



People

J. K. Rowling

1965–...



J.K. Rowling is the creator of the *Harry Potter* fantasy series, one of the most popular book and film franchises in history.

Synopsis

Born in Yate, England, on July 31, 1965, J.K. Rowling came from humble economic means before writing *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, a children's fantasy novel. The work was an international hit and Rowling wrote six more books in the series, which sold hundreds of millions of copies and was adapted into a blockbuster film franchise. In 2012, Rowling released the novel *The Casual Vacancy*.

Early Struggles

Joanne Rowling, best known as J.K. Rowling, was born on July 31, 1965, in Yate, England. She adopted her pen name, J.K., incorporating her grandmother's name, Kathleen, for the latter initial (Rowling does not have a middle name).

As a single mother living in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rowling became an international literary sensation in 1999, when the first three installments of her *Harry Potter* children's book series took over the top three slots of The New York Times best-seller list after achieving similar success in her native United Kingdom. The phenomenal response to Rowling's books culminated in July 2000, when the fourth volume in the series, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, became the fastest-selling book in history.

A graduate of Exeter University, Rowling moved to Portugal in 1990 to teach English. There, she met and married the Portuguese journalist Jorge Arantes. The couple's daughter, Jessica, was born in 1993. After her marriage ended in divorce, Rowling moved to Edinburgh with her daughter to live near her younger sister, Di. While struggling to support Jessica and herself on welfare, Rowling worked on a book, the idea for which had reportedly occurred to her while she was traveling on a train from Manchester to London in 1990. After a number of rejections, she finally sold the book, *Harry Potter and the*

Philosopher's Stone (the word "Philosopher" was changed to "Sorcerer" for its publication in America), for the equivalent of about \$4,000. The book, and its subsequent series, chronicled the life of Harry Potter, a young wizard, and his motley band of cohorts at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Rowling, now Britain's 13th wealthiest woman—wealthier than even the Queen—does not plan to write any more books in the series, but has not entirely ruled out the possibility.

A film version of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, directed by Chris Columbus and starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint, was released in November 2001. In its opening weekend in the U.S., the film debuted on a record 8,200 screens and smashed the previous box-office record, earning an estimated \$93.5 million (\$20 million more than the previous recordholder, 1999's *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*).

After 'Harry Potter'

Although J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is finished, the author continues to work on more written works. *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, a collection of five fables mentioned in the Harry Potter book series, was released on November 4, 2008. Rowling's first book aimed at adults, *The Casual Vacancy*, was published in September 2012. The novel, a dark comedy about a local election in the small English town of Pagford, received mixed reviews.

In 2013, Rowling broke into a new genre: crime fiction. But this new work involved a mystery all of its own. She published the mystery novel *Cuckoo Calling* that April under the pen name Robert Galbraith. In its first few months of release, the novel had modest sales and received positive reviews. Sales for the work skyrocketed in July when its author's identity was discovered.

Later that year, Rowling announced a new film series with Warner Bros. The first film in the series, which was released in November 2016, features a script by Rowling, her screenwriting debut, which is based on her *Hogwarts textbook Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

In 2014, Rowling published a short story about grown-up Harry Potter and a Hogwarts school reunion on her website Pottermore.

In June 2016, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, a two-part play written by Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany and based on Rowling's story, debuted on the London stage to a sold-out audience.

Source of the text: biography.com

Audrey Hepburn

1929–1993

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'"



Audrey Hepburn was one of the most graceful actresses of the film industry. She has been an eye-witness to World War II, and faced numerous struggles through it.

Audrey Hepburn was born to Joseph Victory Anthony Ruston and Ella van Heemstra on 4th May, 1929 in Brussels, Belgium. Her parents separated when she was a child and after that she lived with her mother in London.

She attended a boarding school in England and later moved to Netherlands with her mother during World War II, where she attended the institute named 'Arnhem Conservatory'. During the same time, she was learning ballet and after the war was over, she received ballet training in Amsterdam and then in London. She was engaged in modelling and dancing projects and at the same time took acting classes. She got noticed as an actress which eventually ushered her into the film industry.

Her arduous practice helped her rise into fame and became one of the best known actresses of Hollywood. Audrey Hepburn has been through several upheavals throughout her life like divorces and miscarriages but she faced them all very bravely and overcame her grief. She had a philanthropic side and was engaged in many humanitarian works were recognized by many organizations even posthumously.

Her most famous movies are:

- Breakfast at Tiffany's
- Charade
- Sabrina
- Roman Holiday
- My Fair Lady
- How to Steal a Million

Source: thefamouspeople.com

Florence Nightingale

1820–1910



Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer and statistician, and the founder of modern nursing.

She came to prominence while serving as a manager of nurses trained by her during the Crimean War, where she organised the tending to wounded soldiers. She gave nursing a highly favourable reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture, especially in the persona of "The Lady with the Lamp" making rounds of wounded soldiers at night.

Some recent commentators have asserted Nightingale's achievements in the Crimean War were exaggerated by the media at the time, to satisfy the public's need for a hero.

Nevertheless, critics agree on the decisive importance of her follow-up achievements in professionalising nursing roles for women. In 1860, Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London. It was the first secular nursing school in the world, now part of King's College London. In recognition of her pioneering work in nursing, the Nightingale Pledge taken by new nurses, and the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve, were named in her honour, and the annual International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on her birthday. Her social reforms include improving healthcare for all sections of British society, advocating better hunger relief in India, helping to abolish prostitution laws that were over-harsh to women, and expanding the acceptable forms of female participation in the workforce.

Nightingale was a prodigious and versatile writer. In her lifetime, much of her published work was concerned with spreading medical knowledge. Some of her tracts were written in simple English so that they could easily be understood by those with poor literary skills. She also helped popularise the graphical presentation of statistical data. Much of her writing, including her extensive work on religion and mysticism, has only been published posthumously.

Source: wikipedia