powerless until one of his followers, Peter Pettigrew finally managed to restore his power to its full glory in June of 1995 (*Goblet of Fire* 541). For the next year he gathered followers quietly, taking advantage of the fact that no one believed he had returned until he lured Harry to the Ministry of Magic a year after his return in June 1996. Harry and his friends managed to delay Voldemort's plan enough that the Minister of Magic arrived at the scene just as Voldemort was leaving, making it impossible to deny his return any longer (*Order of the Phoenix* 752). The following year Voldemort and his followers kept up frequent attacks, as they no longer had to hide, which culminated in their attack on Hogwarts resulting in the death of Albus Dumbledore (*Half-Blood Prince* 496). After Dumbledore's death, Voldemort and his Death Eaters managed to seize the Ministry of Magic and effectively take over the entirety of the magical community in Great Britain (*Deathly Hallows* 127). They enforced strict laws, forcing all muggleborns to register with the Ministry and have their wands confiscated as they accused muggleborns of stealing magic (168). Many muggleborns and half-bloods were forced to go on the run to avoid persecution (240). The Death Eaters also took over Hogwarts and forced the students to torture their fellow students and be tortured in turn if they misbehaved (467). Voldemort's second war culminated in the Battle of Hogwarts on May 2nd in 1998, which after hours of fighting resulted in the death of Voldemort at the hands of Harry Potter and the subsequent defeat of his followers (609).

Both of these wars were fought over the same idea. Both Grindelwald and Voldemort believed themselves and wizards in general to be superior to other creatures and muggles. The fact that two such similar uprisings could occur within a century of each other certainly suggests that despite there being years between the defeat of Grindelwald and Voldemort's uprising, and then later on Voldemort's first defeat and his second uprising, attitudes in the magical community did not change in that time. Even

with years in between them, both of these dark wizards had the same basic idea and both managed to gather an army that supported them.

5. The effect:

The Sorting Hat clearly has an immense impact on not only each witch or wizard individually, but also the magical community as a whole. Whether this is intentional or accidental cannot be said, although certain events suggest that the Sorting Hat might be aware of the affect it can have. During the Sorting Ceremony in Harry's first year, as they argue about his placement the Sorting Hat tries to convince Harry that he belongs in Slytherin, "you could be great [...] it's all here in your head and Slytherin will help you on the way to greatness" (*Philosopher's Stone* 130). This implies that the results of the sorting have more impact than simply deciding which dorm the students will sleep in, they appear to affect what type of person the students grow up to be and which path they will take in life. This does raise some concerns regarding the amount of influence this ancient, enchanted object might have had in shaping the wizarding community from the very beginning. As Arthur Weasley warns his children in *Chamber of Secrets*, "Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain" (348).

As they are arguing whether Harry should be in Gryffindor or in Slytherin, the Sorting Hat must have had some insight into where a stay in Gryffindor might lead him, but it still insists that Slytherin would make Harry great. Arguably, Harry does become great despite choosing Gryffindor. He learns highly advanced spells at an early age (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 251) and becomes excellent in Defence Against the Dark Arts, even going as far as teaching his fellow students in Dumbledore's Army in *Order of the Phoenix* (362). He thwarts Voldemort multiple times (*Philosopher's Stone* 320; *Chamber of Secrets* 340) and eventually defeats him permanently (*Deathly Hallows* 608). He then goes on to become the youngest Head Auror in British history at the age of 26 (Looch).

Another instance in which the Sorting Hat might have drastically altered the course of history would be the sorting of Neville Longbottom. Neville was close to becoming a hatstall, which is the term given to any student whose sorting takes longer than five minutes. Neville firmly believes that he belongs in Hufflepuff and vehemently argues against the Sorting Hat's wish to place him in Gryffindor. Eventually, the Sorting Hat wins their argument and Neville is sorted into Gryffindor (Rowling, "Hatstall"). Nearly seven years later, Neville becomes an essential part in Voldemort's defeat by destroying Voldemort's last horcrux (*Deathly Hallows* 599). That would not have happened if not for two crucial factors. Firstly, Neville's confidence in himself, which at

the start of the series was abysmal but grew in the following years as he was shown the value of his skills, first through his Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher expressing interest in his skill in Herbology in *Goblet of Fire* (185) and then as he became a member of Dumbledore's Army, standing up for what he believes is right even if it goes against the school rules or even laws. Secondly, Harry's trust in him. Harry specifically told Neville that killing Nagini was vital to being able to defeat Voldemort (*Deathly Hallows* 568). He would not have entrusted anyone with this task unless he trusted them explicitly and as he rarely interacted with students from other houses, Neville would most likely not have become one of his most trusted friends had he been in Hufflepuff. Thus, by Sorting Neville into Gryffindor, the Sorting Hat's actions might have been a compelling factor in defeating Voldemort.

By enforcing the separation based on personality, traits, and values from such an early age the Wizarding community cripples its own growth. From the age of eleven and throughout their teens, wizarding children are pushed into a mould where they are expected to think and behave a certain way. Thinking outside of the box is discouraged and they are encouraged to conform to a certain standard. Not only does this lead to a lack of personal growth, but might also be causing the society itself to stand still.

Compared to their Muggle counterparts, the British Wizarding society's ideology does not seem to change much and only very slowly. In the time since Hogwarts was founded over a thousand years ago (*Philosopher's Stone*), there has only been one major change in their ideology. In the late 17th century their attitude towards muggleborns and muggles shifted, going from a formerly positive attitude to distrust and resentment as Wizards were forced into hiding during the witch hunts (Rowling, "Pure-Blood"). Since then the anti-muggle rhetoric has been prevalent in society and a leading factor in most major conflicts they encounter. Their history's most recent conflicts, the first and second wars against Voldemort in the latter half of the 20th century and the war against Grindelwald in the 1940s were all fought over similar matters. Both Grindelwald and Voldemort believed that wizards were and should be superior to muggles and any non-magical beings, although Grindelwald did not seem to put as much faith in blood purity as Voldemort did, focusing rather on the superiority of all wizards over any other being than comparing one type of wizard to another.

In addition to their lack of ideological change, wizards do not appear to see any reason for inventing ways to improve their way of life or technological advancement. Their modes of communication seem ancient compared to the muggles' equivalents. The most common form of communication is delivering letters by owls and if they wished to talk to someone directly they would either have to visit or use the Floo Network, which by throwing Floo powder into a fire will make it possible for them to stick their head into their own fireplace and have it appear someplace else (*Goblet of Fire* 134). While owls might be faster than the standard mail delivered in the muggle world, letter writing takes time and the owls would still have to find the person they are delivering to. The Floo network has its disadvantages too, in order to reach someone with the Floo network they must have a fireplace connected to the network in their home (Rowling, "The Floo Network") and there are no guarantees they would be near the fireplace at the time of the call. A more reliable method of communication was introduced in *Order of the Phoenix*, a two way mirror that Sirius Black gave to Harry, which Sirius and Harry's father used in their school days. These mirrors come in a pair and enable the owners to communicate with whoever holds the other half of the pair simply by holding the mirror up and calling their names (789), but these do not seem to be a standard form of communication as this set, is the only one mentioned in the series. Wizards still write with a quill and ink (*Philosopher's Stone* 85), an instrument which muggles stopped using in the early 19th century with the invention of the dip pen ("History of Dip Pens"). The risks of writing with a quill are many, spilling ink all over important papers or the ink blotting while writing as well as making it harder to erase mistakes, all of which could be solved with the use of a simple pencil or ballpoint pen. While these kind of adaptations might seem small and inconsequential, after all wizards have magic, it must be noted that while muggles adapt and evolve their ways and tools rather quickly, wizards appear to be content to stick to what they know rather than face the unknown.

This resistance to change might even originate from within Hogwarts itself. The education at Hogwarts focuses mainly on memorization, rather than problem solving or even understanding. There is a distinct lack of scientific inquiry, students are taught a spell or a potion but there is no attempt at understanding why magic works the way it does. The few wizards who do appear to question how things work and experiment with magic are some of the most powerful ones. Despite this the Hogwarts curriculum does

not include any attempts to encourage the students to think outside of the box which eventually leads to a learned helplessness which could be a contributing factor in Voldemort's rise to power as wizards are taught to accept things as they are rather than question how and why they are (Rosenberg 6-16).

Conclusion

The various prejudices the magical community exhibits are all influenced by Hogwarts. During their attendance at the school, students are pitted against each other in a hostile environment which teaches them to stick to their own specific group and to dislike those outside of their group. What starts as an innocent school rivalry in which dorms compete for a house cup awarded at the end of each school year, slowly evolves and forms into a belief that wizards are superior to other non-human magical beings and furthers the gap between purebloods and muggleborns. Hogwarts conditions its students to dislike and look down on parts of the society for things they have no control over, which leads to an adult population outside of Hogwarts who is much more susceptible to exhibiting prejudices based on ancestry. This eventually causes such a rift in the society that it is much easier for dark wizards intending to overthrow the law and order of the Ministry of Magic and enforcing their own propaganda to gain power and start a war over matters the society has been experiencing for years.

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