

**OPEN CLOZE** Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

### Nicholas Flamel

There can be (1) ..... under-twelves who have not read one of the *Harry Potter* books, seen one of the films or played the video game. The characters and places created (2) ..... J.K. Rowling, from Hogwarts School for Wizards (3) ..... Dumbledore, the wizard headmaster, are now household names. But not many people realise that the author used real historical figures and places (4) ..... source material for her stories.

The key figure (5) ..... the end of the first book (*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*), Nicholas Flamel, is based on a rich and famous alchemist of the (6) ..... name, who lived in Paris in the Middle Ages. In Rowling's book, written in 1995, the philosopher is 665 years old. (7) ..... real life, Flamel, a successful scribe and bookseller, was born in 1330. He was (8) ..... student of alchemy and, according to (9) ..... diary, he succeeded in transforming base metals into gold in 1382. The philosopher's stone kept at Hogwarts can not only create gold, but it has the power to make men immortal, (10) ..... explains Flamel's age.

The real Flamel was (11) ..... a well-known philanthropist (12) ..... created housing for (13) ..... poor, founded free hospitals and endowed churches. (14) ..... of the hostels Flamel and his wife opened for the poor people of Paris (15) ..... stands today and operates as a restaurant.

Put *a/an* or *the* in each space, or leave the space blank.

- a) Neil Armstrong made ..... *the* ..... first footprint on ..... *the* ..... Moon.
- b) There was ..... accident yesterday at ..... corner of ..... street.
- c) I need ..... time to think about ..... offer you made me.
- d) ..... recipe for ..... success is ..... hard work.
- e) ..... people who live in ..... glass houses shouldn't throw ..... stones.
- f) ..... worst part of ..... living in a caravan is ..... lack of space.
- g) ..... book you ordered ..... last week is now in ..... stock.
- h) ..... dancing is ..... more interesting activity than ..... reading.
- i) ..... people we met on ..... holiday in ..... north of England sent us ..... postcard.
- j) ..... little knowledge is ..... dangerous thing.