Name:

Great Minds: J. K. Rowling

By Lydia Lukidis

Wizards, Hogwarts, and Gryffindors!
Everybody knows J. K. Rowling is the author of the ever popular Harry Potter series. Everybody knows she's incredibly successful, famous, and rich. But Rowling's past wasn't so magical. She certainly



Unfortunately, this was a turbulent era for Rowling. Soon after her daughter was born, her marriage fell apart. The couple

ant diverged In an instant she lost



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dreamed of being a writer. Her favorite subjects in school were English and languages. No surprise there. By the age of six, she wrote her first story. By the age of eleven, she wrote her first full length novel. That's pretty incredible!

Upon graduating university, she worked a series of jobs in London as a secretary and teacher. She also worked at Amnesty International. In 1991, Rowling left England to work as an English teacher in Portugal. That's where she met her first husband. They quickly got married and welcomed a child shortly after.

continued to write stories every chance she got. She would write in cafes as her daughter napped.

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remebers to turn on the light."

- J. K. Rowling

Rowling first dreamed up Harry Potter when she was delayed on a train. She was imagining creating a place where a child could have power. This is what sparked the idea of Hogwarts, the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Over the next five years, she developed her ideas and outlined the series of seven books. She scribbled her notes by hand on scraps of paper and napkins. Soon she had a pile of notes that she had to piece together. Despite living in poverty and suffering from depression, she persevered.

When she finished the first manuscript (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone), it was rejected. That seems unbelievable! In fact, it was rejected a dozen times. This went on for a year. Then

Cut to today, and Rowling is wildly successful in her professional career. As you all know, the merchandising of Harry Potter alone is pretty extraordinary. She gets royalty checks for each Harry Potter item sold, from lunch boxes to umbrellas! And of course, she landed even more fame and money once the eight Harry Potter movies were made. She has also written many other books like the Fantastic Beasts series, and some books for adults.

Rowling got married again and



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As soon as the book hit the market, it gained instant popularity. Rowling began to receive thousands of letters from fans. It appealed both to children and adults. The Harry Potter series is now published in 80 languages, and has sold over 500 million copies across the world.

came from. Rowling regularly donates large amounts of money to various charities. She loves to help those less fortunate than her. Her determined and compassionate spirit keeps her humble. This is yet another reason everyone adores her. to live on today.

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- 1. Based on the information in the article, how old was J. K. Rowling when her first book in the Harry Potter series was published?
 - **a.** 27

b. 32

c. 49

d. 55



2. The guither of the article describes L.K. Douling's life as an evaporal of "a true rage



Preview

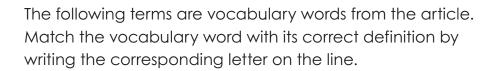
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4.	Read the following statements about J. K. Rowling. Determine whether they are true or false. If the statement is true, write a \mathbf{T} on the line. If the statement is false, write an \mathbf{F} .
	Rowling didn't develop an interest in storytelling until later in life.
	The original name of Rowling's first book was Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.
	Rowling's books have sold more than 500 million copies worldwide.
	Rowling's first book was on the market for a long time before it agined popularity.

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a. gives away money or goods to a charity

or other good cause



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6. ____ charmed

7. ____ donates

8. ____ compassionate

9. ____ humble

10. _____ poverty

and difficult times

e. having a magical quality

 f. having a modest view of one's own self-importance

g. achieved success despite difficulties

h. having an intense interest in an activity, like reading

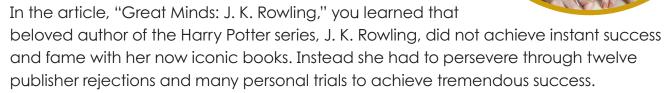
i. an author's unpublished work

j. having sympathy for other people

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On the lines below, write about another author who had to go through many difficulties before he or she achieved success. With an adult's permission, use the Internet to



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ANSWER KEY

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1. Based on the information in the article, how old was J. K. Rowling when her first book in the *Harry Potter*



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- ______ The original name of Rowling's first book was Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.
- _____ Rowling's books have sold more than 500 million copies worldwide.
- F Rowling's first book was on the market for a long time before it gained popularity.

ANSWER KEY

Great Minds: J. K. Rowling

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The following terms are vocabulary words from the article.





like reading

9. f humble

i. an author's unpublished work

10. ___ poverty

j. having sympathy for other people