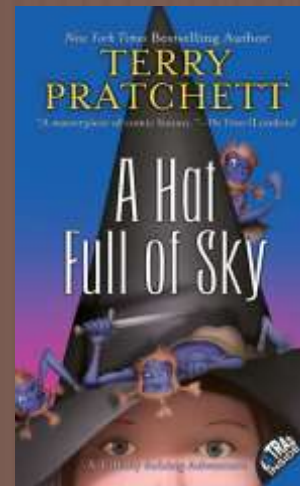


GROWING UP IN A FANTASY WORLD

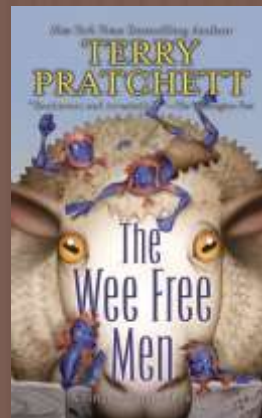
Katie Nolan, English Department
Faculty Mentor: Barbara Chatton

Introduction

- One of the popular themes of Young Adult Literature is growth from being a child into being an adult. I will explore how current discourse related to this topic applies to several fantasy series.



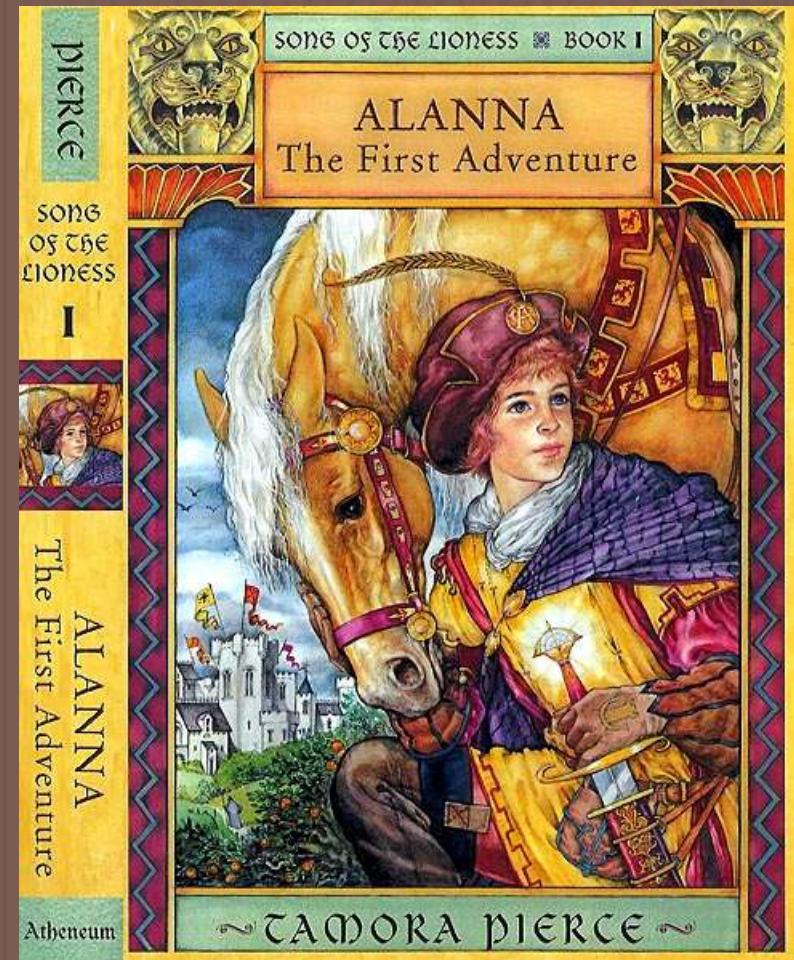
Background



- Followed major characters in:
 - Tamora Pierce's *Song of the Lioness* and *The Immortals* series
 - Terry Pratchett's *Tiffany Aching* series
 - J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series
- All are fantasy books
- Characters learn about selves, limits, place in the world, how actions can effect others and world

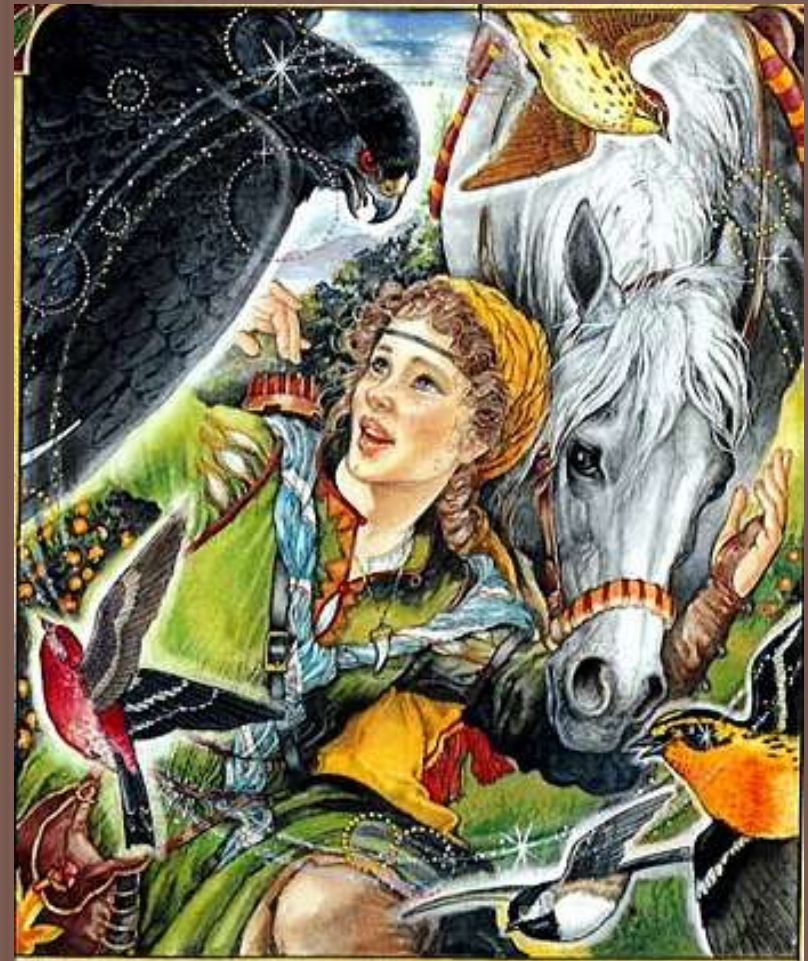
Alanna of Trebond and Olau

- ❑ Series goes from life as a page to knighthood
- ❑ Wants to be a knight
- ❑ Twin brother Thom who wants to be a sorcerer
- ❑ They switch places
- ❑ Must learn to face all of her fears in life, including her fear of love



Daine Sarrasri

- Ages: 13 to 16
- Orphaned then abandoned by village
- Sees things in black and white, like Stormwings
- Series follows her as she learns her powers, learns to fight for what she believes in and for those she loves, learns that first impressions are not always the ones to keep



Tiffany Aching

- Ages: 9, 11, and 13
- “She’d read the dictionary all the way through. No one told her you weren’t supposed to.” (*The Wee Free Men* 4)
- Young shepherdess with First Sight and Second Thoughts who learns about becoming a witch
- Very logical, objective



Hermione Granger

- Ages: 11 to 18
- One of Harry's sidekicks, so often stereotyped as sidekick
- 'The girl' of the group – brainy, quiet, and seemingly useless
- Offers a contrast between girls' and boys' development
- Series told from boy's perspective



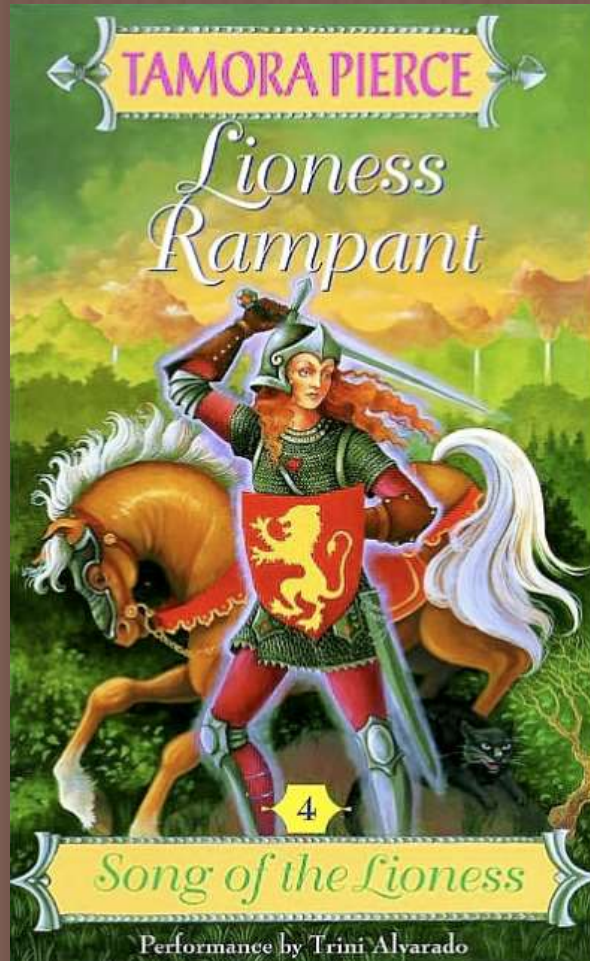
Discussion

- Fairy stories help kids learn to relate to the world
- Characters mature through series
- They learn responsibility for themselves and their actions



Lord Rikash Moonsword, Stormwing

Alanna



- Learns to love and let people in
- She has to use all of her abilities, including her Gift
- Learns she can be a woman and a knight
- Learns she can't save everyone

Daine



- Relationship with and view of Stormwings changes and adapts
- Learns there are many grey areas in life
- Grows into a woman with developed opinions

Tiffany



The Wintersmith

- First book: smarter-than-average nine-year-old who deals with things way beyond her maturity level
- Second book: leaves home to learn witchcraft and battle hiver
- Third book: 13 and learns about boys

Hermione



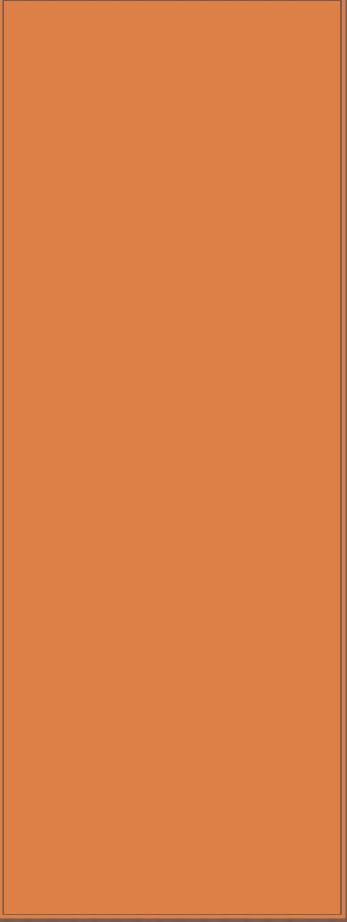
Hermione threatening Draco

- Does not give up in the face of challenges
- Matures quickly because involved in war
- She takes on a more active role as the series progresses

Conclusion

- More time covered in a series reveals more development from young girl to mature woman
- Fantasy portrays young adult girls coming into their own power
- From here, either:
 - ▣ Focus more on one series for more detail
 - ▣ Broaden spectrum to include more series

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- 
- Dr. Barbara Chatton
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 - Coe Library

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Questions?



Slick