University Access Exam – Castilla-La Mancha – 2015 – exam B

J. K. ROWLING

Joanne Rowling is a British novelist, best known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series. The Potter books have gained worldwide attention, won multiple awards, and sold more than 400 million copies. They have been the basis for a series of films which has become the highest-grossing film series in history.

Born in Yate, Gloucestershire, Rowling was working as a researcher and bilingual secretary for Amnesty International when she conceived the idea for the Harry Potter series on a delayed train from Manchester to London in 1990. In 1997 Rowling finished the first novel in the series, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. She subsequently published 6 sequels— the last, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Rowling has led a "rags to riches" life story. She progressed from living on state benefits to multi-millionaire status within five years. She is the British best-selling author, with sales in excess of £238m. The 2008 Sunday Times Rich ranked her as the twelfth richest woman in the United Kingdom. Forbes ranked Rowling as the forty-eighth most powerful celebrity of 2007. In October 2010, Rowling was named the "Most Influential Woman in Britain" by leading magazine editors. She has become a philanthropist, supporting such charities as “One Parent Families” and “Sclerosis Society of Great Britain”.

Anticipating that the target audience of young boys might not want to read a book written by a woman, her publishers demanded that she use two initials ("J. K.”), rather than her full name ("Joanne"). As she had no middle name, she chose “K” as the second initial of her pen name, from her paternal grandmother. Following her marriage, she has sometimes used the name Joanne Murray when conducting personal business.

READING COMPREHENSION. Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. The Harry Potter series have only attracted readers in Britain.

TRUE FALSE The evidence is in lines and

2. Rowling has always been a wealthy woman.

TRUE FALSE The evidence is in lines and

3. No other British author has sold more books than Rowling.

TRUE FALSE The evidence is in lines and

4. "K" was the second initial of Rowling's middle name.

TRUE FALSE The evidence is in lines and

LEXICON. Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. numerous
2. aids
3. prominent
4. readership

PHONETICS.

1. Write one word from the text that includes the same diphthong sound as "gained" /eɪ/.
2. Write one word from the text that includes the same consonant sound as "than" /ð/.
3. How is the "-ed" pronounced in "ranked", /t/ , /d/ or /ɪd/ ?
4. Is the "ch" in "charities" pronounced as /ʃ/ or as /tʃ/ ?