# Harry Potter and Other Famous Novels

**Class Level:** 9th or 10th Grade  
**Subject:** English

## Overview:
- Discuss Bestselling Novels of the Past Decade\(^2\) in America
- Why they are so popular.
- What affect that they have had on American society.

## Standards:
- 10.3 Students read and respond to grade-level-appropriate historically or culturally significant works of literature, such as the selections in the www.doe.in.gov/standards/readinglist.html illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students. At Grade 10, students read a wide variety of literature, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, folklore, mythology, poetry, short stories, dramas, and other genres.

## Learning Objectives:
Students will be able to:
- Analyze what makes a book popular.
- Decide what aspect of the book makes it stand out.
- Discuss how its popularity influences other works.
- Decide whether a popular book is a worthwhile book to read.

## Procedure:
- Separate the class into five groups.
  - Randomly assign each group one of the novels and give them a copy of that novel.
  - Give each group a computer or laptop to use.
  - Tell the groups to brainstorm and post their ideas online using a Movable Type blog.
  - Have them focus on four common aspects of bestselling novels.
    - Exciting plots.
    - Beautiful language and descriptions.
    - Hype created by the book in other areas of entertainment. (movies, reviews, celebrity interest- Oprah’s Book Club)
    - Themes relevant to current issues in America.

## Evaluation:
- That night, have each student respond to the other group’s blog posts and allow other groups to comment on and question their ideas.
- Then, ask the students to also post if and how they think that the aspects that make a bestselling novel have changed from a century ago, fifty years ago, and ten years ago and comment on each other’s posts.

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\(^1\) Adapted from [http://www.lessonplans4teachers.com/daily_lessonplan_templates.php](http://www.lessonplans4teachers.com/daily_lessonplan_templates.php) Template #5

\(^2\) 2000-2009