

# J.K. Rowling Fact File

## Biography

Going from having no job to being a multi-millionaire in the space of 5 years, J.K. Rowling's story is almost as amazing as Harry Potter's! She 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 was born Joanne Rowling on 31st July 1965, in Gloucestershire. Joanne enjoyed writing fantasy stories from an early age, 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 was 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, the book won its first award and proved to be very popular. She later released the next book, 'Harry Potter and

**Name:**

Joanne Rowling

**Born:**

31st July 1965

**Place of birth:**

Gloucestershire, UK

**Occupation:**

Writer, Author



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the Chamber of Secrets', followed by 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'. The next book in the series, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, broke sales records in both the UK and America. Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British Book Awards and awarded an OBE for writing such popular children's books.

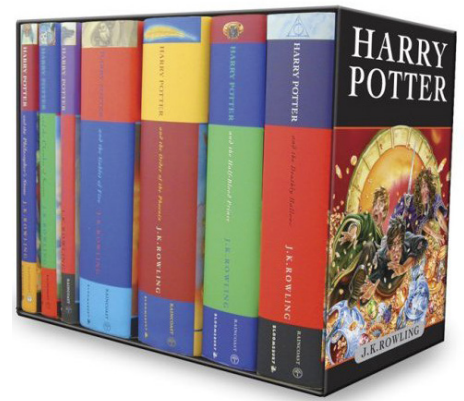


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The final book in the series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, was released in 2007 and became the fastest-selling

book in history. Since the last Harry Potter book, Rowling has written other books linked to the original Harry Potter series. She has also written stories for adults and continues to write more new material.

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.

# J.K. Rowling

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. When and where was she born?

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2. Name one of Rowling's favourite authors.

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

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4. Can you explain how the death of her own mother affected her writing?

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5. What could one of the original copies of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' sell for?

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# J.K. Rowling **Answers**

1. When and where was she born?  
**She was born on 31st July 1965, in Gloucestershire.**
2. Name one of Rowling's favourite authors.  
**(Jane Austin / C.S. Lewis) is one of Rowling's favourite authors.**
3. Where did Joanne come up with the idea for the Harry Potter series?  
**Joanne was on a delayed train journey from Manchester to London when the idea for the Harry Potter series came into her head.**
4. Can you explain how the death of her own mother affected her writing?  
**Rowling decided to introduce more detail about the loss of the main character's parents as she knew how it felt.**
5. What could one of the original copies of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' sell for?  
**Today, original copies of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' now sell for around £20,000.**