In my paper I will explore how the death of Dobby signified more than just the death of “the free elf”. It indicated that Harry Potter’s childhood was truly over and that it was time for him to accept the fact that things were not as simple as before. Dobby’s death showed the reader that the innocence of Harry Potter as a whole was tarnished. I could also tie in the fact that Hedwig, Harry’s childhood pet, died and that signified that his life was changing just like the death of Dobby.

The death of these two beloved characters may seem like nothing to some readers, but to me it meant everything. It showed us that the Harry Potter we were all so familiar with was no longer there and that the childish things we love were gone. The fact that they were both not human, but at the same time taught Harry how to grow and become a better person made people fall in love with the two characters.

Harry knew that he could always count on Hedwig when he went home for the summers and Harry would always be upset when she would get mad at him. For the readers we all knew Hedwig was his only living tie to the world that Harry loved so Hedwig meant very much to him. Dobby was shown to us in the second book with his warning “Harry Potter must not go back to Hogwarts” and from the moment we were introduced to him we loved him. He wanted to protect Harry Potter and was intriguing that the reader could not help but want to know more about him. As the second book continued and the rest of the series, we learned to trust Dobby because he only wanted what was best for Harry Potter. Dobby was adorable and funny when necessary, but his dying act showed whom he truly was, a free house elf who loved Harry. The events of these two beloved characters dying shocked the audience and everyone thought they were very unnecessary, but their deaths were necessary because it gave Harry incentive to grow up and do his job.

Their deaths might seem insignificant to some people, but I completely understand what their deaths implied. When I was rereading the series for the second time, my dog became very ill. As a family we knew she was 12 years old and getting older, but we never thought my dog would get a tumor and just deteriorate. She died right before I graduated last spring and her death makes me cry to this day. Not only did I lose my childhood pet whom I had had since I was five, it also marked the fact that time is going fast and that I am getting older. When I was rereading the scene when Hedwig died I felt the death of my dog, Fergie, and I knew what Harry was feeling. It was not just the death of some animal, it was the death of the innocence in Harry’s life, it was the death of a childhood friend, and it was the death of something he associated with his true home. I kept reading the seventh book knowing what was coming, but when Dobby died I sobbed knowing that it was not just the death of a creature. It signified that although he was not human, he had human feelings. We always knew when Dobby was happy or sad by his big blue eyes, or when his gate was not as cherry as usual. He sacrificed his life to protect Harry and that within itself shows us that Dobby loved Harry unconditionally and had true emotion. Fergie showed the same human feelings when she was alive.

In my paper I will explore deeply how the deaths of these two innocent characters were not just something J.K. Rowling did out of haste. Their deaths were placed exactly were she wanted them and they taught me things they did not want to learn about. It taught me that time is precious and you must spend it carefully, that your childhood is over way before you think it should be and that animals or creatures are not so different from us. The deaths of Dobby and Hedwig were necessary to finish the series.

Hedwig was not just an animal to Harry just as Fergie was not just an animal to me. She taught me how to love unconditionally, how to not judge other people but to love them because they are made perfectly, and how to be happy with the life and the situations you are given.

I do not know if she would have sacrificed herself for me, but she was always so protective when something did not seem right. You could tell if something was bothering her the way she walked or the way she looked at you. For the last few months o