

Harry Potter is a series of seven [fantasy novels](#) written by British author [J. K. Rowling](#). The novels chronicle the lives of a young [wizard](#), [Harry Potter](#), and his friends, [Ron Weasley](#) and [Hermione Granger](#), all of whom are students at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](#). The main [story arc](#) concerns Harry's conflict with [Lord Voldemort](#), a [dark wizard](#) who intends to become immortal, overthrow the wizard governing body known as the [Ministry of Magic](#), and subjugate all wizards and [Muggles](#) (non-magical people).

The series was originally published in English by [Bloomsbury](#) in the United Kingdom and [Scholastic Press](#) in the United States. A series of many genres, including [fantasy](#), [drama](#), [coming-of-age fiction](#), and the British [school story](#) (which includes elements of [mystery](#), [thriller](#), [adventure](#), [horror](#), and [romance](#)), the world of *Harry Potter* explores numerous themes and includes many cultural meanings and references.^[1] Major themes in the series include prejudice, corruption, madness, love, and death.^[2]

Since the release of the first novel, [Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone](#), on 26 June 1997, the books have found immense popularity and commercial success worldwide. They have attracted a wide adult audience as well as younger readers and are widely considered cornerstones of modern literature,^{[3][4]} though the books have received mixed reviews from critics and literary scholars. As of February 2023, the books have sold more than 600 million copies worldwide, making them the [best-selling book series in history](#), [available in dozens of languages](#). The last four books all set records as the fastest-selling books in history, with the final instalment selling roughly 2.7 million copies in the United Kingdom and 8.3 million copies in the United States within twenty-four hours of its release. It holds the [Guinness World Record](#) for "Best-selling book series for children."^[5]

[Warner Bros. Pictures](#) adapted the original seven books into an eight-part [namesake film series](#). In 2016, the total value of the *Harry Potter* franchise was estimated at \$25 billion,^[6] making it one of the [highest-grossing media franchises of all time](#). [Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#) is a play based on a story co-written by Rowling. A television series based on the books is in production at [HBO](#).

The success of the books and films has allowed the *Harry Potter* franchise to expand with numerous derivative works, a travelling exhibition that premiered in Chicago in 2009, a studio tour in London that opened in 2012, [a digital platform](#) on which J. K. Rowling updates the series with new information and insight, and a trilogy of [spin-off](#) films premiering in November 2016 with [Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them](#), among many other developments. Themed attractions, collectively known as [The Wizarding World of Harry Potter](#), have been built at several [Universal Destinations & Experiences](#) amusement parks around the world.