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1. What is the underlying moral message of each movie? Briefly compare the moral messages of each, telling how they are different.

- Les Miserables — there are times when violating the law can be necessary / bring about positive consequences; however, it is important for there to be laws in place and consequences for disobedience, as we need social order
- Harry Potter — rules are arbitrary; good and bad is only what you make each to be; sometimes good can only come about if you break the rules and there are few consequences for such violations
- Valjean believed that he needed to pay for his crimes (although it was necessary to break laws in order to protect Cosette). Harry and his friends were never taught responsibility for their actions.

2. Are the movies about good triumphing over evil? Or is there a deeper interpretation for each movie? Give an example of how Jean Valjean may not be simply a good character (what bad things did he do?). Give an example of how Inspector Javert may not be simply a bad character (what good things did he do?). How do Harry, Ron, and Hermione exhibit "bad" traits?

Traditional ^{→ premodern} good vs. evil stories provide characters that are either good or bad — with no confusion of who is what. Both Les Mis + Potter show mixed moral messages. Good is not always purely good and evil can sometimes show good qualities.

Valjean — the "good" character → he broke many laws, i.e. resisting arrest and harming a policeman

Javert — the "bad" character actually upheld the law

Potter — the "good" characters show the reader that rule-breaking is acceptable and that ~~unbreakable~~ laws are not really useful / meant to be broken

3. What Kohlberg level is each main character in? Briefly explain why you believe so. Talk about Javert; Valjean; and the Harry Potter characters in general.

Javert - 4 - the law is absolute

Valjean - 5 - laws are generally good, but can sometimes be broken

Potter - 6 - laws/rules are only obeyed when it is convenient

4. How could Kohlberg's morality level theory (especially levels 4, 5, 6) be related to the historical eras of premodernism, modernism, and postmodernism? This question requires that you provide a sentence definition for each Kohlberg level and each historical era. It also requires that you tell how and which levels/eras are related.

level 4 - premodernism

level 5 - modernism

level 6 - postmodernism

(see notes for definitions)