J.K. Rowling Fact File

Biography

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 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.

Name:
Joanne Rowling

Born:
31st July 1965

Place of birth:
Gloucestershire, UK

Occupation:
Writer, Author

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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 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.

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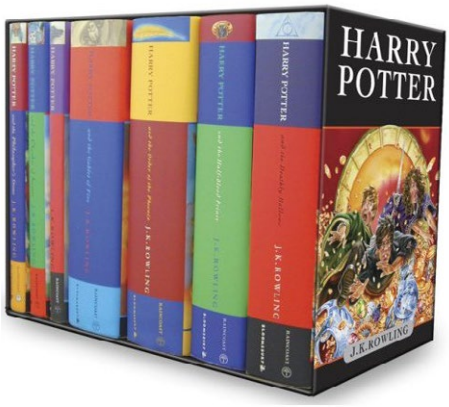

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Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British Book Awards and awarded an the series, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', broke sales records in both the UK and America. Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British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

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.

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She was born Joanne Rowling on 31st July 1965, in Gloucestershire. She enjoyed writing fantasy stories from an early age, reading them to her younger sister. As a teenager, Rowling began studying French and Classics at Exeter University. Having graduated, she moved to London to work as a researcher for Amnesty International, an organisation which works to protect human rights around the world. She also lived and worked in Manchester.

It was in 1990, when Joanne was on a delayed train journey from Manchester to London that the idea for a series of books came into her head. During the writing of the first Harry Potter book, Joanne's mother died and this huge loss affected her writing. Rowling decided to include more detail about the loss of the main character's parents as she knew how it felt. Rowling used her 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 - she had no job but dedicated her time to finishing her book. When the story was finally completed, 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 incorporated her grandmother's name, 'Kathleen' into her initials.

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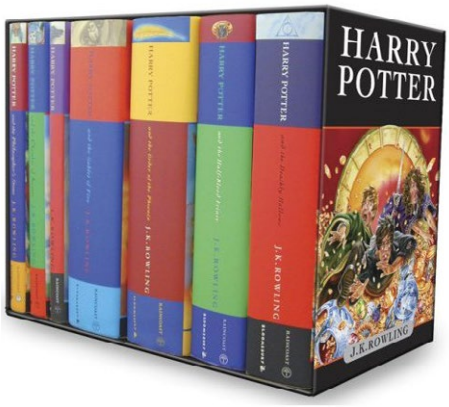

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Her real name wasn't used as the publishers didn't think that boys would want to read a book written by a female author. Shortly after being published, the book won its first award and proved to be very popular. She later released the next book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', followed by 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'. It was the fourth book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', which 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.

The final book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', was released in 2007 and became the fastest-selling book in history. Each book has also been made into a successful film. Since the end of the Harry Potter stories, Rowling has written other books linked to the series. She has also written stories for adults and continues to embark on other projects.

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It was in 1990, when Joanne was on a delayed train journey from Manchester to London that the idea for a series of books came into her head. During the writing of the first Harry Potter book, Joanne's mother died, greatly affecting her writing. Rowling decided to introduce more detail about the loss of the main character's parents as she knew how it felt. Rowling used her 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, and Joanne shares her birthday with Harry.

After living and working as an English teacher in Portugal, Rowling moved to Edinburgh with her daughter, who is named after one of Joanne's favourite writers. Those early days of living in Scotland weren't easy for Rowling - she had no job but dedicated her time to finishing her book. When the story was finally completed, 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.

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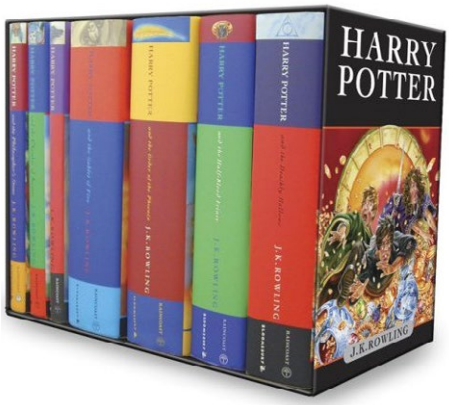

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The final book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', was released in 2007 and became the fastest-selling book in history, selling millions of copies on the first day of release. The books were made into hugely successful films and have captured the imaginations of children and adults all around the world. Since the end of the Harry Potter stories, Rowling has written other books linked to the series. She has also written stories for adults and continues to embark on other projects.

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