



Harry
Potter gets
political in
new
prequel

Literacy

It is 1926 in New York City, and a 'magizoologist' named Newt Scamander has arrived from Britain with a briefcase bursting with magical creatures. Elsewhere in the city, a 'fanatical' group called the 'Second Salemers' are calling for the persecution of wizards and witches.

Literacy

This is the premise of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, the first in a series of five Harry Potter prequels written by J.K. Rowling. It is out in cinemas today.

Literacy

The film offers an insight into the history of the magical world that Harry, Ron and Hermione will eventually inherit. It is also 'the first anti-Trump blockbuster of the Donald's presidency,' says Rolling Stone. Beyond the film's fantastical special effects is a story 'about building a wall, literal and metaphoric, to keep out scary things people don't understand.'

Literacy

J.K. Rowling is no stranger to politics. She says her heroes always 'feel themselves to be set apart, stigmatised or othered.' She was a strong campaigner against Brexit. She warned on Twitter that Voldemort was 'nowhere near as bad' as Donald Trump.

Literacy

The best children's stories have always had deeper messages, but must we talk about politics? ask some. Children's stories — especially fantasies — should be about joy and escapism. Who wants to think of Donald Trump while watching a blockbuster about spells and magical creatures? Can writers not create imaginary worlds for young people who without pushing a political agenda at the same time?

Literacy

Should children's
stories be political?

Literacy

Which books or films have
changed the way you think
about the world?

Literacy



Watch the
trailer.
Will you go
to see it?

Literacy

noun of the day

apolitical

not interested or involved in politics.

Although both of her parents are politicians, she's completely *apolitical*.

Literacy

verb of the day

stigmatised

to treat someone or something unfairly by disapproving of him, her, or it

*People should not be **stigmatised** on the basis of their religious beliefs.*

Literacy



It is our choices
that show what we really are
far more than our
abilities.

HARRY POTTER

propitiate

**FIND OUT THE
MEANING OF THIS
WORD.**

**USE IT CORRECTLY
IN YOUR WORK OR
WHEN IN LESSON TO
EARN P POINTS.**



Word Banksy

