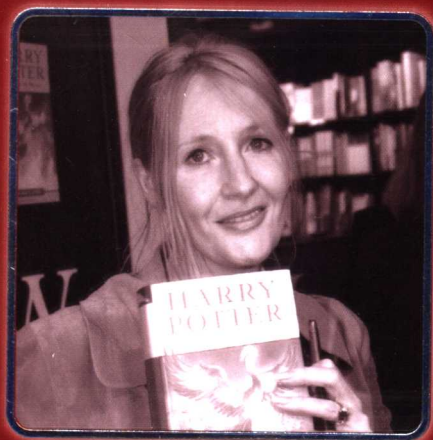


—— 世 界 名 人 ——

# 英文传记

ENGLISH BIOGRAPHIES  
OF WORLD'S  
CELEBRITIES

乔安妮·马特恩/著



J.K.  
ROWLING  
J.K. 罗琳

她是魔法少年哈利·波特的创造者  
“哈利之母”

中国书籍出版社

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世界名人英文传记系列



J. K.  
ROWLING

THE HARRY POTTER  
SERIES

中国文联出版社

—世界名人英文传记—

# J. K. 罗琳

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# A WIZARD WITH WORDS

**H**er books have **captivated**<sup>①</sup> children and adults all over the world. She is one of the most popular authors ever and has won dozens of awards. Whenever she releases a new book, eager readers line up in bookstores to **purchase**<sup>②</sup> their copies—sometimes camping out overnight to be among the first buyers. Her stories have made her one of the richest women in the world. She is Joanne Kathleen Rowling, author of the **phenomenally**<sup>③</sup> successful *Harry Potter* series of children's books.

---

① captivate ['kæptiveit] *vt.* 迷住,吸引,迷惑

② purchase ['pɜ:tʃəs] *vt.* 购买

③ phenomenally [fi'nɒminəli] *ad.* 出众地,难以置信地

J.K. Rowling published the first *Harry Potter* book in Great Britain in 1997. It was called *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*<sup>①</sup>. One year later, the book—retitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's*<sup>②</sup> *Stone*—was published in the United States. The book introduced readers to young Harry Potter, an 11-year-old orphan with a strange lightning-bolt-shaped scar<sup>③</sup> on his forehead. Harry doesn't know it, but he is a powerful wizard<sup>④</sup>. He learns the truth about his past and studies how to use magic at a wizards' school called Hogwarts. In the books that followed, Harry learns more about his powers and his mysterious<sup>⑤</sup> past and prepares to face the dangerous wizard who murdered<sup>⑥</sup> Harry's parents.

J.K. Rowling did not expect her books to become such a huge success. She did not set out to write a best-selling children's book. Instead, she wrote a story that appealed to<sup>⑦</sup> her. The fact that it also touched the imaginations of millions of readers around the world came as a complete surprise to her.

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① Philosopher's Stone 点金石

② sorcerer ['sɔ:səɹə] *n.* 男巫士, 魔术师 (女性为: sorceress)

③ scar [skɑ:] *n.* 疤, 伤痕; (物品等的) 损伤痕

④ wizard ['wɪzəd] *n.* 男巫, 术士; 奇才, 高手

⑤ mysterious [mis'tɪəriəs] *a.* 神秘的, 不可思议的

⑥ murder ['mɜ:də] *vt.* 谋杀, 凶杀

⑦ appeal to 诉诸, 求助于; 向……呼吁, 恳求





*Joanne Kathleen (J.K.) Rowling's books have captivated children and adults all over the world. (Landov)*

#### **4 • J.K. Rowling: Author**

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The *Harry Potter* books turned Rowling's life into a dream come true. But until the books were published, Rowling's life was very ordinary. She had a happy childhood, attended school, and later became a single mother struggling to support herself and her young daughter. Inside her mind, however, there was nothing ordinary about J.K. Rowling. Like that of many authors, her imagination held the key to a whole new world.



# AN IMAGINATIVE CHILD

**J**oanne Kathleen Rowling was born on July 31, 1965. Her parents, Peter and Anne, had met on a train the year before. At that time, Peter and Anne were both in England's Royal Navy. They met at King's Cross Station in London and fell in love at first sight. They married early in 1965. Joanne was their first child.

## **Small-Town Life**

The Rowlings' first home was in Yate, a small town about 10 miles northeast of Bristol, an important city in southeast England, across the Bristol Channel from Wales. Another nearby town

has the interesting name Chipping Sodbury. As an adult, Joanne, who has a writer's natural fondness for unusual names, said she was born in Chipping Sodbury. However, her birth **certificate** ① says she was born in Yate.

Peter and Anne had left the Royal Navy shortly before they married. Peter worked as a production engineer at an aircraft factory in Bristol. Anne stayed home to be a fulltime mother to her daughters.

The Rowlings bought a small one-story house on a street called Sundridge Park. During the 1960s, the area around Sundridge Park was full of fields and open space. A park called Kingsgate Park was within walking distance.

When Joanne was almost two years old, she became a big sister. Anne gave birth to Dianne in June 1967. Although Joanne had been born in a hospital, Dianne was born at home. Joanne later said that Dianne's birth is her earliest childhood memory.

Soon after Dianne was born, the family moved to a town called Winterbourne, about four miles away. Winterbourne was more **rural** ② than Yate, and the Rowlings felt it was a nicer area in which to raise their children.

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① **certificate** [sə'tɪfɪkət] *n.* 证明书, 执照

② **rural** ['ru:əl] *a.* 农村的, 田园的; 有乡村风味的

### Books and Games

Peter continued to work at the aircraft factory while Anne remained at home. She was a devoted mother to Jo and Di, as the Rowling girls were called. One of the family's favorite pastimes was reading. Neighbors would later comment that the Rowling home had more books than any other home in the neighborhood.

Peter also enjoyed reading to his children. Later, Joanne would recall a favorite childhood memory. When she was quite young, she became sick with the **measles**<sup>①</sup>. To pass the time, her father read to her from *The Wind in the Willows*<sup>②</sup>, a classic British children's book. Joanne especially enjoyed the way the book's animal characters behaved in human ways. This would be an important influence on her own writing: Many of the animals in her *Harry Potter* books have human characteristics.

Jo and Di were especially close. The girls had many friends on Nicholls Lane, where they lived. Two of their best friends were Vikki and Ian Potter, who lived just a few houses down the street. (Later, Joanne would use the Potters' last name in her books.) Jo was the oldest of the four children and **frequently**<sup>③</sup> was the leader in their

---

① measles ['mi:zlz] *n.* 【医】麻疹, 风疹

② willow ['wiləu] *n.* 柳, 柳树

③ frequently ['fri:kwəntli] *ad.* 频繁地, 屡次地

childhood games.

The four children especially enjoyed using their imaginations. One of their favorite games was playing **witches** <sup>①</sup> and wizards. The children borrowed brooms from their **garages** <sup>②</sup> and ran around the neighborhood, pretending to fly. They used dress-up clothes to look like the characters they played. It was not unusual for the children to end up sitting together while Jo told them **spooky** <sup>③</sup> stories.

### The First Stories

Even when she was very young, storytelling was one of Joanne's favorite activities. One day, Joanne made up a story to entertain her younger sister. The story was about a little girl named Di who fell down a rabbit hole. She was rescued by a family of rabbits who fed her strawberries. Dianne loved the story and asked Joanne to tell it over and over again. However, Dianne was annoyed that Joanne changed or added details every time she told the story. To solve this problem, Joanne began to write her stories down.

Rabbits often appeared in Joanne's stories. She remembers the first story she ever wrote down, when

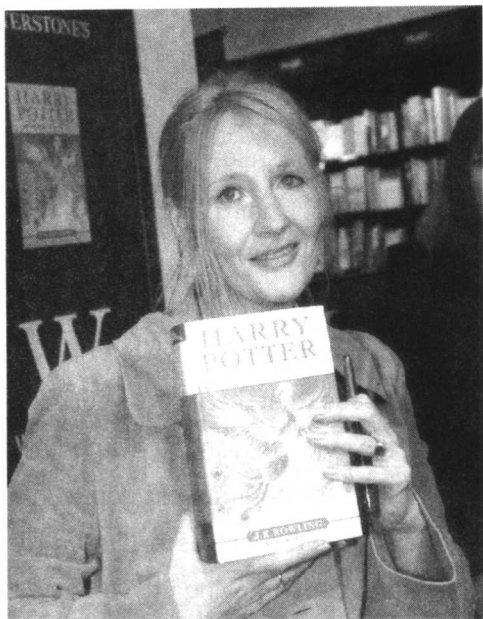
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① witch [wɪtʃ] *n.* 巫婆, 女巫

② garage [ˈɡærɑːʒ] *n.* 车房, 车库

③ spooky [ˈspuːki] *a.* 【口】令人毛骨悚然的

she was five or six years old. The hero was a rabbit named, of all things, Rabbit. He got the measles and was visited by his friends. Like many authors, Joanne took events that happened in real life—such as her own bout with the



*Joanne decided to be a writer when she was very young, but she kept her plan a secret for years. (Associated Press)*

measles—and **transformed**<sup>①</sup> them into stories.

Joanne discovered that she loved writing stories. She decided that one day she would write stories for a living. However, Joanne told no one about her **ambitions**<sup>②</sup>. Her plans would remain a secret for many years.

---

① transform [træns'fɔ:m] *vt.* 使改变, 使改观; 将……改成

② ambition [æm'biʃən] *n.* 雄心, 抱负, 目标

### Another Move

The Rowling family was happy in Winterbourne. However, Peter and Anne had always dreamed of buying an old house and fixing it up. When Joanne was about nine years old, her parents sold the house on Nicholls Lane and moved to Church Cottage in the village of Tutshill, located on the other side of the River Severn, in a wooded area called the Forest of Dean. Their home was a stone house that had been built in 1848 and had once been the village school. Although their parents were happy to be living in an old house in a rural village, Joanne and Dianne were not as excited. Like children anywhere, they **dreaded** <sup>①</sup> moving to a new home, making new friends, and fitting in at a new school.

Joanne started classes at Tutshill Church of England Primary School when she was nine years old. Her first day at the new school did not go well. Her new teacher, Sylvia Morgan, gave Joanne a math test to see how much she knew. Unfortunately, the test included **fractions** <sup>②</sup>, which Joanne had not studied in her old school. She scored only half a point on the test. Joanne's poor score led Mrs. Morgan to believe that Joanne was not very **smart** <sup>③</sup>. Mrs.

---

① dread [dred] *vt.* 惧怕, 担心

② fraction [ˈfrækʃən] *n.* 【数】分数

③ smart [smɑ:t] *a.* 伶俐的, 聪慧的



Morgan had an interesting seating plan in her classroom. She placed the smartest students on her left and the slower students on her right. Joanne was told to sit at a desk at the far right side of the room. "I was as far right as you could get without sitting in the playground," she later said.

Joanne knew she was smart. Now she had to prove it to Mrs. Morgan and the other students in the class. To achieve this, Joanne worked hard. By the end of the year, she had moved into the second seat on the left. Unfortunately, Joanne's improvement at school cost her some friendships, as the girls in her class thought she was just showing off.

Along with school, Joanne took part in many other activities. She and Di enjoyed long walks along the River Wye and through the Forest of Dean. The area was a perfect setting for Joanne's imaginative stories of heroes and magic. Joanne also **participated** <sup>①</sup> in local organizations. For several years, she was a Brownie and took part in community service projects with that organization.

### **Lost in Books**

Joanne did well in school, especially when it came to reading. Becoming lost in stories was still her favorite

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① participate [pɑ:'tisipeit] *vi.* 参加, 参与