

J.K. Rowling

J.K Rowling is the best-selling living author in the UK and her books are popular all over the world. Rowling has named Jane Austen and C.S. Lewis as a few of her favourite writers. She _____ born Joanne Rowling on 31st July 1965, in Yate, England. When she _____ young Joanne enjoyed writing fantasy stories and reading them to her younger sister. Having graduated from university, she moved to London to work as a researcher for Amnesty International, an organisation which works to protect human rights around the world. Rowling also lived and worked in Manchester.



It was in 1990, when she _____ on a delayed train journey from Manchester to London that the idea for a series of books came into her head. Sadly, during the writing of the first Harry Potter book, her mother died. Rowling decided to introduce more detail about the loss of the main character's parents as she knew how it felt. Joanne used her own life as inspiration for many other ideas in the book, for example, her parents met at Kings Cross Station which is where Harry Potter catches the train to school.

After living and working as an English teacher in Portugal, Rowling moved to Edinburgh with her daughter. Those early days of living in Scotland weren't easy for Joanne as she had no job. She gave her spare time to finishing her book. When the story was finally complete, it was sent to 12 different publishing houses, all of which turned it down. In 1997, the book was finally published by Bloomsbury under the name J.K. Rowling. As Joanne didn't have a middle name, she used her grandmother's name, 'Kathleen' in her initials. Shortly after, 'Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone' won its first award and proved to be very popular. She later released the next book, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', followed by 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'.

In 1998, Warner Bros bought the rights for the books and began making the movies. All of the actors in the movies _____ British.

J.K. Rowling finished her final book of the Harry Potter series in 2006. This book was called 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows'. All of her books sold very quickly.

Today, original copies of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone sell for around £20,000 and the series has been translated into 65 languages. The books were also made into very successful films

1. When and where was R.K Rowling born? Select the correct answer from the list below.

- 31st June 1965
- 21st May 1964
- 31st July 1965
- 31st January 1965

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Gloucestershire▪ Edinburgh▪ Yate▪ London |
|---|

2. What was J.K Rowlings first name? _____

3. Name **two** of her favourite authors. Select them from the list below.

- William Shakespeare
- C.S. Lewis
- Dr. Seuss
- Katherine Patterson
- Jane Austen
- Katherine Applegate

4. Why did she move to London?

- To go to university
- To work as a researcher
- To visit her mother who was ill.

5. Where did Joanne come up with the idea for the Harry Potter series?

- After her mother died.
- In a café in London.
- On a delayed train journey.

6. Explain why the death of her own mother affected her writing?

- She could include personal detail about her relationships in her books
- She could include more detail about the loss of a family member.
- She could include her grandmother's name in her story.

7. How much could one of the original copies of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' sell for?

8. Order the books of the Harry Potter series according to the information in the text.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"

"Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"

1-

2-

3-

4-