J.K.Rowling

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| Born | Joanne Rowling 31 July 1965 (age 54) [Yate, Gloucestershire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yate), England |
| Pen name | * J. K. Rowling * Robert Galbraith |
| Occupation | * Author * screenwriter * producer * philanthropist |
| Residence | [Killiechassie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killiechassie), Scotland |
| Education | [University of Exeter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Exeter) ([BA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts), 1986) |
| Period | 1997–present |
| Genre | * [Fantasy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantasy) * drama * [young adult fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_adult_fiction) * [tragicomedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tragicomedy) * [crime fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_fiction) |
| Notable works | * [*Harry Potter*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter) series * [*Cormoran Strike*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cormoran_Strike) series |
| Spouse | Jorge Arantes (m. 1992; div. 1995)  Neil Murray (m. 2001) |
| Children | 3 |

Joanne Rowling (born 31 July 1965), better known by her [pen name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pen_name) J. K. Rowling, is a British author, screenwriter, producer, and philanthropist. She is best known for writing the [*Harry Potter*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter) fantasy series, which has won multiple awards and sold more than 500 million copies, becoming the [best-selling book series in history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_best-selling_books). The books are the basis of a [popular film series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_(film_series)), over which Rowling had overall approval on the scripts and was a producer on the final films. She also writes [crime fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_fiction) under the pen name Robert Galbraith.

Joanne Rowling was born on 31 July 1965 in [Yate, Gloucestershire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yate" \o "Yate),the daughter of science technician Anne (née Volant) and [Rolls-Royce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Limited) aircraft engineer Peter James Rowling. The family moved to the nearby village of [Winterbourne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winterbourne,_Gloucestershire) when Rowling was four. As a child, Rowling often wrote fantasy stories which she frequently read to her sister. Rowling has said that her teenage years were unhappy.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._K._Rowling#cite_note-newyorker-27) Her home life was complicated by her mother's diagnosis with [multiple sclerosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiple_sclerosis) and a strained relationship with her father, with whom she is not on speaking terms.

As a child, Rowling attended [St Michael's Primary School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Michael%27s_Primary_School), a school founded by [abolitionist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abolitionist) [William Wilberforce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wilberforce) and education reformer [Hannah More](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannah_More). In 1982, Rowling took the entrance exams for [Oxford University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_University) but was not acceptedand earned a [BA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts) in French and [Classics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classics) at the [University of Exeter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Exeter). Seven years after graduating from university, Rowling saw herself as a failure. Her marriage had failed, and she was jobless with a dependent child, but she described her failure as liberating and allowing her to focus on writing.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._K._Rowling#cite_note-twsMarE27-57) During this period, Rowling was diagnosed with clinical depression and contemplated suicide. Her illness inspired the characters known as [Dementors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dementors" \o "Dementors), soul-sucking creatures introduced in the third book.

Rowling was working as a researcher and bilingual secretary for [Amnesty International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International) when she conceived the idea for the *Harry Potter* series while on a delayed train from [Manchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester) to [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) in 1990.The seven-year period that followed saw the death of her mother, birth of her first child, divorce from her first husband, and relative poverty until the first novel in the series, [*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Philosopher%27s_Stone), was published in 1997. There were six sequels, of which the last, [*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Deathly_Hallows), was released in 2007. Since then, Rowling has written five books for adult readers: [*The Casual Vacancy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Casual_Vacancy) (2012) and—under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith—the crime fiction *[Cormoran Strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cormoran_Strike" \o "Cormoran Strike)* series, which consists of [*The Cuckoo's Calling*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cuckoo%27s_Calling) (2013), [*The Silkworm*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Silkworm) (2014), [*Career of Evil*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Career_of_Evil) (2015), and [*Lethal White*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lethal_White) (2018). Starting on 26 May 2020, her "political fairytale" for children, [*The Ickabog*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ickabog), is being released in instalments in an online version.

Rowling has lived a "[rags to riches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rags_to_riches)" life in which she progressed from living on [benefits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welfare_state_in_the_United_Kingdom) to being named the world's first billionaire author by [*Forbes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbes). However, Rowling disputed the assertion, saying she was not a billionaire. Forbes reported that she lost her billionaire status after giving away much of her earnings to charity but remains one of the wealthiest people in the world.