

Runner-up

When trying to decide who would be runner up to Harry Potter as the most important character, I was stuck because so many characters played important roles. After completing the final installment of the Harry Potter saga, this all changed. Snape is the next most important character because his love for Lily Potter influences him to protect Harry.

Through Harry's first few years at Hogwarts he is led to believe that Snape is out to get him. In the first movie though, he learns that Snape tried to protect him from Professor Quirrell's attack during his first Quidditch match. Although, Snape seems to always be there to get Harry, Hermione and Ron in trouble throughout their years at Hogwarts. This continues Harry's belief in Snape hating him. When Snape kills Dumbledore at the very end of the sixth book, Harry is furious with him. Harry now is under the impression that Snape was always a Death Eater and never cared about Dumbledore, no matter what Dumbledore believed. Once completing the final book in the Harry Potter series, Harry and the readers are led to believe differently.

Towards the end of the last book, Voldemort believes in order to be the true owner of the elder wand; he must kill Snape since Snape killed Dumbledore in the previous book, and Dumbledore was the owner of the Elder Wand. While Snape is in the last few moments of his life, he orders Harry to capture his memories in a vial and take them to the pensive so that everything makes sense. Harry and the readers finally understand that Snape was never the enemy. Dumbledore instructs Snape to be the one to kill him if Draco fails to do so, because he would die soon anyways from a curse brought upon him from destroying a horcrux. We also learn that from a very young age Snape was in love with Lily. When she dies, Snape turns to Dumbledore for help and vows to protect Harry through the struggles he'll

encounter with Voldemort. Snape only despised Harry because of how much he looked like his father, who many years ago took Lily away from him, but knew deep down Harry was worth protecting.

The entire story line changes perspective when it becomes clear that Snape was trying to protect Harry all along. Without Snape playing his important role in protecting Harry, he definitely would not be alive. For years Snape leads Voldemort to believe he is only pretending to be Dumbledore's man, when really he has deceived Voldemort into believe he is his man. It is true that Hermione played an important role too, but ultimately Snape protected Harry from the number one person who was out to get him. Snape died as a brave man who stood up against the most dangerous wizard ever, to protect Harry because of his undying love for Lily Potter.