

Famous British writers

1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

autobiographical characters childhood
novel orphan play

- 1 Why don't we go to the theatre to see a _____?
- 2 His parents are both dead, so he's an _____.
- 3 I wrote this story about my own life. It's _____.
- 4 Harry Potter and James Bond are two famous _____.
- 5 I don't like short stories. I'd rather read a _____.
- 6 I grew up in London, and I had a happy _____ there.

2 Read the text on the right. Which writer wrote plays that were performed?

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Where did Shakespeare spend his childhood?

- 2 What two jobs did Shakespeare have?

- 3 What did Jane Austen write about?

- 4 When did Jane Austen publish *Pride and Prejudice*?

- 5 What did J.K. Rowling write when she was a child?

- 6 Where was J.K. Rowling when she had the idea for the *Harry Potter* stories?

4 Who is your favourite writer? Find out about him / her and write in your notebook.

When was he / she born?
When did he / she start writing?
What is his / her most popular book?

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England in April 1564. He spent his childhood there, but later moved to London. He worked as an actor, and he also wrote plays for his friends



to perform. His plays were very popular. Actors performed them at royal courts and famous theatres. People still love Shakespeare's plays. Many films are inspired by his work, such as *10 Things I Hate About You*, *The Lion King* and *She's The Man*.

Jane Austen was born on 16th December 1775, in Hampshire, England. She had seven brothers and sisters, and her family was very close. Many people believe that



parts of her novels were autobiographical, because she wrote about families and society at that time. She published her first novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, in 1811. Two years later, she published her second novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. *Pride and Prejudice* is one of the most famous novels in the world, and many films and books are based on the story.

Joanne (J.K.) Rowling was born in Gloucestershire, England, on 31st July 1965. She always loved reading and when she was young she often wrote stories to tell to her little sister. In 1990, J.K. Rowling was on a train when she had the idea for her most famous character: an orphan who becomes a wizard. She started writing the first *Harry Potter* story as soon as she got home. The *Harry Potter* books and films were a huge success. J.K. Rowling is the first person to become a billionaire by writing books.

