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Always harry potter gif

February 1, 2001 11 min Read This story appears in the February 2001 issue of Entrepreneur. Subscribe » If you are like us in an entrepreneur and like millions of children and adults around the world, you are not only a fan of the Harry Potter book - you are a fan in the withdrawal. It looks like the next book in the series, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, may not hit bookstores until 2002, and the first film won't be released until November. You have two options: go crazy, or read this article. Like many entrepreneurs, Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling started in modest digs and with big dreams. She had to re-enter the entire manuscript for the [first] book because she couldn't afford to have it ticcopia, notes Jeff Blackman, a business growth specialist in Glenwy, Illinois, and author of Result \$ (Successors). More than 30 million [Harry Potter] books have now been sold. It is an amazing testament to [her] perseverance and passion.1 Rowling studied French and literature, not business, in college. But she worked for several years at the Chamber of Commerce in Manchester, England. Perhaps something rubbed down because young Potter can teach us a lot about running our own business. We don't. Even The Wall Street Journal ran a story about muggles' business covering books, referring to emails as owls and ATMs as Gringots. (Confused by this sentence? Of course, since Harry Potter books are supposedly for children, some hidden and not so hidden business lessons may seem basic. But like all eternal truths, it is worth reviewing them from time to time. So get milk and cookies, pull up the chair, and let's read the story . . . Book One: Harry Potter and the Stone Book of the Sorcerer Two: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Mysteries Book Three: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban Book Four: Harry Potter and the Glass Fire Book One: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone Plot: Ten-Year-Old Orphan Harry Potter Lives in a Closet Under the Stairs at the Home of His Imprisoned Relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Dursleys and Their Dim Harry learns that he has magic blood and has to head to the train station on Kings Cross's 93 4 platform to go to Hogwarts, a school for wizards. There, for the first time, Harry is friends. He also confronts his enemy, Lord Voldemort. Business lesson No 1:Understand the different cultures in your company. On Harry's first day at Hogwarts, he and other first-year students meet a Sorting Hat who tells his audience: Try me and I'll tell you / Where you should be. Once the hat sends each student to one of four dormitories: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw or Slytherin. The most talented wizards (including Harry) go to Gryffindor, and the sinister are to Slaythrin, where you'll find Draco Malfoy, the most evil high school student in the fictional universe. Did you know what's really going on in your If you're not sure, check out Shadow knows the advice on determining which of your employees gives real power. The more your business gets, the more cultures it's going to have - and you need to be aware of them, says Don Andersson, a business coach in Cranford, N.Y., and author of For Hire Fit (Oak-hill Press). When he read the first Harry Potter book, he immediately noticed how Hogwarts' academic culture reflects the corporate world. If you want the new hire to flourish, the person making hiring decisions needs to understand your company's culture well enough to know where this [candidate] is going to be the best, says Andersson. A worker may have great skills, but in the wrong culture they won't really [work]. Business lesson No 2:When you own a company, you better be in good company. Your partners and employees are everything; You understand that, don't you? Such wisdom exemplifies Harry's best friends, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley. Hermione lies to the professor so that Harry and Ron don't get out of trouble for confronting the troll, and Ron risks cinging in a chess game live so Harry can't prevent the Sorcerer's stone from falling into the wrong hands. But loyalty is not enough. You also need employees and partners who will tell you what they think, not what you want to hear. And if they're smart, the better. Potter Mouth If you haven't read the books, here's a quick guide to the key terms: 9: The platform where the train departs to take Harry to Hogwarts. You'll never find it if you're a muggle. Gringots: The bank where wizards keep their money; fierce goblins guard him. Hogwarts: Harry's Seven Year Academy of Magic attends. Mud: a derogatory term of slang for descendants of mugs and a magical father. Muggle: a man without magical powers. This can be said as an insult or with an outsprung of pity in the voice. Owls: Owls carry messages back and forth not as fast as email, but cheer. Queedich: Think about football on binges and you have an idea. Book 2: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Mysteries Plot: Harry returns to Hogwarts a year later to discover that the evil creature is turning students into living statues. Business lesson No 1: The initiative is rewarded. Sometimes the rules need to bend or even break. Keryn Beck-Dudley, a professor of business law and ethics at Utah State University, Logan, observes: If you had driven out Hogwarts students every time they were wrong, you wouldn't have stayed with a very virtuous organization. And you wouldn't even have Harry Potter. When you're trying to create a work environment that makes people enjoy coming to work, treating people like people should be top of your list. Read Employee Management Better to learn how. Just as entrepreneurs rarely adhere to the 9-5 regime, Harry breaks a curfew to sneak around school and fight evil. When he flies on a broom against orders, he's not punished really, he desired place in the Quidditch team. Quidditch. Because he was flying to help a classmate, and he's the best binge that the school has seen in ages to the delight of students, professors and even principal Albus Dumbledore. But if Dumbledore were like many bosses, says Beck-Dudley, he would focus on the bad things Harry was doing. Then, either Harry will go and take his skills elsewhere, or his creativity will be crushed. Business lesson No 4: Creating a working environment for education. If Harry Potter had worked for most companies, he would have been fired now, Beck-Dudley argues. Sometimes severe punishment is not the best remedy, she notes. Business owners are often out of shelling someone because it's the easiest [route] without realizing it creates an environment where people are scared and unproductive. Hogwarts includes everyone. You are not severely punished if you do not succeed. Poor Neville [one of the students] tries hard but never does so and is still part of the group. The focus is on how he contributes, not how he doesn't. Book 3: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban Plot: Our Hero returns to Hogwarts, hoping to stay out of the way of infamous killer Sirius Black. Business lesson No 5: Networking work. This theme runs throughout the series, but seems to be best illustrated in this instalment. Harry and Hermione are doing well in contacts that have paid off. Before starting the book, Hermione agreed with one of the teachers to take three classes at once (through time travel) and go further academically. But Harry is a networking king. In the Chamber of Secrets, he meets Dobby, a house elf who later saves his life with tips in the Goblet of Fire. In Azkaban, Fred and George Weasley (Brothers Ron and Harry's classmates) provide Harry with a Hogwarts map showing where people are at any given time. In Goblet, Harry helps his opponent Cedric Diggory during the tournament in Trivisard; later Cedric returns the favor. Had it not been for his contacts, Harry would most likely have been done a long time ago. Need to clean up your networking skills? Make Connectioncan tell you just what you need to know to meet and greet the best of them. Business lesson No 6: When needed, give up your business plan. Little goes as Harry expects, but he learns to be flexible in this book. (If you haven't read this one yet and want to, try skipping this section.) After hearing that he can't visit the charming village of Hogsmead with his classmates, Harry plans to spend the day reading. But when he receives a secret school map, he discovers a tunnel to Hogsmeade that later helps him uncover villains. And while many heroes (entrepreneurs) could be forgiven for not wanting to be united with someone who was once at the competition, Harry would befriend Sirius, who becomes one of his closest allies. Harry's willingness to change directions quickly impresses Blackman. The choices you make affect your future,' he explains. You have decided to innovate, simulate or If the latter, you and abdicate. So much of Harry Potter is engaged in innovative thinking creatively from a unique perspective. Dumbledore muses: The consequences of our actions are always so complex, so diverse that predicting the future is indeed a very complicated matter. You can make predictions for your company, but you can't count on them. Book four: Harry Potter and the Glass of Fire Plot: Harry returns to Hogwarts and competes in the Triwizard tournament. Business lesson No 7:Entrepreneurs triumph over large corporations. Anne Warfield, a business coach, professional speaker and owner of Impression Management Professionals in Minneapolis, believes the business lesson is the most important thing in the books. No matter how inconsequental we are, we can have a powerful effect, she says. What is important is getting tools to build that potential in itself. Harry does just that at Hogwarts and screws up the best Lord Voldemort. Business lesson No 8:Adequate funding is essential. Invest wisely. The money Harry inherits from his parents and saves along the way allows him to provide money when George and Fred Weasley need funding for their charming joke shop. Who would have thought? Harry Potter may not grow up an entrepreneur, but he's already a venture capitalist. Rating The Characters We asked business experts how Harry and his cohorts would fare as entrepreneurs. Characteristics of Harry Potter: kind, ethical, courageous, swift, independent As an entrepreneur: He would be great. He would be willing to work through problems to find an answer, says business coach Anne Warfield of Impression Management Professionals. His achilles heel: He may not rely enough on others, relying on each adventure on his own. As with spiders, he didn't think about the danger he posed to Ron because his quest to get an answer was driving him, warfield says, referring to the time Harry persuades Ron to accompany him to the Forbidden Forest in the Chamber of Secrets. Ron Weasley Characteristics: loyal, bold, ethical, but sometimes envious of those who are more successful As an entrepreneur: He should collaborate with a friend or mentor. He would be a better vice president than [CEO], Warfield says. He has strength of character, but . . . His achilles heel: Leading is hard for Ron,' adds Warfield. He expects Harry and Hermione to have pre-sent ideas. Hermione Granger Characteristics: smart, ambitious, loyal, extremely ethical, serious, kind, friendly As an entrepreneur: She'll probably do better than Harry. It is logical, detail-oriented and has connections, says Warfield. She would be the most visionary and insightful. Her achilles' heel: She can overwork her people, says Warfield. She can't lighten up. Draco Malfoy characteristics: medium, unetic, angry, the kind of guy who would send orphaned orphans Father's Day cards as an entrepreneur: His type often goes far, says business professor Keryn Beck-Dudley of He would be surrounded by both men and manipulated to make things happen, warfield adds. He would have been successful as long as he got the organization going and then sold it. His achilles heel: He's angry and you know what usually happens to the bad guy after all. End.

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