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Characters and Dogs: Relationships Between Dogs and Humans in Fictional Literature

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Characters and Dogs

Relationships Between Dogs and Humans in Fictional Literature

Objective:

To demonstrate how we use fictional means to view and explore our relationship with dogs and how by using fictional literature we can see the progression of this relationship.

Introduction:

Humans' relationship with dogs has progressed greatly over time. At first dogs were considered threats as they were wild and untamed. Over time, though, dogs grew to not only be diligent workers but also constant companions and loyal family members.

Seeking Persephone

Seeking Persephone shows the early relationship between humans and dogs. A pack of wild dogs that occupy the forest are seen as mysterious and fierce like the property's owner Adam. At one point they attack his wife. Adam does not blame the dogs but focuses on leading them away so another bad encounter can be avoided. This shows the turning point of human-dog relationships when people stopped seeing dogs as evil and instead started thinking they could be something more.



Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban and the Order of the Phoenix

Harry Potter shows the changing relationship between humans and dogs. Harry has various interactions with a big black dog that has gleaming eyes. Most characters think the dog is the Grim- the omen of death. But as the truth behind certain events are revealed the dog's representation changes from a sign of a terrible fate to that of a new life. Dark, pain, and grief becomes light, comfort, and hope. A threat becomes a loyal being. A dog becomes family. Although the dog's interactions with Harry are brief and only occur occasionally later on, it's clear how close they become. Overall the simple, quick scenes between the 'Grim,' Harry, and other characters really expands our view of the dog-human relationship by introducing a more personal and close connection.

In all five books, the dogs portrayed were big, somewhat wolf-ish, and had dark fur.



Percy Jackson: Battle of the Labrynth and the Last Olympian

Percy Jackson shows the true companionship and taming of dogs. Percy befriends a Hellhound, Mrs. O'Leary, who shows great loyalty as she protects and helps Percy. Mostly she just does what dogs do until she's needed for battle where she fiercely fights enemies and bravely protects friends. This brings to light the everyday interactions between dogs and humans and questions what dogs truly are- the best animals or some 'lower' form of human.



Conclusion:

In the end, this research project has shown how the relationship between humans and dogs has progressed over the years. From being threats, to companions, to family members, dogs are not a solid part of our lives. Fictional literature provides a way for us to further explore these relationships and express our thoughts on the matter. By using this literary still, we can learn more about how we view dogs and gain a deeper understanding for our canine companions. It has also demonstrated how much more there is to discover and how important it is to keep thinking.



Continuing the Research

The human-dog relationship is one that has lasted for many years and is extremely complex. Thus it's impossible to fully explore this idea with only five fictional books. To continue this study, it's crucial to expand our focus to a wider range of stories including different historical periods, locations, genres, and languages.



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