

Eragon by christopher paolini



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Introduction

Eragon is chosen to be the focus of the study because he is the main character of the story. And the researchers will brainstorm and share some ideas how to present the character of Eragon creatively. The story talks about dragons and dragon riders who live in a magical kingdom. People live peacefully there until one day, a young dragon rider betrays his race. His name is Galbatorix. He kills all dragons and riders because he wants to be the most powerful in the kingdom. Becoming successful, he rules the kingdom of Alagaesia. But there is this Elven lady, who is a princess, taking care of the last dragon egg, which is their last and only hope. She sends it to the Spine and there, a young farm boy sees it in the middle of the forest. This young poor boy named Eragon thinks it was a precious blue stone. He tries to sell it but no one gets it. Until one day, he sees the egg cracking. He is amazed because he sees a cute little dragon coming after him. Without knowing, Eragon's fate with the dragon is now starting. They are destined to beat Galbatorix's reign and be the last dragon and rider. The adventures of Eragon will show his different traits, which are being highlighted in this study. Background of the author Christopher Paolini (born November 17, 1983 in Southern California) is an American novelist. He is best known as the author of the Inheritance Cycle, which consists of the books Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr, and a currently untitled fourth book.

He lives in Paradise Valley, Montana, where he wrote his first book.

Christopher Paolini was raised in the Paradise Valley, Montana area.

His family members include his parents, Kenneth Paolini and Talita

Hodgkinson, and his sister, Angela Paolini. Home schooled for the duration of

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hiseducation, Paolini graduated from high school at the age of 15 through a set of accredited correspondence courses from American School of Correspondence in Lansing, Illinois. Following graduation, he started his work on what would become the novel Eragon, the first of a series set in the mythical land of Alagaesia.

In 2002, Eragon was published by Paolini International LLC, Paolini's parents' company. To promote the book, Paolini toured over 135 schools and libraries, discussing reading and writing, all the while dressed in " a medieval costume of red shirt, billowy black pants, lace-up boots, and a jaunty black cap. " Paolini created the cover art for the first edition of Eragon, which featured Saphira's eye. He also drew the maps on the inside covers of his books. In summer 2002, the stepson of author Carl Hiaasen found Eragon in a bookstore and loved it, and Hiaasen brought it to the attention of his publisher, Alfred A. Knopf. Knopf subsequently made an offer to publish Eragon and the rest of the Inheritance cycle. The second edition of Eragon was published by Knopf in August 2003. At the age of nineteen, Paolini became a New York Times bestselling author. Eragon has since been adapted into a film of the same name. Eldest, the sequel to Eragon, was released August 23, 2005. The third book in the cycle, Brisingr, was released on September 20, 2008. Although the Inheritance Cycle was planned as a trilogy, the details for Brisingr had to be expanded to include a fourth book, that has yet to be titled(http://en. wikipedia. org/wiki/Christopher_Paolini). Christopher Paolinis's abiding love of fantasy and sciencefiction inspired him to begin writing his debut novel, Eragon when he graduated from high school at fifteen after being home schooled all his life. He became a New York

Times best selling author at nineteen. Christopher Paolini lives in Montana, where the dramatic landscape feeds his visions of Alagaesia(www. Alagaesia.com). Summary of the novel The 15 year old resident of Carvahall, Eragon, starts the book by finding a strange blue stone while traversing The Spine, a mountainous area outside his home.

The world in which this novel takes place is known as Alagaesia, under the control of Galbatorix, a fallen Dragon Rider, now evil. These dragon riders used to be the peace keepers of the world, but when his dragon died, Galbatorix went mad and killed his fellow riders. Eragon's blue stone hatches eventually and from it emerges a dragon. Because of the rarity of the birth (dragons are supposed to be extinct), Eragon keeps his find secret and raises his dragon away from prying eyes, until two dark Ra'zac enter the town looking for the stone.

The dragon, named Saphira, leaves the town with Eragon to hide in the forest. While Eragon is away, the Ra'zac kill Eragon's Uncle Garrow and burn his house down. In response, Eragon declares himself a new Dragon Rider in the vain of those past, the peace keepers, before Galbatorix betrayed them. Eragon takes with him on his journeys Brom, a weaver of stories from his town with knowledge on everything Eragon needs to protect himself and defeat the Ra'zac. The three finally reach the town of Teirm where Brom learns that the Ra'zac are in Helgrind, the four-peaked mountain near the city of Dras-Leona.

The three travel there and are lured into a trap set by the Ra'zac, failing to find the revenge that Eragon so desperately seeks. Rescued by Murtagh, an

unknown stranger, Eragon and Saphira survive, but his mentor Brom is hurt and soon dies. He reveals before his death though that he was once a Dragon Rider, betrayed by Galbatorix like the others, his dragon murdered. After Galbatorix's coup, Brom became a member of Varden, and sniped the unhatched egg that Eragon eventually found, Saphira's blue stone. Along with Murtagh, Eragon and Saphira set out to find Varden to help them.

Along their journey, Eragon begins to have odddreams of a mysterious female elf in trouble. When Eragon is captured, he finally meets her, both of them imprisoned together. Murtagh and Saphira strike the prison though and manage to rescue both Eragon and the elf. During the rescue, the three encounter Shade, a horrible creature that should not be awake. The revelation of such a horrible creature loose upon the world causes the three to assume that Galbatorix is in league with darker forces yet. On the way to the Varden, Eragon must deal with an immense influx of foes and dangers, including an army of Urgals chasing them all the way there.

The Vardens' fortress, located in the depths of the Beor Mountains, is host to groups of dwarves, elves, and Varden, who are in league, having sent Saphira's egg to The Spine where Eragon found it. Given a short rest, the three along with the Varden and their allies must prepare for the arrival of the Urgal as they approach the mountain. They learn for sure that Galbatorix is in league with the dark forces from a stolen message and soon they are in a battle with the Urgal. During the battle, the Urgals are close to defeating the Varden until Eragon defeats the Shade they encountered earlier.

However, the battle with the Shade leaves him horribly disfigured and in pain. When the battle ends, closing the first chapter in the Inheritance trilogy, Eragon is preparing to go study with the elves(<http://www.wikisummaries.org/Eragon>). A protagonist is the main character (the central or primary personal figure) of a literary, theatrical, cinematic, or musical narrative, around whom the events of the narrative's plot revolve and with whom the audience is intended to share the most empathy(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protagonist>). Character Analysis- a systematic investigation of the personality of an individual with special attention to psychologic defenses and motivations, usually undertaken to improve behavior(<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/character+analysis>). Trait- A distinguishing feature, as of a person's character(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/trait>).

Dragon Rider

A Dragon Rider is a person, Elf or Human, bonded by thought with a Dragon. A Dragon Rider is identified by the " shining palm," the Gedwey Ignasia. In the Ancient Language " dragon rider" is Shur'tugal(http://www.shurtugal.com/wiki/index.hp5/Dragon_Rider).

Urgal

Urgals were a race of sentient creatures that inhabited Alagaesia. Forced by Durza into the service of Galbatorix, they were considered evil by most humans, but were not inherently so. Though most were uneducated, they made up with brute force, exceptional fighting and commanding skills. They were used as expendable " shock troops" of Galbatorix's army. The Urgal language was a simple, guttural language. Only a few phrases were known <https://assignbuster.com/eragon-by-christopher-paolini/>

to outsiders, and most of them were related to war and fighting. Also, they were one of the races capable of using magic(<http://inheritance.wikia.com/wiki/Urgal>).

Varden

The Varden were members of an alliance that opposed the rule of King Galbatorix and his Empire. They consisted mainly of men and dwarves, though there was a conjunction between the Varden and the elves, as well. The Varden also enlisted the aid of a group of magicians known as the Du Vrangr Gata (translated "The Wandering Path"). The Surdams are also known to aid the Varden in transporting supplies and shelter those who wish not to fight(<http://inheritance.wikia.com/wiki/Varden>). Ra'zac- The Ra'zac (or Lethrblaka when full-grown) were one of the several ancient races that followed the humans across the sea to Alagaesia.

They were a race that fed on humans and likely came from the same homelands. Ra'zacs' breath have the power to paralyze humans in a dream-like state, however, it barely clouds the minds of dwarves and is ineffective against elves altogether(<http://inheritance.wikia.com/wiki/Ra'zac>).

Alagaesia- Alagaesia is a large continent with variegated climate and terrain, home to a wide number of creatures such as humans, elves, dwarves, Urgals and dragons. Several of the races inhabiting Alagaesia, including humans, elves, and Urgals, were not native to the land, having migrated to Alagaesia in centuries past(<http://inheritance.wikia.com/wiki/Alagaesia>). The Spine- The Spine was a mountain range that ran down the west coast of Alagaesia. It had only one major pass, along the Toark River, which isolated the coast. Most people in the Empire feared the Spine and the danger it

represented, especially since Galbatorix lost nearly half his army in it during his campaign against the Dragon Riders. After this incident, hardly anyone dared to venture near to this dangerous mountain range(http://inheritance.wikia.com/wiki/The_Spine).

Different Traits of Eragon

Background of Eragon

Eragon is the main protagonist of the Inheritance Cycle, written by Christopher Paolini. Eragon is a male, the first in a new generation of Dragon Riders. He was trained by Brom an old story teller from his village and Oromis, and was chosen by Saphira, a blue dragon, to be her Rider. Traits of Eragon Brave Bravery is the condition or quality of being brave; courage(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/bravery>). As a Spanish matador once said, “ Bravery is believing in yourself, and that thing nobody can teach you. ” (El Cordobes, 1936), being brave is having trust in yourself.

It is the ability to confront fear, pain, risk/danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. Eragon is a brave person. The deer he was hunting had led him deep into the Spine, a range of untamed mountains that extended up and down the land of Alagaesia. Strange tales and men often came from those mountains, usually boding ill. Despite that, Eragon did not fear the Spine—he was the only hunter near Carvahall who dared track game deep into its craggy recesses. Eragon’s bravery is also proven when he battled with his enemies like Shade, Urgals, and Ra’zac which aren’t easy to kill.

Vigilant

Vigilance the ability to maintain attention and alertness over prolonged periods of time(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vigilance>). Being vigilant is being alert. One of Eragon's trait is being vigilant. It is proven in the first chapter of the novel. When Eragon saw a polished blue stone and decided to pick it. But before he picked the stone, he watched for danger for several long minutes, but the only thing that moves was the mist. Cautiously, he released the tension from his bow and moved forward. Moonlight cast him in pale shadow as he stopped before the stone.

He nudged it with an arrow, then jumped back. Nothing happened, so he warily picked it up. This only proves that Eragon is vigilant in his actions. He makes sure that nothing dangerous will happen to him if he picks up to blue stone he saw in the Spine. Kind Being kind is a way of living that keeps giving long after the kind thoughts, words, and actions have taken place. Kindness is a force without force, and it goes well beyond manners to the very heart of how people respect and treat one another. Kindness is the act or the state of being kind —ie. marked by goodness and charitable behavior, mild disposition, pleasantness, tenderness and concern for others. It is known as a virtue, and recognized as a value in many cultures and religions(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindness>). Eragon is kind. It is proven in the 5th chapter of the story, when he spent a long time with the dragon. He untied it, set it on his shoulder, and went to explore the woods. The snow-laden trees watched over them like solemn pillars of a great cathedral. In that isolation, Eragon showed the dragon what he knew about the forest, not caring if it understood his meaning.

It was the simple act of sharing that mattered. Eragon kept the dragon, he fed her, took care of her, and treated her like in a nice way even if he doesn't know anything about the dragon. Responsible Responsibility is a duty or an obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task (assigned by someone, or created by one's own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent penalty for failure (<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/responsibility.html>). Responsible—it is one of the words that best describes Eragon.

As he accepted his fate onto being a dragon rider, he also accepted its responsibilities, to care for Saphira, to rescue Arya, to help the Varden, and to fight the Empire. All of these responsibilities as the dragon rider were fulfilled through his trait of being responsible. Determined “ A determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in a machine shop. ”(Robert Hughes, 1978).

Determinedness is devoting full strength and concentrated attention to (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/determinedness>). Being determined is being strongly motivated to succeed.

It is having a strong desire for success or achievement Eragon is determined to fulfill his mission as the dragon rider that will save Alagaesia from the evilness of King Galbatorix. And because of his determinedness, he works hard to learn about sparring, his enemies, the ancient language, and how to use his magic properly through his teacher, Brom in order for him to be successful in his mission of killing his enemies. Persevere “ Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have

kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.. ”(Dale Carnegie, 1981).

Perseverance is steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc. , especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement(<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/perseverance>).

Perseverance falls under the larger category of courage because it often involves continuing along a path in the midst of and after having faced opposition and perhaps failure. Perseverance involves the ability to seek a goal in spite of obstacles. Eragon is a persevere dragon rider. Being persevere, he continues his journey to fulfill his mission even if there are many obstacles along his way.

In the first part of the story, Eragon was attacked by the opponents which caused him to get a lot of wounds. There was also a time when Urgals under the command of the Shade, Durza captured Eragon and imprisoned him. In spite of facing these challenges/obstacles, Eragon still continues to stand and doing his best for his duties to be fulfilled.

Conclusion

Through character analysis, the researchers have shown the traits of the main protagonist in Christopher Paolini’s “ Eragon”. The traits of Eragon are proven through the use of different references. He is brave for having the courage to confront fear or danger. He is vigilant for maintaining attention and alertness over prolonged periods of time. He is kind for sharing the goodness in his heart and having concern to others. His sense of responsibility is shown through the tasks that were given to him because he

fulfilled those tasks. He is determined for devoting his full strength and attention to his mission and for desiring success to it. And lastly, he possesses perseverance because he continues to go on to fulfill his tasks even if there are many obstacles along the way. Eragon is the protagonist or hero in the story. The researchers therefore conclude that he possesses good traits as the main character.

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