1014-V1-927 Betsy J McShea* (betsy.mcshea@stockton.edu), Richard Stockton College, General Studies Division, Jim Leeds Road, Pomona, NJ 08240, and Judith Vogel (judith.vogel@stockton.edu), Richard Stockton College, NAMS, Jim Leeds Road, Pomona, NJ 08240. Harry Potter and the Magic of Mathematics.

The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling is the latest craze in children's literature. The world of Harry Potter is magical, and Harry, himself, is a natural problem solver. In our paper "Harry Potter and the Magic of Mathematics" we use scenarios from the Harry Potter series to show students the magic of mathematics and to teach them that problem solving skills are the key to mathematical success. A major goal in middle grades is to develop a student's ability to recognize patterns, which can be represented by linear functions, and to recognize situations involving the probability of outcomes and to use a variety of techniques to better understand the mathematics. The exercises presented in our paper represent a small sample of the many examples we can use to connect mathematics to the Harry Potter series. We have had great success in implementing these examples in the classroom. Students are engaged by the material and see the mathematics as an extension of the storyline. We believe that this interconnection can only add to our students' appreciation of mathematics and their ability as problem solvers. It is an important step in the formation of their lifelong attitudes towards mathematics. (Received September 26, 2005)