

J.K. ROWLING

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was called Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone when it was published in the USA.



J.K. ROWLING

Rowling also writes crime novels for adults under the pen name Robert Galbraith. She wanted to keep this a secret, but three months after the first Galbraith novel was published the news got out.



J.K. ROWLING

Rowling thought up the idea for the Harry Potter books while sitting on a delayed train and wrote it down on a napkin.



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Rowling wrote the first Harry Potter book in cafes when her daughter Jessica was a baby. They were living on benefits at the time.



J.K. ROWLING

As a student at Exeter University, Rowling was fined £50 because she had so many overdue books from the library!



J.K. ROWLING

The first Harry Potter book was rejected by 12 publishers, before it was published by Bloomsbury books in 1997.



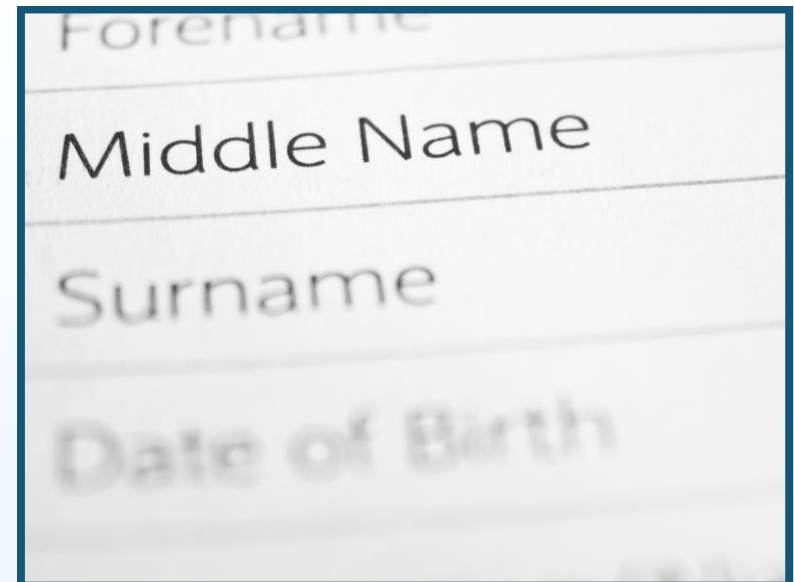
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Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, the last Harry Potter book, is the fastest selling book in history. It sold 11 million copies in the USA and Great Britain in the first 24 hours after publication.



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J. K. Rowling's first name is Joanne. She does not have a middle name. The K is from her grandmother's name, Kathleen.



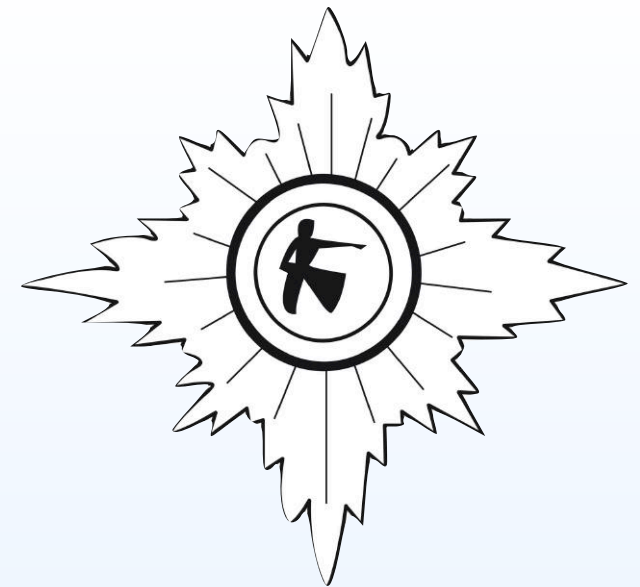
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Rowling was born in Yate, near Bristol, England on the 31st of July 1965. The 31st of July is also Harry Potter's birthday!



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Rowling has been awarded many honours, including the Order of the British Empire and the Freedom of the City of London.



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Rowling's parents met on a train headed for Scotland which left from King's Cross Station, just like the Hogwarts Express.



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The name Rowling rhymes with bowling, not howling. She doesn't mind if people get it wrong.



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When she married Dr Neil Murray in 2001, she had to go shopping for her wedding dress in disguise as she did not want to be recognised.



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Rowling says that she loosely based the character of Hermione on herself, and she got the surname Potter from a family she was friends with when she was seven years old.



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Rowling is estimated to be worth about £650 million (2017), making her one of the world's richest authors.



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The first Harry Potter book was written on a typewriter. Rowling had to retype the entire book, as it wasn't formatted correctly.





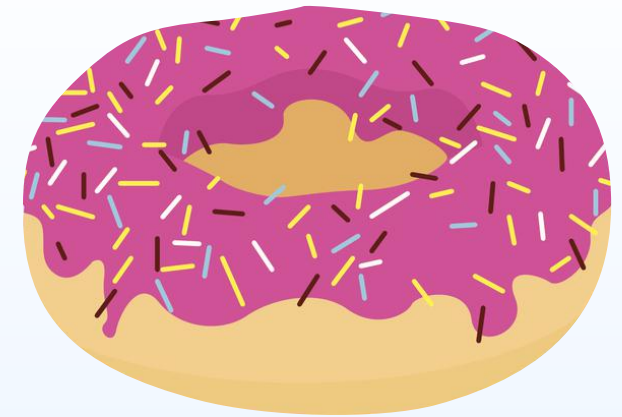
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The first print run of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was just 1,000 copies. Rowling was paid an advance of £2,500.



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J. K. Rowling played herself in a 2003 episode of The Simpsons, when the family visited England.



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The proceeds from two of Rowling's books, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, and *Quidditch Through the Ages*, were donated to Comic Relief. They raised over £17 million.



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Rowling's mother suffered from Multiple Sclerosis, and Rowling donated £10 million to the University of Edinburgh to open a clinic to research the disease.



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