

January 2024

## Third Reich in Harry Potter: Fiction Imitating Fact

Paul Sanders  
[prsnhv@umsystem.edu](mailto:prsnhv@umsystem.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://irl.umsl.edu/urs>



Part of the [Fine Arts Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Sanders, Paul, "Third Reich in Harry Potter: Fiction Imitating Fact" (2024). *Undergraduate Research Symposium*. 178.

Available at: <https://irl.umsl.edu/urs/178>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the UMSL Undergraduate Works at IRL @ UMSL. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Symposium by an authorized administrator of IRL @ UMSL. For more information, please contact [marvinh@umsl.edu](mailto:marvinh@umsl.edu).

# Third Reich in Harry Potter: Fiction Imitating Fact

Paul Sanders: (Advisor: Christoph Schiessl Ph.D. HON 3030)

# Hitler and Voldemort

- Both sought a pure-blood society.  
Hitler wanted an Aryan race and  
Voldemort wanted the wizarding  
world to be “pureblood.”
  - Neither are their own version of the  
ideal. Voldemort had a muggle father  
and Hitler was a brunette with brown  
eyes.
  - Both Voldemort and Hitler were able  
to successfully take over the schools  
and have their ideology taught.
  - Each have very distinct facial  
features with Hitler’s mustache and  
Voldemort’s lack of a nose.

# Sources

- Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Scholastic Press
  - Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Scholastic Press
  - Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Scholastic Press
  - Wente, Sarah. “The Making of a New World: Nazi Ideology and Its Influence on Harry Potter.” In *A Wizard of Their Age: Critical Essays From the Harry Potter Generation*.



# Lord Voldemort



# The Dark Mark and *Totenkopf*

<a href="https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fimages-wixmp-ed30a86b8c4ca887773594c2.wixmp.com%2Ff%2Fac459a85-da4c-4d95-a56d-cfa31a227ea3%2Fde52ako-67653497-23d0-4dc1-ac74-0d6349d55cba.jpg%3Ftoken%3DeyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9eyJzdWIoJ1cm46YXBwOjdIMGQxODg5ODIyNjQzNzNhNWYwZDQxNWVhMGQyNmUwiwaXNzlioidXJuOmFwcDo3ZTBkMTg4OTgyMiY0MzczYTVtmgQ0MTVIYTBkMjZMCIsIm9iai6W1t7InBhdGgiOjClL2ZcL2FjNDU5YTg1LWRhNGMtNGQ5NS1hNTZkLWNmYTMyTlIyN2VhM1MwvZGU1MmFrby02NzY1MzQ5Ny0yM2QwLTRKyZEtYWM3NC0wZDYzNDIkNTVjYmEuanBnln1dXSwiYXVkljpbInVybipZXJ2aWNIOmZpbGUuZG93bmxyYWQiXXO-IKD8PHf0XZ8fHTpkNHRwovafXj-fEbLNkLdPq\_HU&amp;tbnid=CDhCGIxhmIwlM&amp;vet=12ahUKEwiF5LuN253-AhXHNN4AHWPtA18OMvgSeqIJARCVAc\_i&amp;imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.deviantart.com%2Fekosmicac%2Fart%2FThe-Dark-Mark-855031560&amp;docid=Xqy3wSii\_hwplIM&amp;w=2160&amp;h=</a>

# SS and Death Eaters

- The Nazi Death Mark, *Totenkopf*, is very similar to the Death Eater Dark Mark emblem. The primary feature of both is a bare human skull. The Death Mark has crossbones behind the skull, whereas the Dark Mark has a snake unfurling from the mouth. The names alone are enough to draw comparisons.
  - Both the SS and Death Eaters had to go into hiding after the defeat of their leader and were chased by groups of individuals trying to bring them to justice.

# **Victims and Muggles**

- The Nazis' victims were often worked to death in labor camps if not killed outright or sent to extermination camps.
  - Muggles in Harry Potter were historically used for labor and often died during their work; as shown by the image below.
  - Wizards were often encouraged to distance themselves from Muggles and abstain from forming romantic attachments.
  - Similar to Nazis and Jews, there were no distinguishable features between Muggles and Wizards. You had to research the ancestry to determine what someone was.



# “Magic Is Might” statue in the Ministry of Magic