My dissertation examines the alternative worlds in recent fantasy fiction for young adults in Britain and France. I compare J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series (1997-2007) and Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials (1995-2000) trilogy to two French fantasy series, Erik L'Homme's Le Livre des toiles (The Book of the Stars) (2001-2003) and Pierre Bottero's Ewilan (2003-2007) series. My work contributes to scholarship on French children's literature and reflects some of the ways in which comparative approaches to writing for children and young adults can highlight the differences in literary traditions as new genres, such as that of la fantasy in France, emerge as acceptable modes of literary production. Via the spatiality theories of Michel Foucault, Michel de Certeau and others, I argue that the alternative worlds in these texts constitute training grounds that prepare protagonists and their readers to develop codes of ethical action. Focusing on fantasy allows me to explore and compare two very different traditions of writing for children and adolescents. While the British Golden
Age of children's fiction led to works such as Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Winnie-the-Pooh and later to C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia, a similar shift towards imaginary, fantasy worlds did not occur in France, where writing for children and young adults was grounded in instructional strategy. I argue that in current fantasy narratives, protagonists model resistant and subversive strategies that readers can also use to oppose abuses of power in their own world. What is at stake in these texts is not the traditional binary between light and dark or good and evil. Through the mental and moral growth of their protagonist-heroes, fantasy authors are teaching their readers of all ages to think critically about responding to moral injustices and ethical uncertainties in their own world and in their everyday lives. By imagining these impossible worlds, fantasy provides readers of all ages with the mental practice necessary for becoming capable and mature problem-solvers, who are equipped to face the challenges and problems in their own world with bravery and hope.
Fantasy fiction is being feted as never before. As Game of Thrones returns to our TV screens, John Mullan conveys the magic of the genre and explores the alternative universes of Tolkien, Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman – and the reigning laureate of fantasy, George RR Martin. Perhaps the difference is that in fantasy fiction, magic is such serious stuff, and subject to complex rules and rationales. Young Sansa Stark looks out at the knights mustering and finds it “all so exciting, a song come to life; the clatter of swords, the flicker of torchlight, banners dancing in the wind, horses snorting and whinnying”. She is doomed to be abused by the young man she is to marry, and to betray her own father. “In life, the monsters win,” she decides. Speculative fiction has exploded in the young adult category, and the past decade alone has seen some really incredible works. But with so many excellent stories to check out, there’s a chance you might have missed some of the best. Here are 25 of the best fantasy books for teens or readers of all ages to check out — everything from princesses to dragons to heists and street gangs.

The Wrath & the Dawn. by Renée Ahdieh. New Zealand adolescent fiction faces problems when it enters the global literary market, but not just predictable problems of uncertain comprehension when national borders are crossed. Cultural difference attracts the attention of the international reader, but raises anxieties about commodification of the text and its culture. David Hair’s “Aotearoa series” is anchored in a New Zealand past, largely revising history in line with Māori myths. In this modified fantasy, Aotearoa becomes an imaginary, secondary world to which the protagonist switches to discover something of himself, his Māori her...

Fantasy and Mimesis. Responses to Reality in Western Literature Alternative Worlds in Fantasy Fiction. Jan 1984. E T A Hoffman. When Worlds Collide book. Read reviews from world’s largest community for readers. This is what the fairies never wanted you to know...Edge Tanning get...

Amy Laurens is an Australian author of fantasy fiction for both adults and young adults. She has lived in the same city all her life, which other people think is boring; she prefers to think of it as stable. At present, Amy lives with husband, brand new baby, and two yellow Labradors who think they are lapdogs. Surprisingly, the dogs are the most jealous of the time Amy spends on the laptop. After Amy Laurens is an Australian author of fantasy fiction for both adults and young adults. She has lived in the same city all her life, which other people think is boring; she prefers to think of it as Seriously, there are so many amazing young adult fantasy books hitting shelves in the next year that we don’t even know how we’re going to get through them all. Okay, that’s a lie, we do. We have a reading challenge. But we’re impatient, okay?! These novels have everything from snarky assassins to clever, magic manipulating girls. They tackle real issues in fantasy worlds with enough strength and subtlety that you aren’t overwhelmed—simply awed by just how skilled...