

**ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO STATALE "BRUNO MUNARI"**  
**ESAME CONCLUSIVO DEL PRIMO CICLO D'ISTRUZIONE**  
**PROVA SCRITTA DI LINGUA INGLESE**  
**A.S. 2023/2024**

Prova n.1

**READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY, THEN DO EXERCISES 1 AND 2.**

**J.K. ROWLING**

Joanne Kathleen Rowling is the creator of Harry Potter. She started writing when she was very young, telling stories to her sister Dianne, and finishing her first written story when she was six. She got the idea for the Harry Potter books while "I was taking a long train journey from Manchester to London and the idea for Harry just fell into my head.", as Rowling said in an interview. While working in London for Amnesty International, she wrote during her lunch breaks and during meetings; when it became obvious that she was more interested in writing than in her job, she quitted it. She was twenty-six.

- 1) When did JK Rowling get the idea to write Harry Potter?
- 2) When did she write while she was working in London?
- 3) Why did she quit her job?

In 1990, Rowling went to Portugal to teach English as a foreign language. There, because she worked afternoons and evenings, she was able to write during the mornings. While she was in Portugal she married a journalist and gave birth to their daughter Jessica, but in 1993 she got divorced.

- 4) When did she have time to write when she worked in Portugal?
- 5) What did she teach in Portugal?
- 6) What important life events happened when she was in Portugal?

Rowling returned to the United Kingdom in 1994 and settled in Edinburgh, Scotland, with her baby daughter and "half a suitcase full of papers covered with stories about Harry Potter." Harry Potter was, from the beginning, planned as a seven-volume series. To Rowling's delight, her first Harry Potter book was accepted for publication in June 1997 by Bloomsbury Children's Books, under its British title *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. It appeared the same year and was a huge success in Britain, in the USA and over 35 countries. The author followed with *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* in 1998 and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* in 1999. A fourth volume, called *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, was published in July 2000. Warner Bros bought the film rights to the novels and the first film appeared in 2001. The producers are American but the actors and

the setting are British; the film uses some of the most historic buildings in England to recreate the Hogwarts School of Magic, as for example Oxford University, Gloucester Cathedral and Alnwick Castle. All the books and films in the series are very popular and both children and adults love them.

- 7) Who published the first Harry Potter volume?
- 8) When did the first Harry Potter book and the first film appear?
- 9) What is the setting of Harry Potter? Give examples.
- 10) What's the audience of the Harry Potter series?

### Personal questions

- 11) Do you like reading? When do you usually read? What kind of books do you prefer?  
What is the last book you read? Did you like it? What kind of book was it?  
What was it about? (60-80 words)

#### 1. Choose the right answer

##### 1) When J.K. Rowling was young...

- A. she didn't like writing
- B. she was crazy about writing
- C. she didn't tell other people stories
- D. she finished her first story at the age of nine

##### 2) She had the idea of writing Harry Potter...

- A. while she was working in Portugal
- B. during a journey in Scotland
- C. travelling from Manchester to London
- D. when she was at the University

##### 3) In 1994 Rowling was...

- A. very rich and successful
- B. alone with her daughter in Scotland
- C. happily married in Portugal
- D. a student at the university

##### 4) The first Harry Potter book...

- A. appeared in 1998
- B. had no success
- C. was very successful
- D. had two titles

##### 5) The second volume was...

- A. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- B. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*
- C. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
- D. published in 1999

##### 6) About the films...

- A. the producers are British
- B. the settings are American
- C. they are set in important historic English buildings
- D. the actors are British and American