

Compare & Contrast Essay Example

Harry Potter vs. Draco Malfoy

Can a hero and a villain ever be alike? Strangely, it would seem like the answer to that question would be no. However, when it comes to Draco Malfoy and Harry Potter, the two are more alike than you realize. Comparing and contrasting these two unique characters based on their destinies, families, and friends can show you how Harry and Draco have more in common than one might think.

You can't control your fate. The truth of these words for Harry Potter and Draco Malfoy drive the paths of their lives. However, how each different boy's fate unfolds is what makes one considered the hero and the other a villain. Harry Potter is destined to be the "Chosen One". He did not choose this destiny, but it was thrown on him as a child because of how events unfolded for his family. On the other hand, Draco Malfoy has family expectations of siding with and supporting the death eaters because of his father's affiliation. Failure to follow Voldemort could lead to not only his death but that of his family.

While fate is important, their families are what set their fate into stone. It's true that both boys had parents that loved them. However, the fact that Harry's parents died when he was just a child and he was raised by the Dursley prepared him for the hardships to come. He had a thick skin from suffering ridicule and emotional abuse for years. Therefore, when it came to right and wrong, he was prepared to stand up and fight for what was right. This was not true for Draco. Coddled by his mother Narcissa, Draco lacked the backbone to stand up to his family or Voldemort. He simply accepted his fate.

Another factor to drive their characters were their friends. Both boys had a very close-knit group of friends they relied on. For Draco, his friends were the thugs, Vincent Crabbe and Gregory Goyle. However, the scope of their friendship was more of a leader and subordinate relationship. Contrarily, Harry had a close relationship with Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley. Their friendship became as close as a family through the series. They were also pivotal to helping Harry to defeat Voldemort.

When you compare and contrast Draco and Harry, it's easy to see the boys are not as different as it seems. If their family or friends had been different, then their fates could have easily been changed. So it begs to question, are a hero and a villain defined by good and evil?