

## **‘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).**

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

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 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           |