

Reading comprehension and activities for
intermediate upper KS2 and KS3 EAL
students

Influential women

J.K. Rowling



Do you know why the woman in the picture is famous
all over the world?



Activity 1 - Before you read more information about J.K Rowling, let's do a quiz to see what you already know about her and her work.

1. What is the name of her Fantasy series?
 - a) Henry Patter
 - b) Harry Patter
 - c) Henry Potter
 - d) Harry Potter

2. What is the name of the second book in the series?
 - a) Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
 - b) Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
 - c) Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
 - d) Harry Potter and the Prisoner of a Azkaban

3. What does the J stand for in JK Rowling?
 - a) Jacqueline
 - b) Joanne
 - c) Julia
 - d) Josephine

4. Which sport in her famous books has now become a real sport?
 - a) FootBoot
 - b) Quidditch
 - c) BallDitch
 - d) BootFoot

5. How long did it take JK Rowling to finish writing all of the books in the series?
 - a) 10 years
 - b) 13 years
 - c) 9 years
 - d) 16 years

Yes! Now you know! J. K. Rowling wrote the spellbinding Harry Potter books. You can find the correct answers on the last page. How many answers did you get?



Activity 2 – Before we read some more information about this famous woman, let's do a bit of revision. Do you know or remember what an **ADJECTIVE** is? Have a little think!

If your answer was that **an adjective is a describing word that give us more information about a noun** (which can be a thing, place, animal or a person) then you are right! Can you think of some examples of adjectives? Try to come up with 3 different ones.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

You probably know lots of simple adjectives already. What qualities can they describe? Can you name 3 again? (You will find some help with this on the next page)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now, here comes the challenge! Can you think of 3 powerful adjectives to describe a person? For example, if I wanted to describe somebody who has been very successful in their life, like the author J. K. Rowling, I would describe them as *influential*, *inspirational* and *impressive*. Can you give it a go now?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Here is an overview of some of the qualities that can be described with adjectives, with some examples:

ADJECTIVES

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun or pronoun such as person, place, thing, or idea.

An adjective can tell...

<p><u>Color</u></p> <p>black blue coral green pink</p>	<p><u>Size</u></p> <p>big huge large little short</p>	<p><u>Shape</u></p> <p>boxy oval round square triangular</p>	<p><u>Taste</u></p> <p>bitter sour sweet tangy tart</p>	
<p><u>Odor</u></p> <p>flower fresh musty salty stinky</p>	<p><u>Texture</u></p> <p>bumpy furry slimy smooth squishy</p>	<p><u>Sound</u></p> <p>faint harmonious loud pleasant quite</p>	<p><u>Number</u></p> <p>few fifty many sparse two</p>	<p><u>Weather</u></p> <p>clear dry foggy rain windy</p>

Activity 3 - Now let's read a text below to find out a bit more about J.K. Rowling. Read it carefully; you will be asked to answer some questions later. Also, pay attention to the adjectives used in the text.



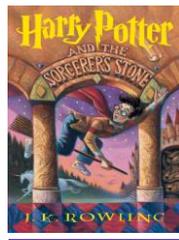
J.K. Rowling

A little bit about her personal life



J. K. Rowling is a top-selling British author who wrote the world-famous story of Harry Potter. Joanne was born on the 31st July 1965 in Yate, which is a small town in the south-west of England. She has a younger sister named Dianne. When she was growing up, she loved reading lots of thought-provoking books and she also listened to rock music. She studied French and Latin at Exeter University and lived in Paris for a year. She was divorced once but she remarried and now she has three children.

A little bit more about her professional life



Joanne Rowling wanted to be a writer from a very young age and she really started writing early! When she was only six years old, she wrote a story called Rabbit. At the age of eleven she wrote her first novel about seven cursed diamonds.

One day she was travelling on a delayed train to London. On that journey the idea for the magical and captivating story of Harry Potter popped into her head. It happened in 1990 and it took her 5 years to finish the first book in the series called *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Altogether there are seven thrilling books in this best-selling and record-breaking series and they became a huge global success. They have been published in 80 different languages and more than 500 million copies have been sold all over the world! You might know that they have also been made into 8 chart-topping movies.



Now about some of her other activities

J.K. Rowling is a philanthropist. A philanthropist is a person who cares a lot about other people and helps them in different ways. Joanne has made a great deal of money by writing her books and has become extremely rich. In fact, she is the first person to become a billionaire from writing books. However, she has decided to make good use of some of her wealth and help others. That is why she has founded an international charity called Lumos, which supports lots of disadvantaged children. She also fights against poverty and social inequality and has donated millions and millions of pounds to various charities.

And finally, some interesting facts

Did you know that...?

- 📖 The first Harry Potter book was rejected 12 times before it was published in June 1997.
- 📖 J.K. Rowling is the second richest female entertainer in the world.
- 📖 She wrote her first adult book *Casual Vacancy* in 2012.
- 📖 She even has a play called *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which is sometimes called the eighth instalment of Harry Potter books.
- 📖 She has been awarded many different awards such as the Blue Peter Gold Badge and the Lifetime Achievement award.
- 📖 She donated around £15.3 million to a care and research facility.



Activity 4 - Now that you have read the text, let's see how much you remember. We will start with some straightforward factual questions that you can easily find the answers to in the text. Just short answers will be fine.

Questions	Your answers
How many times was her first book of Harry Potter rejected?	
What is the name of her charity?	
Which country did she live in for a year?	
Does she have a sister or a brother?	
Is she the second or third richest female entertainer?	
In which year did she write her first adult book?	
How many of the Harry Potter books are there in a series?	
Where did she get the idea for the Harry Potter story?	
When did she start writing?	

Activity 5 - Let's have 2 more difficult, thinking questions now. You can write the answers down or if you are working with a partner, you can discuss them.

1. What kind of a person is a philanthropist? Do you think people who have lots of money should help the less fortunate ones? Why or why not?
2. In what way did J. K. Rowling influence the lives of many children by writing her books? Why are they so appealing to so many people? Have you read any of them? Did you enjoy them? Why or why not?



Activity 6 - Back to the adjectives now! Can you find 10 powerful and attention-grabbing adjectives used in the text? Highlight them first and then write them in the table below. You can translate them into your home language if you want. Look them up in the online dictionary if you are not sure what they mean exactly. The first one has been done for you.

Adjective in English	Meaning	Adjective in your home language
top-selling	producing songs, books or other products that are very popular and sell more than others	



And finally! Here are the promised answers to the quiz questions in Activity 1:

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. b
5. d

And here are the powerful adjectives that you should find in the text:

1. top-selling
2. world-famous
3. thought-provoking
4. magical
5. captivating
6. thrilling
7. best-selling
8. record-breaking
9. global
10. chart-topping

