Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Elizabeth Meyers

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Reviewer: Elizabeth Meyers  
Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Fantasy fiction; Adventure stories; Humorous stories;  
Subject: Wizards--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry; Books—Reviews;

Now in his fourth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry Potter, along with most of his fellow students, is excited about the upcoming Triwizard Tournament which will involve Hogwarts and two other schools of magic. While Harry is too young to participate, his name is unexpectedly selected as an entry in the tournament, and according to the magical laws that bind the contest, he's obligated to compete. The Triwizard Tournament isn't the only thing Harry has to worry about; Hermione has become obsessed with freeing house-elves, Ron is angry that Harry was chosen for the tournament, and Cho Chang, a very beautiful fourth-year seeker, is pleasantly (and disturbingly) filling Harry's thoughts more and more.

Watching beloved characters develop and grow up is one of the most satisfying parts of a series of books, and J. K. Rowling's novels about Harry Potter are no exception. Teenagers will sympathize with Harry (albeit rather painfully) as he experiences the pangs of infatuation, the struggles of schoolwork, and the terror of facing tasks that seem insurmountable. Rowling realistically depicts the angst and uncertainty of the teenage years, while allowing Harry to still prove that courage and friendship will win out in the end. Readers will find this eminently satisfying fourth book in the series a moving, meaningful read.