

**Peter Abou Haidar (8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Cleveland, Ohio)**

**Level II Semi-finalist**

**Letter to J. K. Rowling concerning her book, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire***

Dear J. K. Rowling,

There are many things in life that require teamwork. People often have to work in teams to solve various problems. Sports such as soccer, football, and basketball require cooperation among teammates to win. People can also team up for various academic competitions in math, science, and history. Teammates can be helpful during a competition because they can suggest new ideas and improve existing strategies. They also share the work, which relieves some of the pressure and stress. In your book, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, I learned valuable lessons such as teamwork. These lessons are like a carpenter's tools to help get the job done.

In a scene, Harry's task for the tournament involves staying underwater for almost an hour. Now, nobody can hold their breath and swim for that long. Luckily, Harry's friend, Neville, gave Harry a plant that made him grow gills for a period of time. This was a great example of teamwork, which overcame even the hardest obstacles. This reminded me of an incident in which my class had to participate in a contest called National History Day. I partnered with one of my friends and we worked on a documentary together. We overcame many obstacles we faced, such as finding the right pictures for our project and fixing the nation through teamwork and made it to the national level.

I was able to do this because your book taught me that sometimes you cannot overcome all the challenges in life alone. You may need the help of others to complete certain tasks. I like to work in a group, but sometimes it can be hard. You have to compromise some of your ideas because your teammates may not always agree with them. Because of this, it can be hard to make decisions. There are also benefits of teamwork. Working in a team relieves some of the burden on yourself because your teammates have to do some of the work.

In one of the final scenes, Harry had to navigate through a maze. During that time, he found another competitor, Cedric Diggory. He and Cedric were going through the maze together, when the walls started closing in on them. As they were running, Cedric tripped over a vine. He was about to get swallowed by the maze when Harry pulled him to safety. Harry refused to sacrifice his moral values and leave someone in trouble, even though he was willing to win. This reminded me of taking a test. I have the will to pass the test, but I don't want to sacrifice my moral values to pass by cheating. This issue has not been raised, and I have not been put in such a predicament. Even so, this serves as a reminder that when I come across such a situation, I will abide by the rules and not compromise moral principles.

In conclusion, your book inspired me to be courageous and never to sacrifice my moral values for competitiveness and the willingness to win. Through your book, I learned that teamwork can overcome any obstacles that come in my way. In the end, your book was not only a riveting story of magic; it taught me invaluable lessons about life.

Sincerely,

**Peter Abou Haidar**