



Dear Harry Potter Fans,

Thank you very much for your letters. I'm sorry to say that I now receive so much mail that I cannot answer every piece individually, much as I would like to. However, I love receiving feedback from readers and I try and read as much as I can.

I have been very busy over the past year or so between the film of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, for which I've written the script. I am now working on the second in the series which is due out in 2018. The play, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, on which I have collaborated is now showing at the Palace Theatre in London.

I hope to write another children's book one day and there really aren't many spare hours in the day at the moment. Even so, the fact that people take the time and trouble to write means a great deal to me, so thank you once again for your letter and for being such fans of "Harry's."

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "JK Rowling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "J", "K", and "R" being particularly prominent.

J.K. Rowling

[WWW.POTTERMORE.COM](http://WWW.POTTERMORE.COM)  
[WWW.JKROWLING.COM](http://WWW.JKROWLING.COM)

**J.K. ROWLING**

### Where do you get your ideas?

I wish I knew where they came from, because I would go and live there. It is a mystery to me where it all comes from, but I'm quite pleased I don't know; it might spoil the fun if I did.

### Where do you get the names?

I collect unusual names; I have got them from maps (Snape and Dursley), saints (Hedwig) and war memorials (Lockhart). Some of the names in the book mean something – Dumbledore is an old English word for 'bumble bee', and I gave it to Dumbledore because I imagine him humming to himself a lot. I also invent names; Malfoy, Flitwick and Quidditch are all made up.

### Which Hogwarts house would you be in?

Gryffindor, I hope. I value courage beyond almost anything.

### When did you first want to be a writer?

Always... as soon as I knew what writers were, I wanted to be one. I've got the perfect temperament for a writer; perfectly happy alone in a room, making things up.

### What advice would you give to young writers?

When writing I think a good starting point is what you know – for instance, your own feelings, or subjects you know a lot about. The most important thing is to READ as much as you can. This will teach you to recognise good writing, and by analysing what you like best, you can find out how to improve your own writing.

### Have you always wanted to be a book author?

Yes. I knew that I wanted to be a writer when I was six because I wrote a book then. It was a work of towering genius about a rabbit called Rabbit. I gave it to my mother and she said "That's lovely," as a mother would. "That's very, very good." I stood there and thought, "Well get it published then."

### What books did you read when you were a child?

When I was a child, I would read absolutely anything. My favourite books for younger people would be *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith, which I really love, *The Little White Horse* by Elizabethoudge, and all the classic children's books. I love E Nesbit – I think she is great and I identify with the way she writes. Her children are very real children and she was quite a groundbreaker in her day.

Unfortunately, due to the enormous size of my weekly postbag, and my existing charitable and work commitments, I regret that I am unable to:

- Help with auditions, please contact Warner Bros. directly.
- Sign copies of the Harry Potter books sent to my office.
- Answer individual questions or comment on specific topics.
- Send out autographs and signed photographs.

Look at/read/comment on writing/stories/ideas/artwork sent to me

## Information Sheet

My full name is Joanne Kathleen Rowling. I added 'Kathleen', which was the name of my paternal grandmother, because my UK publishers wanted me to use my initials when they published 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. This was an attempt to conceal my gender, as they thought 'Harry Potter' was a book that might appeal to boys, but the fact that a woman had written it might put boys off. I have no idea whether they were right or not, but the ploy did not receive a very long trial, as it quickly became obvious that 'J K' was a woman from her press photographs.

All my life I have wanted to be a writer. I experimented with many different stories, and wrote parts of several novels, before the idea for 'Harry Potter' came to me on a train journey from Manchester to London in 1990. I had never felt so excited about a story before, but never for an instant did I have an inkling of what Harry Potter would become. I simply knew that it was something I would love to write, and as I sat there on the train, pen-less for once in my life, I gave myself over to imagining the details of a nameless school for wizardry, most of which found their way into the published books.

By the time I finished writing the final, seventh book in the series, I had been living with Harry for seventeen years. Saying goodbye has been very difficult but the world in which I lived for so long remains inside me, and nearly every day I meet somebody who wants to talk about it. Every writer's life influences their work, but not many books change their author's life forever, as Harry Potter did for me.

Working with Jack Thorne and John Tiffany to create 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my working life. We developed the story together and I am thrilled with the result. As you know the play has just opened in London, but we're hoping to take it to other countries in future.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them is also based in the wizarding world. I wrote the film scripts in five parts. The story was based on a book I created for Comic Relief 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,' which was published in 2001.

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**For a good range of Frequently Asked Questions, plus much additional information about Harry Potter, visit**

[www.jkrowling.com](http://www.jkrowling.com)

and

[www.pottermore.com](http://www.pottermore.com)

**Here however, are some of the most commonly asked :**

### **1. Will there ever be another Harry Potter novel?**

I have always refused to say 'never' to this question, because I think it would be foolish to rule out something I might want to do in the future. However, I have no immediate plans to write another novel, and I do think that I have rounded off Harry's story in the seven published books.

### **2. Which character is your favourite?**

Harry, although I believe I am unusual in this, Ron is generally more popular (I love him too, though). Now that I have finished writing the books, the character I would most like to meet for dinner is Dumbledore. We would have a lot to discuss, and I would love his advice; I think that everyone would like a Dumbledore in their lives.