

Harold Bloom on Harry Potter

Harold Bloom (Guest): “Well, to some degree of course, one would like to feel that they ought to follow their own nature. But these days that leads to all kinds of difficulties. One cannot be happy about the thirty-five million copies of *Harry Potter*, I had a piece today about...”

Charlie Rose (Interviewer): “I saw that editorial, yes, the op-ed.”

Harold: “Yes, I...”

Charlie: “We can't be happy about that?”

Harold: “No, I think that's not reading. Because there's nothing there to be read. They're just an endless string of clichés. I cannot think that that does anyone any good. People tell me “*well at least the child is reading*” to which my answer is no the child isn't reading. That's not the *Wind in the Willows*, that's not *Through the Looking Glass*. That's not *Charlotte's Webb* by E.B. White and James Thurber's *The 13 Clocks*. That's not really children's literature. It's really just slop. And I do not think it does anyone any good at all.”

Charlie: “Okay then what are you saying? Are millions and millions and millions of people wrong?”

Harold: “I'm afraid so.”

Charlie: “And why do you think they believe and desperately wanna get this book? I mean they're being overwhelmed at Amazon dot com.”

Harold: “Yes I know, I know Charles. But a lot of that is fashion of course. You know, a lot of that is...”

Charlie: “You read it because somebody else is reading it or you read it because you think it's the thing to do or you read it because it's the *courant* thing.”

Harold: “It is the current thing. Yes. It is a fashion.”

The above is a snippet from Harold Bloom's interview on Charlie Rose. Transcribed by Abner Coimbre. [Source](#).