

‘Witch’ link denies JK Rowling top US award

Ex. 1 Put the words into the gaps in the text.

(criticizes, link, award, rejected, missed, snubbed, narrow, civilian, struck, numerous, upset, play, struggling, minds, personal, overnight)

Harry Potter author JK Rowling 1) _____ out on getting a top American honour because US politicians believed she had a 2) _____ to witchcraft. Matt Latimer, a top speech writer for George W. Bush, has said in a new book that the world famous author was 3) _____ for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This is the highest award given to any 4) _____ in the USA. It recognizes people who have added a lot to world culture. The claims that Rowling was 5) _____ are in Mr. Latimer’s new book, called ‘Speechless: Tales of a White House Survivor’. In it, he 6) _____ top US officials for their “7) _____ thinking”, that led to a decision not to honour JK Rowling. The Bush administration also decided not to 8) _____ the medal to Senator Edward Kennedy, who died in August, 2009.

JK Rowling is the best selling author in the world. She has sold over 400 million books and has won 9) _____ awards for her writing. She has a following of perhaps a billion fans worldwide. Her 10) _____ fortune is estimated to be around \$800 million. Before she 11) _____ upon the idea for Harry Potter, Rowling was a 12) _____ teacher. She taught students in Portugal to learn English. Her life changed 13) _____ with the success of her first novel. The recent news that George W. Bush officials believed Harry Potter encouraged witchcraft is not the first time she has 14) _____ American conservatives. In 2007, Fox News commentator Bill O’Reilly attacked her for saying that the Harry Potter character Dumbledore was gay. He said she was trying to 15) _____ with the 16) _____ of U.S. kids.

Ex. 2 TRUE / FALSE: Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a). Top U.S. officials believed J.K. Rowling was connected to witchcraft.
- b). George W. Bush called J.K. Rowling a witch in a new book.
- c). A top speech writer lost his voice because Rowling did not win a prize.
- d). The speech writer said U.S. officials weren’t so broad-minded.
- e). Nobody is selling as many books as J.K. Rowling at the moment.
- f). It is estimated that J.K. Rowling has about 100,000,000 fans.
- g). J.K. Rowling used to be an English teacher in Europe.
- h). A U.S. news anchor was angry after Rowling said Harry Potter was gay.

Ex. 3 SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

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| 1. honour | a. lost for words |
| 2. link | b. give |
| 3. snubbed | c. promoted |
| 4. speechless | d. guessed |
| 5. award | e. wealth |
| 6. numerous | f. connection |
| 7. fortune | g. angered |
| 8. estimated | h. ignored |
| 9. encouraged | i. privilege |
| 10. upset | j. many |