

**Conclusion:** We have seen that the Hogwarts houses show a clear instance of an Us vs. Them situation. The traits we have looked at are used to define oneself against the others. But these traits can also be stereotyped (Slytherins are the evil ones, Ravenclaws are clever, Hufflepuff takes everyone, etc.). As we have seen there are many overlaps within the traits (Ravenclaws and Slytherins are ambitious, etc.) which indicates that there is never a clear, pure categorization. Each of us has traits of several houses. The house-system however remains intact purely because of tradition and the acknowledging of the founding members. The Us vs. Them is only encouraged by the quidditch tournament and the competition for the house cup which leads to rivalries amongst the houses when really an acknowledging of common features could lead to a unity of the whole school.

Nevertheless, the houses form communities of like-minded people who have similar interest, beliefs and character traits. We, as 'real-life' people, can construct our identity according to these house traits by either accepting one's house or by working towards being more like our dream house (being more brave, kind, etc.).