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# 101 AMAZING HARRY POTTER FACTS

JACK GOLDSTEIN & FRANKIE TAYLOR

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## Title Page

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# **Introduction**

Through JK Rowling's series of Harry Potter books and the eight films, we have been introduced to a fantastic and magical world that I'm sure many of us would like to visit. But what is the story behind what we see and read, and what are some little-known facts about the books, the films, the actors and the characters? This book contains 101 amazing facts which you most likely didn't know!

We hope you enjoy reading this book as much as we enjoyed researching and writing it!

Read on to find out about the scrapped musical version of the series, how the first book was almost made into a CGI feature, and some interesting differences between the films and the books...

# **Daniel and Harry**

1. Daniel's full name is Daniel Jacob Radcliffe.
2. His father is a literary agent and his mother a casting agent.
3. Daniel has said he wasn't very good at school and found the work really difficult - although he did achieve three A grades!
4. Daniel's parents didn't tell him about the role for Harry Potter because the contract required shooting all seven films in Los Angeles and California.
5. Along with most of the cast, during the last day of filming Daniel openly wept.
6. Harry's full name is Harry James Potter.
7. It was decided that Harry was to be an orphan because he needed to be free from the fear of disappointing his parents.
8. Harry's pain and longing for his parents became much stronger than in initial drafts after J.K Rowling lost her mother in December 1990.
9. Harry's Birthday is July 31<sup>st</sup>.
10. Unlike many other characters in the stories, Harry is not based on a real-life person.

# The Books

1. In The Goblet of Fire, there is a character called Natalie McDonald. A heart-warming story is behind her... Natalie was a real nine-year-old girl who was a huge Harry Potter fan. She had incurable leukaemia however, and knew she did not have long to live. Natalie wrote to JK Rowling to ask her what happened in the next book, but sadly by the time JK Rowling wrote back Natalie had died of her illness - so Rowling immortalised Natalie in the book.
2. JK Rowling's birthday is on the same day as Harry's.
3. There are more differences than you might think between the American and British versions of the books. Not only was 'Philosopher's Stone' changed to 'Sorcerer's Stone', but English phrases such as 'sneakers', 'jumper' and 'car park' were changed to 'trainers', 'sweater' and 'parking lot'.
4. Joanna 'JK' Rowling does not actually have a middle name - the 'K' is taken from her grandmother's name, Kathleen.
5. The books have been translated into 67 languages - including Latin.
6. Rowling got a number of the 'medieval' sounding words from Harry Potter (such as 'toadflax') from a famous real book written in the 1600s called *Culpepper's Complete Herbal*.
7. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is the fastest-selling book of all time - 11 million copies were shifted on the day it was released.
8. On the day *The Prisoner of Azkaban* was released, Bloomsbury (the publisher) asked stores not to put the book on sale until schools closed - in a bid to stop children playing truant to buy it!

9. A handwritten copy of JK Rowling's *Tales of Beedle the Bard* sold for 4 million dollars!

10. More than 450 million Harry Potter books have been sold in total.

# Emma and Hermione

1. Emma's full name is Emma Charlotte Duerre Watson.
2. After eight auditions and having only previously acted in school plays, she was cast to play Hermione Granger at the tender age of nine.
3. Emma was nominated for five awards after her performance in *The Philosopher's Stone*.
4. Emma starred in *The Queen's Handbag* - a mini edition of Harry Potter to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's II 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.
5. In 2007, Emma - along with co-stars Daniel and Rupert - made imprints of their hands, feet and wands outside Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.
6. Hermione's full name is Hermione Jean Granger.
7. J.K Rowling initially intended for her surname to be Puckle.
8. Hermione's Parents are both dentists, which makes her muggle-born.
9. J.K Rowling has said that Hermione's insecurities and fear of failure resemble herself at a young age.
10. The name Hermione is derived from Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. J.K Rowling wanted to give the character an unusual name so fewer girls could be teased over it.

# The Films

1. *The Prisoner of Azkaban* was the lowest grossing film of the Harry Potter series - however it still made more than the highest grossing *Twilight* film!
2. Steven Spielberg was approached to direct the first Harry Potter film - but he wanted to make it as a Pixar-style animated movie.
3. During filming, Daniel Radcliffe wore out almost 70 wands; he also went through 160 pairs of glasses.
4. The brooms in the films are actually made from lightweight aluminium.
5. Warwick Davis actually played two roles in the Harry Potter films - Professor Flitwick in the first four films, and Griphook in *The Deathly Hallows*.
6. The twins who play Fred and George (James and Oliver Phelps) aren't actually redheads.
7. The films have taken a total of almost 8 BILLION dollars at cinemas worldwide.
8. The biggest grossing film was the last one - *The Deathly Hallows part II*. It took almost \$1.4 billion at the box office.
9. The films were all shot at Leavesden Studios in England. Of course, there have also been many other locations used, such as Gloucester Cathedral for some outside scenes, and an Oxford University dining hall.
10. Despite the fact that the films often differ in some significant ways to the books, JK Rowling actually helped write the scripts of all of the

films. Apart from the fifth movie, they were all scripted by Steve Kloves (Michael Goldenberg wrote Order of the Phoenix).

# Rupert and Ron

1. Rupert's full name is Rupert Alexander Lloyd Grint.
2. Amazingly, he owns an ice cream truck!
3. Similar to his large family in Harry Potter, Rupert is the eldest of five children.
4. Rupert joined a local theatre school and was cast as a fish in *Noah's Ark* and a donkey in another play.
5. Like his co-star Emma Watson, Rupert had never acted professionally before Harry Potter.
6. Ronald's full name is Ronald Bilius Weasley.
7. Although not intended at the start, Ron is inspired by J.K Rowling's best friend.
8. Ron's insecurities come from a number of factors, those being: he is not an excellent Quidditch player nor a noteworthy stud, he was not the daughter his mother always dreamt of and often although not purposefully he is overshadowed by Harry's fame.
9. Before Ron begins his adult life working as an Auror in the Ministry and Magic, he joins Fred and George at Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, a shop which becomes a huge success.
10. In the final instalment Ron and Hermione are married with two children called Rose and Hugo.

# General Facts

1. The *New England Journal of Medicine* published an article that explained a new health issue whereby children were getting migraines from reading for unusually long periods of time. The physician who wrote the article called it ‘Hogwarts Headache’.
2. Over 15,000 boys auditioned for the part of Harry Potter.
3. When Harry Potter was translated into Spanish, Neville’s toad was accidentally called a turtle!
4. If you look carefully at the credits at the end of Goblet of Fire, you’ll see the phrase *No dragons were harmed in the making of this movie*.
5. When they were filming *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, the crew sewed Tom Felton’s pockets shut - because he kept sneaking food onto the set!
6. Ron is well known for using expletives - but originally he was even more foul-mouthed! The publishers had to get JK Rowling to tone down his language as it would not have been appropriate for younger readers.
7. Did you notice that Harry arrives at the Dursley’s for the first time with Hagrid on the back of Sirius Black’s motorbike - and leaves for the last time in exactly the same way?
8. In the films, you always see Bellatrix standing on the right side of Voldemort - this is because standing to the right hand side symbolises one’s most loyal follower.
9. The Marauders died in the exact opposite order as to how their names are printed on the map.

10. If you translate ‘Expecto Patronum’ from Latin, it means ‘I await a guardian’.

# Ralph and Voldemort

1. Ralph's full name is - amazingly - Ralph Twisleton Wykeham Fiennes.
2. When he was asked to play Voldemort, Ralph had to admit that he hadn't actually read any of the books.
3. Ralph has compared Voldemort to a character from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, saying that The Child Catcher was the literary figure he was most scared of when he was young.
4. Ralph said in one interview that during filming (when he was in full costume), he walked past the child of a script supervisor. The child burst into tears. Ralph says this made him feel good about himself...!
5. Ralph also once said that he understands Voldemort's evilness, saying that being very lonely as a child probably contributed to his character.
6. According to JK Rowling, you don't pronounce the 'T' at the end of Voldemort.
7. Voldemort's real name is of course Tom Marvolo Riddle.
8. Voldemort has in fact been played by 6 different actors in the films. Ian Hart and Richard Bremner both played him in different scenes in the first film. Christian Coulson played Tom Riddle in the Chamber of Secrets. Ralph Fiennes is obviously best-known for the role, but Hero Fiennes-Tiffin (Ralph's nephew) played the young Tom Riddle in Half-blood Prince, and Frank Dillane played him in the same film as an adolescent.
9. Voldemort cannot understand love as he was conceived when his father was under the influence of a love potion - something known in the wizarding world to cause emotional complications.

10. One ability that Voldemort possesses that amazes even the most worldly-wise of wizards is that he can fly without the aid of any magical instrument.

# Differences

1. In the books, Hagrid is said to be twice as tall as a regular human being, making him around 11 to 12 feet high - however, in the films it is referenced that he is 'only' 8 foot 6.
2. Peeves the poltergeist has appeared in every single Harry Potter book - and none of the films at all. Rik Mayall did film some scenes as Peeves for the first film, but they didn't make it into the final cut.
3. In the film of *The Deathly Hallows*, Hermione is seen Obliviating her parents - this isn't mentioned at all in the book. Many critics have said this was a fantastic thing for the film to feature however, as it sets the tone of the final chapter (or two) in the Harry Potter series.
4. Many fans were disappointed that the films did not feature the sequence where Luna Lovegood is commentator for a Quidditch match, and rather than talking about the game starts pointing out interestingly shaped clouds - amongst other things!
5. In the books, Dudley eventually redeems himself, and he sees the error of his ways. In the films however, the last we see of Dudley is him escaping with the rest of the Dursleys. This was a real shame for many, as the way it was originally written showed that even the worst bullies could change.
6. Hermione's SPEW - the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare - is not mentioned in the films at all, yet features quite heavily in some books - particularly *The Goblet of Fire* and *The Deathly Hallows*.
7. Although it is explained in the book, the film *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince* never actually explains exactly why Snape called himself this. Seriously - watch the film again if you don't believe us!

8. In the first film, the name of Harry's Owl (Hedwig) is NEVER mentioned!
9. In the books, Hermione is described as having huge front teeth and frizzy hair. Most people would agree this isn't exactly an accurate description of Emma Watson.
10. Most of this section has been about things that are in the books but not in the films. But did you notice that in the Knight Bus there is a talking shrunken head - this isn't in the books at all, and JK Rowling has said she wishes she'd thought of it!

# Other Characters

1. JK Rowling didn't actually make up the word 'Dumbledore' - it is an early English word for 'Bumblebee'.
2. Moaning Myrtle is technically a little old to be a schoolgirl - the actress who played her was 37 years old at the time!
3. Pansy Parkinson is based on real-life bullies who tormented Jo Rowling when she was younger.
4. People believe Hermione's cat Crookshanks to be part Kneazle - a Kneazle is like a cat but with big ears and a tail similar to a lion's.
5. Fred and George celebrate their birthdays on April Fool's Day. Who would have guessed...!
6. In *The Chamber of Secrets*, Dumbledore has a portrait on his wall of Gandalf the Grey from *Lord of the Rings*!
7. In *The Half-Blood Prince*, the Gryffindor chaser is called Demelza Robins. She is named after Daniel Radcliffe's favourite charity - the Demelza House Children's Hospice.
8. Although Griphook was played by Warwick Davis in *The Deathly Hallows*, the character was played by Verne Troyer (Mini Me from Austin Powers) in the first film - but they still used Warwick's voice!
9. In the final scene of the last film, Draco Malfoy's wife is actually played by Tom Felton's real-life girlfriend Jade Olivia.
10. James Potter was a chaser and not a seeker.

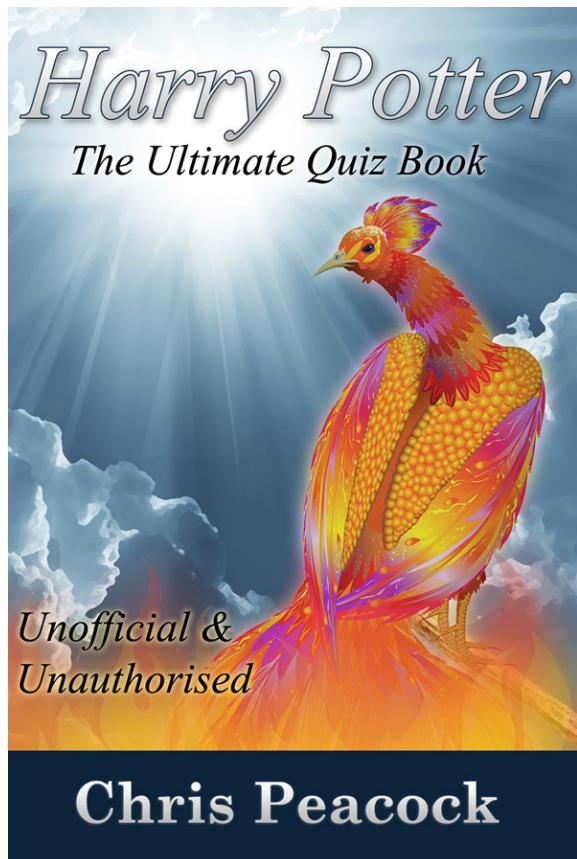
# The Most Amazing Facts

1. Kings Cross Station actually has a plaque that says ‘Platform 9 3/4’!
2. JK Rowling originally called the Death Eaters the ‘Knights of Walpurgis’!
3. A priest named Father Gabriele Amorth said that reading Harry potter is Satanic and leads to evil. He was the Vatican’s *Chief Exorcist*!
4. When JK Rowling took an online ‘sorting hat’ quiz, she was placed into Hufflepuff!
5. Before people in England thought that witches and wizards flew on Broomsticks - like in Harry Potter - they actually thought they flew whilst sitting inside cauldrons!
6. When Arthur Weasley has to enter a number into the telephone box to get into the Ministry of Magic, he dials ‘62442’. Press the buttons on your cellphone spelling the word ‘Magic’ and see what you get...
7. The four houses of Hogwarts are supposed to represent the four classical elements - with Gryffindor being Fire, Ravenclaw Air, Hufflepuff Earth and Slytherin Water.
8. After filming *The Order of the Phoenix*, Emma Watson nearly decided to quit the franchise - however (and we’re all glad about this) - she decided to stay as the ‘pluses outweighed the minuses’.
9. There are rumours that JK Rowling isn’t finished with Harry potter just yet - although no-one can say what age Harry would be if she does write another book...
10. JK Rowling has revealed that she always thought of Dumbledore’s character as homosexual.

## **And Finally...**

1. Michael Jackson asked if he could make a stage musical of the Harry Potter series, but JK Rowling wouldn't allow him to do it.

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