

Maturing the Old: Sophie's Journey towards Self-Recognition in Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones



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Abstract

The proliferation of the Children's Literature novels by Diana Wynne Jones has converted her into a prominent figure in the fantastic genre. Although several scholars have researched diverse aspects of Jones's narratives, there may still be approaches to adopt. Thus, the aim of this dissertation is to analyse the book *Howl's Moving Castle* (1986) by the abovementioned author and examine the protagonist Sophie's transition from having a self-imposed personality to finding her true identity. To that end, we will firstly examine the biography of the author. Secondly, we will briefly explain the categorisation of Fantasy, followed by a contextualisation of this literary genre in the second half of the 20th century in comparison with Jones's own standpoint as an avant-garde writer. Thirdly, we will focus on the aforesaid novel in relation to the importance of names, the opposition of fate and free will, and finally, Sophie's search of her original identity. Lastly, we will provide a summary of the main conclusions we have previously come to regarding the entire journey.

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