

# 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.

## Early Life

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.

## Starting the first *Harry Potter* book

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.



## Rowling's big break

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.

## Achievements

Rowling was also named Author of the Year at the 2000 British Book Awards and '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

written other books linked to the original Harry Potter series. She has also written stories for adults and continues to write more new material.

## Current work

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.

