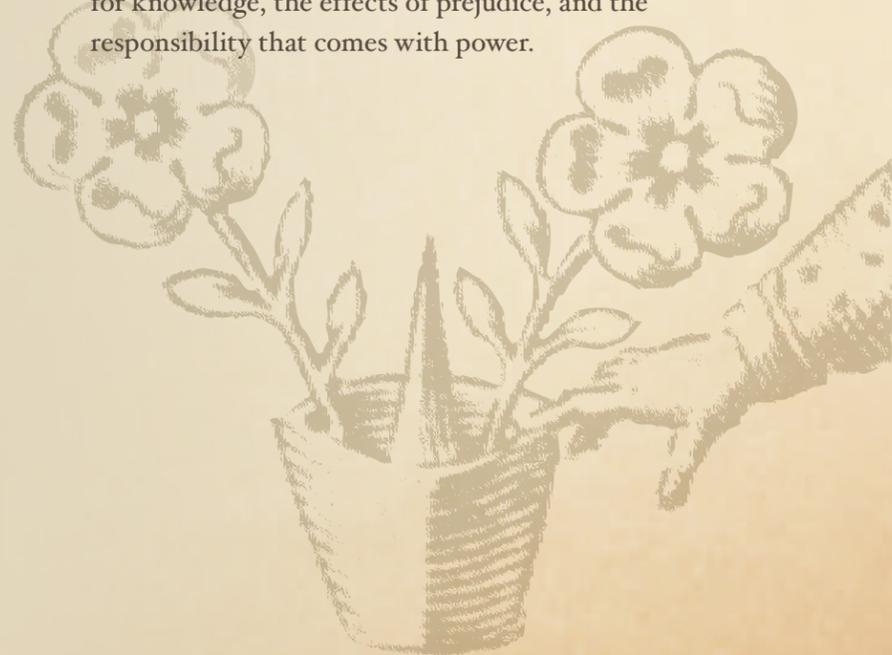




Illustration of an alchemy workshop
Johann Mylius, *Opus Medico-Chymicum*, 1618

IN 1997, BRITISH AUTHOR J. K. ROWLING INTRODUCED THE WORLD TO HARRY POTTER AND A LITERARY PHENOMENON WAS BORN. Millions of readers have followed Harry to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry where he discovers his heritage, encounters new plants and animals, and perfects his magical abilities. Although a fantasy story, the magic in the Harry Potter books is partially based on Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science, including alchemy, astrology, and natural philosophy. Incorporating the work of several 15th- and 16th-century thinkers, the seven-part series explores important ethical topics during Harry's attempts to defeat the villainous Lord Voldemort, such as the desire for knowledge, the effects of prejudice, and the responsibility that comes with power.



HARRY POTTER'S WORLD

RENAISSANCE SCIENCE, MAGIC, AND MEDICINE



Illustration of an owl
Konrad Gesner, *Historiae Animalium*, 1551



Hortus Sanitatis, 1491

Nicolas Flamel, *La Metallique Transformation*, 1618

Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, *De Occulta Philosophia*, 1533

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