

harry potter is a series of fantasy novels written by british author j k rowling the novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard harry potter and his friends hermione granger and ron weasley all of whom are students at hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry the main story arc concerns harry s struggle against 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 since the release of the first novel harry potter and the philosopher s stone on june the books have found immense popularity critical acclaim and commercial success worldwide they have attracted a wide adult audience as well as younger readers and are often considered cornerstones of modern young adult literature as of february update the books have sold more than million copies worldwide making them the best selling book series in history and have been translated into eighty languages the last four books consecutively set records as the fastest selling books in history with the final installment selling roughly eleven million copies in the united states within twenty four hours of its release the series was originally published in english by two major publishers bloomsbury in the united kingdom and scholastic press in the united states a play harry potter and the cursed child based on a story co written by rowling premiered in london on july at the palace theatre and its script was published by little brown the original seven books were adapted into an eight part namesake film series by warner bros pictures which is the third highest grossing film series of all time as of february update in the total value of the harry potter franchise was estimated at billion making harry potter one of the highest grossing media franchises of all time a series of many genres including fantasy drama coming of age 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 according to rowling the main theme is death other major themes in the series include prejudice corruption and madness 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 a studio tour in london that opened in a digital platform on which j k rowling updates the series with new information and insight and a pentalogy of spin off films premiering in november with fantastic beasts and where to find them among many other developments most recently themed attractions collectively known as the wizarding world of harry potter have been built at several universal parks resorts amusement parks around the world the central character in the series is harry potter a boy who lives in the fictional town of little whinging surrey with his aunt uncle and cousin the dursleys and discovers at the age of eleven that he is a wizard though he lives in the ordinary world of non magical people known as muggles the wizarding world exists parallel to the muggle world albeit hidden and in secrecy his magical ability is inborn and children with such abilities are invited to attend exclusive magic schools that teach the necessary skills to succeed in the wizarding world harry becomes a student at hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry a wizarding academy in scotland and it is here where most of the events in the series take place as harry develops through his adolescence he learns to overcome the problems that face him magical social and emotional including ordinary teenage challenges such as friendships infatuation romantic relationships schoolwork and exams anxiety depression stress and the greater test of preparing himself for the confrontation that lies ahead in wizarding britain s increasingly violent second wizarding war each novel chronicles one year in harry s life during the period from to the books also contain many flashbacks which are frequently experienced by harry viewing the

memories of other characters in a device called a Pensieve the environment Rowling created is intimately connected to reality the British magical community of the Harry Potter books is inspired by British culture European folklore classical mythology and alchemy incorporating objects and wildlife such as magic wands magic plants potions spells flying broomsticks centaurs and other magical creatures and the Philosopher's Stone beside others invented by Rowling while the fantasy land of Narnia is an alternate universe and The Lord of the Rings Middle-earth a mythic past the wizarding world of Harry Potter exists parallel to the real world and contains magical versions of the ordinary elements of everyday life with the action mostly set in Scotland Hogwarts the West Country Devon London and Surrey in Southeast England the world only accessible to wizards and magical beings comprises a fragmented collection of overlooked hidden streets ancient pubs lonely country manors and secluded castles invisible to the Muggle population when the first novel of the series Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone opens it is apparent that some significant event has taken place in the wizarding world an event so very remarkable that even Muggles non-magical people notice signs of it the full background to this event and Harry Potter's past is revealed gradually throughout the series after the introductory chapter the book leaps forward to a time shortly before Harry Potter's eleventh birthday and it is at this point that his magical background begins to be revealed despite Harry's aunt and uncle's desperate prevention of Harry learning about his abilities their efforts are in vain Harry meets a half-giant Rubeus Hagrid who is also his first contact with the wizarding world Hagrid reveals himself to be the keeper of keys and grounds at Hogwarts as well as some of Harry's history Harry learns that as a baby he witnessed his parents' murder by the power-obsessed dark wizard Lord Voldemort who subsequently attempted to kill him as well instead the unexpected happened Harry survived with only a lightning-shaped scar on his forehead as a memento of the attack and Voldemort disappeared soon afterwards gravely weakened by his own rebounding curse as its inadvertent saviour from Voldemort's reign of terror Harry has become a living legend in the wizarding world however at the orders of the venerable and well-known wizard Albus Dumbledore the orphaned Harry had been placed in the home of his unpleasant Muggle relatives the Dursleys who have kept him safe but treated him poorly including confining him to a cupboard without meals and treating him as their servant Hagrid then officially invites Harry to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry a famous magic school in Scotland that educates young teenagers on their magical development for seven years from age eleven to seventeen with Hagrid's help Harry prepares for and undertakes his first year of study at Hogwarts as Harry begins to explore the magical world the reader is introduced to many of the primary locations used throughout the series Harry meets most of the main characters and gains his two closest friends Ron Weasley a fun-loving member of an ancient large happy but poor wizarding family and Hermione Granger a gifted bright and hardworking witch of non-magical parentage Harry also encounters the school's potions master Severus Snape who displays a conspicuously deep and abiding dislike for him the rich brat Draco Malfoy whom he quickly makes enemies with and the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher Quirinus Quirrell who later turns out to be allied with Lord Voldemort he also discovers a talent of flying on broomsticks and is recruited for his house's Quidditch team a sport in the wizarding world where players fly on broomsticks the first book concludes with Harry's second confrontation with Lord Voldemort who in his quest to regain a body yearns to gain the power of the Philosopher's Stone a substance that bestows everlasting life and turns any metal into pure gold the series continues with Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

describing Harry's second year at Hogwarts he and his friends investigate a year old mystery that appears uncannily related to recent sinister events at the school Ron's younger sister Ginny Weasley enrolls in her first year at Hogwarts and finds an old notebook in her belongings which turns out to be the diary of a previous student Tom Marvolo Riddle later revealed to be Voldemort's younger self who is bent on ridding the school of mudbloods a derogatory term describing wizards and witches of non magical parentage the memory of Tom Riddle resides inside of the diary and when Ginny begins to confide in the diary Voldemort is able to possess her through the diary Ginny acts on Voldemort's orders and unconsciously opens the Chamber of Secrets unleashing an ancient monster later revealed to be a basilisk which begins attacking students at Hogwarts it kills those who make direct eye contact with it and petrifies those who look at it indirectly the book also introduces a new defence against the dark arts teacher Gilderoy Lockhart a highly cheerful self conceited wizard with a pretentious facade later turning out to be a fraud Harry discovers that prejudice exists in the wizarding world through delving into the school's history and learns that Voldemort's reign of terror was often directed at wizards and witches who were descended from muggles Harry also learns that his ability to speak the snake language Parseltongue is rare and often associated with the dark arts when Hermione is attacked and petrified Harry and Ron finally piece together the puzzles and unlock the Chamber of Secrets with Harry destroying the diary for good and saving Ginny and as they learn later also destroying a part of Voldemort's soul the end of the book reveals Lucius Malfoy Draco's father and rival of Ron and Ginny's father to be the culprit who slipped the book into Ginny's belongings the third novel Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban follows Harry in his third year of magical education it is the only book in the series which does not feature Lord Voldemort in any form instead Harry must deal with the knowledge that he has been targeted by Sirius Black his father's best friend and according to the wizarding world an escaped mass murderer who assisted in the murder of Harry's parents as Harry struggles with his reaction to the Dementors dark creatures with the power to devour a human soul and feed on despair which are ostensibly protecting the school he reaches out to Remus Lupin a defence against the dark arts teacher who is eventually revealed to be a werewolf Lupin teaches Harry defensive measures which are well above the level of magic generally executed by people his age Harry comes to know that both Lupin and Black were best friends of his father and that Black was framed by their fourth friend Peter Pettigrew who had been hiding as Ron's pet rat Scabbers in this book a recurring theme throughout the series is emphasised in every book there is a new defence against the dark arts teacher none of whom lasts more than one school year during Harry's fourth year of school detailed in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire Harry is unwillingly entered as a participant in the Triwizard Tournament a dangerous yet exciting contest where three champions one from each participating school must compete with each other in three tasks in order to win the Triwizard Cup this year Harry must compete against a witch and a wizard champion from overseas schools Beauxbatons and Durmstrang as well as another Hogwarts student causing Harry's friends to distance themselves from him Harry is guided through the tournament by their new defence against the dark arts professor Alastor Moody who turns out to be an impostor one of Voldemort's supporters named Barty Crouch Jr in disguise the point at which the mystery is unravelled marks the series shift from foreboding and uncertainty into open conflict Voldemort's plan to have Crouch use the tournament to bring Harry to Voldemort succeeds although Harry manages to escape Cedric Diggory the other Hogwarts champion in the tournament is killed by Peter Pettigrew and Voldemort re

enters the wizarding world with a physical body in the fifth book *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Harry must confront the newly resurfaced Voldemort in response to Voldemort's reappearance. Dumbledore re-activates the Order of the Phoenix, a secret society which works from Sirius Black's dark family home to defeat Voldemort's minions and protect Voldemort's targets, especially Harry. Despite Harry's description of Voldemort's recent activities, the Ministry of Magic and many others in the magical world refuse to believe that Voldemort has returned. In an attempt to counter and eventually discredit Dumbledore, who along with Harry is the most prominent voice in the wizarding world attempting to warn of Voldemort's return, the Ministry appoints Dolores Umbridge as the High Inquisitor of Hogwarts and the new Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher. She transforms the school into a dictatorial regime and refuses to allow the students to learn ways to defend themselves against dark magic. Hermione and Ron form Dumbledore's Army, a secret study group in which Harry agrees to teach his classmates the higher level skills of Defence Against the Dark Arts that he has learned from his previous encounters with dark wizards. Through those lessons, Harry begins to develop a crush on the popular and attractive Cho Chang, juggling schoolwork, Umbridge's incessant and persistent efforts to land him in trouble, and the defensive lessons. Harry begins to lose sleep as he constantly receives disturbing dreams about a dark corridor in the Ministry of Magic, followed by a burning desire to learn more about an important prophecy concerning Harry and Lord Voldemort. It is then revealed that Harry and Voldemort have a painful connection, allowing Harry to view some of Voldemort's actions telepathically. In the novel's climax, Harry is tricked into seeing Sirius tortured and races to the Ministry of Magic. He and his friends face off against Voldemort's followers, nicknamed Death Eaters, at the Ministry of Magic. Although the timely arrival of members of the Order of the Phoenix saves the teenagers' lives, Sirius Black is killed in the conflict. In the sixth book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Voldemort begins waging open warfare. Harry and his friends are relatively protected from that danger at Hogwarts; they are subject to all the difficulties of adolescence. Harry eventually begins dating Ginny, Ron establishes a strong infatuation with fellow Hogwarts student Lavender Brown, and Hermione starts to develop romantic feelings towards Ron. Near the beginning of the novel, lacking his own book, Harry is given an old Potions textbook filled with many annotations and recommendations signed by a mysterious writer titled *The Half-Blood Prince*. This book is a source of scholastic success and great recognition from their new Potions master, Horace Slughorn, but because of the potency of the spells that are written in it, it becomes a source of concern. With war drawing near, Harry takes private lessons with Dumbledore, who shows him various memories concerning the early life of Voldemort in a device called a Pensieve. These reveal that in order to preserve his life, Voldemort has split his soul into pieces used to create a series of Horcruxes, evil enchanted items hidden in various locations, one of which was the diary destroyed in the second book. Draco, who has joined with the Death Eaters, attempts to attack Dumbledore upon his return from collecting a Horcrux, and the book culminates in the killing of Dumbledore by Professor Snape, the titular Half-Blood Prince. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the last original novel in the series, begins directly after the events of the sixth book. Lord Voldemort has completed his ascension to power and gained control of the Ministry of Magic. Harry, Ron, and Hermione drop out of school so that they can find and destroy Voldemort's remaining Horcruxes to ensure their own safety as well as that of their family and friends. They are forced to isolate themselves; a ghoul pretends to be Ron ill with a contagious disease. Harry and the Dursleys separate, and Hermione wipes her parents' memories and sends them abroad as the trio

searches for the horcruxes they learn details about an ancient prophecy of the deathly hallows three legendary items that when united under one keeper would supposedly allow that person to be the master of death harry discovers his handy invisibility cloak to be one of those items and voldemort to be searching for another the elder wand the most powerful wand in history at the end of the book harry and his friends learn about dumbledore s past as well as snape s true motives he had worked on dumbledore s behalf since the murder of harry s mother eventually snape is killed by voldemort out of paranoia the book culminates in the battle of hogwarts harry ron and hermione in conjunction with members of the order of the phoenix and many of the teachers and students defend hogwarts from voldemort his death eaters and various dangerous magical creatures several major characters are killed in the first wave of the battle including remus lupin and fred weasley ron s older brother after learning that he himself is a horcrux harry surrenders himself to voldemort in the forbidden forest who casts a killing curse avada kedavra at him the defenders of hogwarts do not surrender after learning of harry s presumed death and continue to fight on harry awakens and faces voldemort whose horcruxes have all been destroyed in the final battle voldemort s killing curse rebounds off harry s defensive spell expelliarmus killing voldemort an epilogue nineteen years later set on september describes the lives of the surviving characters and the effects of voldemort s death on the wizarding world in the epilogue harry and ginny are married with three children and ron and hermione are married with two children harry potter and the cursed child is a two part west end stage play it was written by jack thorne based on a story by j k rowling thorne and director john tiffany the play opened on july at the palace theatre london england the script was released on july the story is set nineteen years after the ending of harry potter and the deathly hallows and follows harry potter now a ministry of magic employee and his younger son albus severus potter the play s official synopsis was released on october it was always difficult being harry potter and it isn t much easier now that he is an overworked employee of the ministry of magic a husband and father of three school age children while harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs his youngest son albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted as past and present fuse ominously both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth sometimes darkness comes from unexpected places rowling expanded the harry potter universe with several short books produced for various charities in she released fantastic beasts and where to find them a purported hogwarts textbook and quidditch through the ages a book harry reads for fun proceeds from the sale of these two books benefited the charity comic relief in rowling composed seven handwritten copies of the tales of beedle the bard a collection of fairy tales that is featured in the final novel one of which was auctioned to raise money for the children s high level group a fund for mentally disabled children in poor countries the book was published internationally on december rowling also wrote an word prequel in as part of a fundraiser organised by the bookseller waterstones all three of these books contain extra information about the wizarding world not included in the original novels in she released three new e books hogwarts an incomplete and unreliable guide short stories from hogwarts of power politics and pesky poltergeists and short stories from hogwarts of heroism hardship and dangerous hobbies in rowling launched a new website announcing an upcoming project called pottermore pottermore opened to the general public on april pottermore allows users to be sorted be chosen by their wand and play various minigames the main purpose of the website was to allow the user to journey through the story with access to content not revealed by jk rowling previously with over words of

additional content in september the website was completely overhauled and most of the features were removed the site has been redesigned and it mainly focuses on the information already available rather than exploration the harry potter novels are mainly directed at a young adult audience as opposed to an audience of middle grade readers children or adults the novels fall within the genre of fantasy literature and qualify as a type of fantasy called urban fantasy contemporary fantasy or low fantasy they are mainly dramas and maintain a fairly serious and dark tone throughout though they do contain some notable instances of tragicomedy and black humour in many respects they are also examples of the bildungsroman or coming of age novel and contain elements of mystery adventure horror thriller and romance the books are also in the words of stephen king shrewd mystery tales and each book is constructed in the manner of a sherlock holmes style mystery adventure the stories are told from a third person limited point of view with very few exceptions such as the opening chapters of philosopher's stone goblet of fire and deathly hallows and the first two chapters of half blood prince the series can be considered part of the british children's boarding school genre which includes rudyard kipling's stalky co. enid blyton's malory towers st. clare's and the naughtiest girl series and frank richards's billy bunter novels the harry potter books are predominantly set in hogwarts a fictional british boarding school for wizards where the curriculum includes the use of magic in this sense they are in a direct line of descent from thomas hughes's tom brown's school days and other victorian and edwardian novels of british public school life though they are as many note more contemporary grittier darker and more mature than the typical boarding school novel addressing serious themes of death love loss prejudice coming of age and the loss of innocence in a british setting the harry potter stories feature medieval imagery and motifs drawn from the king arthur stories hogwarts resembles a medieval university cum castle with several professors who belonging to an order of merlin old professor binns still lectures about the international warlock convention of and a real historical person a 13th century scribe sir nicolas flamel is described as a holder of the philosopher's stone other medieval elements in hogwarts include coats of arms and medieval weapons on the walls letters written on parchment and sealed with wax the great hall of hogwarts which is similar to the great hall of camelot the use of latin phrases the tents put up for quidditch tournaments are similar to the marvellous tents put up for knightly tournaments imaginary animals like dragons and unicorns which exist around hogwarts and the banners with heraldic animals for the four houses of hogwarts many of the motifs of the potter stories such as the hero's quest invoking objects that confer invisibility magical animals and trees a forest full of danger and the recognition of a character based upon scars are drawn from medieval french arthurian romances other aspects borrowed from french arthurian romances include the use of owls as messengers werewolves as characters and white deer the american scholars heather arden and kathryn lorenz in particular argue that many aspects of the potter stories are inspired by a 13th century french arthurian romance claris et laris writing of the startling similarities between the adventures of potter and the knight claris arden and lorenz noted that rowling graduated from the university of exeter in with a degree in french literature and spent a year living in france afterwards arden and lorenz wrote about the similarity between the arthurian romances where camelot is a place of wonder and safety and from where the heroic knights must venture forth facing various perils usually in an enchanted forest and hogwarts likewise a wondrous safe place where harry potter and friends must periodically venture forth from to the magical forest that surrounds hogwarts in the same way that knights in the arthurian romances usually have a

female helper who is very intelligent and has a connection with nature Harry has Hermione who plays a similar role like an Arthurian knight Harry receives advice and encouragement from his mentor Albus Dumbledore who resembles both Merlin and King Arthur but must vanquish his foes alone Arnden and Lorenz wrote that with Rowling's books the characters are not a simple reworking of the well known heroes of romance but a protean melding of different characters to form new ones however Lorenz and Arnden argue the main inspiration for Harry Potter was Sir Percival one of the knights of the Round Table who searches for the Holy Grail both Potter and Sir Percival had an orphaned or semi orphaned youth with inherent nobility and powers being raised by relatives who tried to keep them away from the places where they really belong Hogwarts and Camelot respectively both Percival and Potter are however outsiders in the places that they belong unfamiliar with the rules of knighthood and magic but both show extraordinary natural abilities with Percival proving himself an exceptional fighter while Potter is an excellent player of Quidditch and finally both Percival and Potter found love and acceptance from surrogate families in the form of the knights of the Round Table and the Weasley family respectively each of the seven books is set over the course of one school year Harry struggles with the problems he encounters and dealing with them often involves the need to violate some school rules if students are caught breaking rules they are often disciplined by Hogwarts professors the stories reach their climax in the summer term near or just after final exams when events escalate far beyond in school squabbles and struggles and Harry must confront either Voldemort or one of his followers the Death Eaters with the stakes a matter of life and death a point underlined as the series progresses by characters being killed in each of the final four books in the aftermath he learns important lessons through exposition and discussions with head teacher and mentor Albus Dumbledore the only exception to this school centred setting is the final novel Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows in which Harry and his friends spend most of their time away from Hogwarts and only return there to face Voldemort at the denouement according to Rowling a major theme in the series is death my books are largely about death they open with the death of Harry's parents there is Voldemort's obsession with conquering death and his quest for immortality at any price the goal of anyone with magic I so understand why Voldemort wants to conquer death we're all frightened of it Rowling stated that Harry Potter books have always in fact dealt explicitly with religious themes and questions and that she did not reveal its Christian parallels in the beginning because doing so would have given too much away to fans who might then see the parallels in the final book of the series Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Rowling makes the book's Christian imagery more explicit quoting both Matthew and Corinthians King James version when Harry visits his parents' graves Hermione Granger teaches Harry Potter that the meaning of these verses from the Christian Bible are living beyond death living after death which Rowling states is one of the central foundations of resurrection theology and that these Bible verses epitomize the whole series Rowling also exhibits Christian values in developing Albus Dumbledore as a god-like character the divine trusted leader of the series guiding the long suffering hero along his quest in the seventh novel Harry speaks with and questions the deceased Dumbledore much like a person of faith would talk to and question God academics and journalists have developed many other interpretations of themes in the books some more complex than others and some including political subtexts themes such as normality oppression survival and overcoming imposing odds have all been considered as prevalent throughout the series similarly the theme of making one's way through adolescence and going over one's most

harrowing ordeals and thus coming to terms with them has also been considered rowling has stated that the books comprise a prolonged argument for tolerance a prolonged plea for an end to bigotry and that they also pass on a message to question authority and not assume that the establishment or the press tells you all of the truth while the books could be said to comprise many other themes such as power abuse of power violence and hatred love loss prejudice and free choice they are as rowling states deeply entrenched in the whole plot the writer prefers to let themes grow organically rather than sitting down and consciously attempting to impart such ideas to her readers along the same lines is the ever present theme of adolescence in whose depiction rowling has been purposeful in acknowledging her characters sexualities and not leaving harry as she put it stuck in a state of permanent pre pubescence rowling has also been praised for her nuanced depiction of the ways in which death and violence affects youth and humanity as a whole rowling said that to her the moral significance of the tales seems blindingly obvious the key for her was the choice between what is right and what is easy because that is how tyranny is started with people being apathetic and taking the easy route and suddenly finding themselves in deep trouble in rowling was on a crowded train from manchester to london when the idea for harry suddenly fell into her head rowling gives an account of the experience on her website saying i had been writing almost continuously since the age of six but i had never been so excited about an idea before i simply sat and thought for four delayed train hours and all the details bubbled up in my brain and this scrawny black haired bespectacled boy who did not know he was a wizard became more and more real to me rowling completed harry potter and the philosopher s stone in and the manuscript was sent off to several prospective agents the second agent she tried christopher little offered to represent her and sent the manuscript to bloomsbury after eight other publishers had rejected philosopher s stone bloomsbury offered rowling a advance for its publication despite rowling s statement that she did not have any particular age group in mind when beginning to write the harry potter books the publishers initially targeted children aged nine to eleven on the eve of publishing rowling was asked by her publishers to adopt a more gender neutral pen name in order to appeal to the male members of this age group fearing that they would not be interested in reading a novel they knew to be written by a woman she elected to use j k rowling joanne kathleen rowling using her grandmother s name as her second name because she has no middle name harry potter and the philosopher s stone was published by bloomsbury the publisher of all harry potter books in the united kingdom on june it was released in the united states on september by scholastic the american publisher of the books as harry potter and the sorcerer s stone after rowling had received us for the american rights a record amount for a children s book by an unknown author fearing that american readers would not associate the word philosopher with magic although the philosopher s stone is an ancient tradition in alchemy scholastic insisted that the book be given the title harry potter and the sorcerer s stone for the american market the second book harry potter and the chamber of secrets was originally published in the uk on july and in the us on june harry potter and the prisoner of azkaban was published a year later in the uk on july and in the us on september harry potter and the goblet of fire was published on july at the same time by bloomsbury and scholastic harry potter and the order of the phoenix is the longest book in the series at pages in the uk version and pages in the us version it was published worldwide in english on june harry potter and the half blood prince was published on july it sold million copies in the first hours of its worldwide release the seventh and final novel harry potter and the deathly hallows was published on july the



book sold million copies in the first hours of release breaking down to million copies in the uk and million in the us the series has been translated into languages placing rowling among the most translated authors in history the books have seen translations to diverse languages such as korean armenian ukrainian arabic urdu hindi bengali bulgarian welsh afrikaans albanian latvian vietnamese and hawaiian the first volume has been translated into latin and even ancient greek making it the longest published work in ancient greek since the novels of heliodorus of emesa in the rd century ad the second volume has also been translated into latin some of the translators hired to work on the books were well known authors before their work on harry potter such as viktor golyshev who oversaw the russian translation of the series fifth book the turkish translation of books two to seven was undertaken by sevin okyay a popular literary critic and cultural commentator for reasons of secrecy translation on a given book could only start after it had been released in english leading to a lag of several months before the translations were available this led to more and more copies of the english editions being sold to impatient fans in non english speaking countries for example such was the clamour to read the fifth book that its english language edition became the first english language book ever to top the best seller list in france the united states editions were adapted into american english to make them more understandable to a young american audience in december rowling stated on her web site will be the year when i write the final book in the harry potter series updates then followed in her online diary chronicling the progress of harry potter and the deathly hallows with the release date of july the book itself was finished on january in the balmoral hotel edinburgh where she scrawled a message on the back of a bust of hermes it read j k rowling finished writing harry potter and the deathly hallows in this room on january rowling herself has stated that the last chapter of the final book in fact the epilogue was completed in something like in june rowling on an appearance on the british talk show richard judy announced that the chapter had been modified as one character got a reprieve and two others who previously survived the story had in fact been killed on march the cover art for the bloomsbury adult and child versions and the scholastic version were released in september rowling mentioned in an interview that she might go back to make a director s cut of two of the existing harry potter books for cover art bloomsbury chose painted art in a classic style of design with the first cover a watercolour and pencil drawing by illustrator thomas taylor showing harry boarding the hogwarts express and a title in the font cochin bold the first releases of the successive books in the series followed in the same style but somewhat more realistic illustrating scenes from the books these covers were created by first cliff wright and then jason cockroft due to the appeal of the books among an adult audience bloomsbury commissioned a second line of editions in an adult style these initially used black and white photographic art for the covers showing objects from the books including a very american hogwarts express without depicting people but later shifted to partial colourisation with a picture of slytherin s locket on the cover of the final book international and later editions have been created by a range of designers including mary grandpr for u s audiences and mika launis in finland for a later american release kazu kibuishi created covers in a somewhat anime influenced style fans of the series were so eager for the latest instalment that bookstores around the world began holding events to coincide with the midnight release of the books beginning with the publication of harry potter and the goblet of fire the events commonly featuring mock sorting games face painting and other live entertainment have achieved popularity with potter fans and have been highly successful in attracting fans and selling books with nearly nine million of the

million initial print copies of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* sold in the first hours the final book in the series *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* became the fastest selling book in history moving million units in the first twenty four hours of release the series has also gathered adult fans leading to the release of two editions of each *Harry Potter* book identical in text but with one edition's cover artwork aimed at children and the other aimed at adults besides meeting online through blogs podcasts and fansites *Harry Potter* super fans can also meet at *Harry Potter* symposia the word muggle has spread beyond its *Harry Potter* origins becoming one of few pop culture words to land in the *Oxford English Dictionary* the *Harry Potter* fandom has embraced podcasts as a regular often weekly insight to the latest discussion in the fandom both *MuggleCast* and *PotterCast* have reached the top spot of iTunes podcast rankings and have been polled one of the top favourite podcasts some lessons identified in the series include diversity acceptance political tolerance and equality surveys of over college students in the United States show that those who read the books were significantly different from those who had not readers of the series were found to be more tolerant more opposed to violence and torture less authoritarian and less cynical although it is not known if this is a cause and effect relationship there is a clear correlation and it seems that *Harry Potter*'s cultural impact may be stronger than just a fandom bond many fan fiction and fan art works about *Harry Potter* have been made in March *Harry Potter* was the most commonly searched fan fiction subject on the internet at the University of Michigan in *Starkid Productions* performed an original musical parodying the *Harry Potter* series called *A Very Potter Musical* the musical was awarded *Entertainment Weekly*'s best viral videos of the sport quidditch played by characters in the *Harry Potter* series was created in and is played worldwide including at universities such as Harvard University Yale University and Washington University in St. Louis characters and elements from the series have inspired scientific names of several organisms including the dinosaur *Dracorex hogwartsia* the spider *Eriovixia gryffindori* the wasp *Ampulex dementor* and the crab *Harryplax severus* the popularity of the *Harry Potter* series has translated into substantial financial success for Rowling her publishers and other *Harry Potter* related license holders this success has made Rowling the first and thus far only billionaire author the books have sold more than million copies worldwide and have also given rise to the popular film adaptations produced by Warner Bros all of which have been highly successful in their own right the films have in turn spawned eight video games and have led to the licensing of more than additional *Harry Potter* products the *Harry Potter* brand has been estimated to be worth as much as billion the great demand for *Harry Potter* books motivated the *New York Times* to create a separate best seller list for children's literature in just before the release of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by June Rowling's novels had been on the list for straight weeks the first three novels were each on the hardcover best seller list on April Barnes & Noble declared that *Deathly Hallows* had broken its pre order record with more than copies pre ordered through its site for the release of *Goblet of Fire* FedEx trucks were used with no other purpose than to deliver the book together Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble pre sold more than copies of the book in the United States the book's initial printing run was million copies this record statistic was broken by *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* with million which was then shattered by *Half-Blood Prince* with million copies million copies of *Prince* were sold in the U.S within the first hours of its release in the United Kingdom more than two million copies were sold on the first day the initial U.S print run for *Deathly Hallows* was million copies and more than a million were pre ordered through Amazon and Barnes & Noble the *Harry Potter* series has been

recognised by a host of awards since the initial publication of *Philosopher's Stone* including four Whitaker Platinum Book Awards all of which were awarded in three Nestlé Smarties Book Prizes two Scottish Arts Council Book Awards and the inaugural Whitbread Children's Book of the Year Award. *The WhSmith Book of the Year* among others in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* was nominated for a Hugo Award for Best Novel and in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* won said award. Honours include a commendation for the Carnegie Medal a short listing for the Guardian Children's Award and numerous listings on the notable books editors' choices and best books lists of the American Library Association the New York Times Chicago Public Library and Publishers Weekly. In sociologist Andrew Blake named *Harry Potter* a British pop culture icon along with the likes of James Bond and Sherlock Holmes in four of the books were named in the top of the BBC's *The Big Read* survey of the best loved novels in the UK. A study found that books in the series were commonly read aloud in elementary schools in San Diego County California. Based on an online poll the US National Education Association listed the series in its Teachers' Top Books for Children. Three of the books placed among the top chapter books of all time or children's novels in a survey published by *School Library Journal*. *Sorcerer's Stone* ranked number three *Prisoner of Azkaban* 4th and *Goblet of Fire* 5th. In the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in London featured a foot-tall rendition of Lord Voldemort in a segment designed to show off the UK's cultural icons. In November the BBC listed the *Harry Potter* series on its list of the most influential novels early in its history. *Harry Potter* received positive reviews on publication. The first book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* attracted attention from the Scottish newspapers such as the *Scotsman* which said it had all the makings of a classic and the *Glasgow Herald* which called it magic stuff. Soon the English newspapers joined in with more than one comparing it to Roald Dahl's work. *The Mail on Sunday* rated it as the most imaginative debut since Roald Dahl. A view echoed by the *Sunday Times* comparisons to Dahl are this time justified while the *Guardian* called it a richly textured novel given lift off by an inventive wit. By the time of the release of the fifth book *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* the books began to receive strong criticism from a number of literary scholars. Yale professor literary scholar and critic Harold Bloom raised criticisms of the books literary merits saying Rowling's mind is so governed by clichés and dead metaphors that she has no other style of writing. A S. Byatt authored an op-ed article in the *New York Times* calling Rowling's universe a secondary secondary world made up of intelligently patchworked derivative motifs from all sorts of children's literature written for people whose imaginative lives are confined to TV cartoons and the exaggerated more exciting not threatening mirror worlds of soaps reality TV and celebrity gossip. Michael Rosen a novelist and poet advocated the books were not suited for children as they would be unable to grasp the complex themes. Rosen also stated that J.K. Rowling is more of an adult writer. The critic Anthony Holden wrote in the *Observer* on his experience of judging *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* for the Whitbread Awards his overall view of the series was negative. The *Potter* saga was essentially patronising conservative highly derivative dispiritingly nostalgic for a bygone Britain and he speaks of a pedestrian ungrammatical prose style. Ursula K. Le Guin said 'I have no great opinion of it when so many adult critics were carrying on about the incredible originality of the first *Harry Potter* book I read it to find out what the fuss was about and remained somewhat puzzled. It seemed a lively kid's fantasy crossed with a school novel good fare for its age group but stylistically ordinary imaginatively derivative and ethically rather mean spirited by contrast.' Author Fay Weldon while admitting that the series is not what the poets hoped for nevertheless goes on to say 'but this is not poetry it is readable saleable

everyday useful prose the literary critic a n wilson praised the harry potter series in the times stating there are not many writers who have jk s dickensian ability to make us turn the pages to weep openly with tears splashing and a few pages later to laugh at invariably good jokes we have lived through a decade in which we have followed the publication of the liveliest funniest scariest and most moving children s stories ever written charles taylor of salon com who is primarily a movie critic took issue with byatt s criticisms in particular while he conceded that she may have a valid cultural point a teeny one about the impulses that drive us to reassuring pop trash and away from the troubling complexities of art he rejected her claims that the series is lacking in serious literary merit and that it owes its success merely to the childhood reassurances it offers taylor stressed the progressively darker tone of the books shown by the murder of a classmate and close friend and the psychological wounds and social isolation each causes taylor also argued that philosopher s stone said to be the most light hearted of the seven published books disrupts the childhood reassurances that byatt claims spur the series success the book opens with news of a double murder for example stephen king called the series a feat of which only a superior imagination is capable and declared rowling s punning one eyebrow cocked sense of humor to be remarkable however he wrote that despite the story being a good one he is a little tired of discovering harry at home with his horrible aunt and uncle the formulaic beginning of all seven books king has also joked that rowling s never met an adverb she did not like he does however predict that harry potter will indeed stand time s test and wind up on a shelf where only the best are kept i think harry will take his place with alice huck frodo and dorothy and this is one series not just for the decade but for the ages sameer rahim of the daily telegraph disagreed saying it depresses me to see and year olds reading the series when they could be reading the great novels of childhood such as oliver twist or a house for mr biswas what that says about the adults who are fanatical fans i m not sure but i suspect in years to come people will make a link between our plump comfortable infantilising society and the popularity of potter there is ongoing discussion regarding the extent to which the series was inspired by tolkien s lord of the rings books although time magazine named rowling as a runner up for its person of the year award noting the social moral and political inspiration she has given her fandom cultural comments on the series have been mixed washington post book critic ron charles opined in july that the large numbers of adults reading the potter series but few other books may represent a bad case of cultural infantilism and that the straightforward good vs evil theme of the series is childish he also argued through no fault of rowling s the cultural and marketing hysteria marked by the publication of the later books trains children and adults to expect the roar of the coliseum a mass media experience that no other novel can possibly provide librarian nancy knapp pointed out the books potential to improve literacy by motivating children to read much more than they otherwise would the seven book series has a word count of us edition agreeing about the motivating effects diane penrod also praised the books blending of simple entertainment with the qualities of highbrow literary fiction but expressed concern about the distracting effect of the prolific merchandising that accompanies the book launches however the assumption that harry potter books have increased literacy among young people is largely a folk legend research by the national endowment for the arts nea has found no increase in reading among children coinciding with the harry potter publishing phenomenon nor has the broader downward trend in reading among americans been arrested during the rise in the popularity of the harry potter books the research also found that children who read harry potter books were not more likely to go

on to read outside the fantasy and mystery genres nea chairman dana gioia said the series got millions of kids to read a long and reasonably complex series of books the trouble is that one harry potter novel every few years is not enough to reverse the decline in reading jennifer conn used snake s and quidditch coach madam hooch s teaching methods as examples of what to avoid and what to emulate in clinical teaching and joyce fields wrote that the books illustrate four of the five main topics in a typical first year sociology class sociological concepts including culture society and socialisation stratification and social inequality social institutions and social theory from the early s onwards several news reports appeared in the uk of the harry potter book and movie series driving demand for pet owls and even reports that after the end of the movie series these same pet owls were now being abandoned by their owners this led j k rowling to issue several statements urging harry potter fans to refrain from purchasing pet owls despite the media flurry research into the popularity of harry potter and sales of owls in the uk failed to find any evidence that the harry potter franchise had influenced the buying of owls in the country or the number of owls reaching animal shelters and sanctuaries jenny sawyer wrote in christian science monitor on july that the books represent a disturbing trend in commercial storytelling and western society in that stories moral center sic have all but vanished from much of today s pop culture after years pages and over million copies j k rowling s towering achievement lacks the cornerstone of almost all great children s literature the hero s moral journey harry potter sawyer argues neither faces a moral struggle nor undergoes any ethical growth and is thus no guide in circumstances in which right and wrong are anything less than black and white in contrast emily griesinger described harry s first passage through to platform as an application of faith and hope and his encounter with the sorting hat as the first of many in which harry is shaped by the choices he makes she also noted the deeper magic by which the self sacrifice of harry s mother protects the boy throughout the series and which the power hungry voldemort fails to understand in an november slate article chris suellentrop likened potter to a trust fund kid whose success at school is largely attributable to the gifts his friends and relatives lavish upon him noting that in rowling s fiction magical ability potential is something you are born to not something you can achieve suellentrop wrote that dumbledore s maxim that it is our choices that show what we truly are far more than our abilities is hypocritical as the school that dumbledore runs values native gifts above all else in a august review of deathly hallows in the new york times however christopher hitchens praised rowling for unmooring her english school story from literary precedents bound up with dreams of wealth and class and snobbery arguing that she had instead created a world of youthful democracy and diversity in coinciding with the release of the film harry potter and the deathly hallows part a series of articles were written about private harry potter of the british army this real life harry potter was killed in the arab revolt near hebron in his grave located in the british cemetery in ramla israel began to receive curious visitors leading the ramla municipality to list it on their website in an article written by diana c mutz compares the politics of harry potter to the donald trump presidential campaign she states that themes throughout the books are widely predominant the value of tolerance and respect for difference opposition to violence and punitiveness and the dangers of authoritarianism she suggests that these themes are also present in the presidential election and it may play a significant role in how americans have responded to the campaign the books have been the subject of a number of legal proceedings stemming from various conflicts over copyright and trademark infringements the popularity and high market value of the series has led rowling

her publishers and film distributor warner bros to take legal measures to protect their copyright which have included banning the sale of harry potter imitations targeting the owners of websites over the harry potter domain name and suing author nancy stouffer to counter her accusations that rowling had plagiarised her work various religious fundamentalists have claimed that the books promote witchcraft and religions such as wicca and are therefore unsuitable for children while a number of critics have criticised the books for promoting various political agendas the books also aroused controversies in the literary and publishing worlds from to harry potter and the philosopher s stone won almost all the uk awards judged by children but none of the children s book awards judged by adults and sandra beckett suggested the reason was intellectual snobbery towards books that were popular among children in the winner of the whitbread book of the year award children s division was entered for the first time on the shortlist for the main award and one judge threatened to resign if harry potter and the prisoner of azkaban was declared the overall winner it finished second very close behind the winner of the poetry prize seamus heaney s translation of the anglo saxon epic beowulf in shortly before the publication of harry potter and the goblet of fire the previous three harry potter books topped the new york times fiction best seller list and a third of the entries were children s books the newspaper created a new children s section covering children s books including both fiction and non fiction and initially counting only hardback sales the move was supported by publishers and booksellers in the new york times further split the children s list which was still dominated by harry potter books into sections for series and individual books and removed the harry potter books from the section for individual books the split in attracted condemnation praise and some comments that presented both benefits and disadvantages of the move time suggested that on the same principle billboard should have created a separate mop tops list in when the beatles held the top five places in its list and nielsen should have created a separate game show list when who wants to be a millionaire dominated the ratings in rowling sold the film rights of the first four harry potter books to warner bros for a reported million rowling demanded the principal cast be kept strictly british nonetheless allowing for the inclusion of irish actors such as the late richard harris as dumbledore and for casting of french and eastern european actors in harry potter and the goblet of fire where characters from the book are specified as such after many directors including steven spielberg terry gilliam jonathan demme and alan parker were considered chris columbus was appointed on march as the director for harry potter and the philosopher s stone titled harry potter and the sorcerer s stone in the united states with warner bros citing his work on other family films such as home alone and mrs doubtfire and proven experience with directing children as influences for their decision after extensive casting filming began in october at leavesden film studios and in london itself with production ending in july philosopher s stone was released on november just three days after the film s release production for harry potter and the chamber of secrets also directed by columbus began filming was completed in summer with the film being released on november daniel radcliffe portrayed harry potter doing so for all succeeding films in the franchise columbus declined to direct harry potter and the prisoner of azkaban only acting as producer mexican director alfonso cuar n took over the job and after shooting in the film was released on june due to the fourth film beginning its production before the third s release mike newell was chosen as the director for harry potter and the goblet of fire released on november newell became the first british director of the series with television director david yates following suit after he was chosen to helm harry potter and the order of the phoenix

production began in january and the film was released the following year in july after executives were really delighted with his work on the film yates was selected to direct harry potter and the half blood prince which was released on july in march warner bros president and coo alan f horn announced that the final instalment in the series harry potter and the deathly hallows would be released in two cinematic parts part on november and part on july production of both parts started in february with the final day of principal photography taking place on june rowling had creative control on the film series observing the filmmaking process of philosopher s stone and serving as producer on the two part deathly hallows alongside david heyman and david barron the harry potter films have been top rank box office hits with all eight releases on the list of highest grossing films worldwide philosopher s stone was the highest grossing harry potter film up until the release of the final instalment of the series deathly hallows part while prisoner of azkaban grossed the least as well as being a financial success the film series has also been a success among film critics opinions of the films are generally divided among fans with one group preferring the more faithful approach of the first two films and another group preferring the more stylised character driven approach of the later films rowling has been constantly supportive of all the films and evaluated deathly hallows as her favourite one in the series she wrote on her website of the changes in the book to film transition it is simply impossible to incorporate every one of my storylines into a film that has to be kept under four hours long obviously films have restrictions novels do not have constraints of time and budget i can create dazzling effects relying on nothing but the interaction of my own and my readers imaginations at the th british academy film awards in february rowling was joined by producers david heyman and david barron along with directors david yates alfonso cuar n and mike newell in collecting the michael balcon award for outstanding british contribution to cinema on behalf of all the films in the series actors rupert grint and emma watson who play main characters ron weasley and hermione granger were also in attendance a new prequel series consisting of five films will take place before the main series the first film fantastic beasts and where to find them was released in november followed by the second fantastic beasts the crimes of grindelwald in november the next three are due to be released in and respectively rowling wrote the screenplay for the first three instalments marking her foray into screenwriting a number of other non interactive media games and board games have been released such as cluedo harry potter edition scene it harry potter and lego harry potter models which are influenced by the themes of both the novels and films there are thirteen harry potter video games eight corresponding with the films and books and five spin offs the film book based games are produced by electronic arts as was harry potter quidditch world cup with the game version of the first entry in the series philosopher s stone being released in november harry potter and the philosopher s stone went on to become one of the best selling playstation games ever the video games were released to coincide with the films containing scenery and details from the films as well as the tone and spirit of the books objectives usually occur in and around hogwarts along with various other magical areas the story and design of the games follow the selected film s characterisation and plot ea worked closely with warner bros to include scenes from the films the last game in the series deathly hallows was split with part released in november and part debuting on consoles in july the two part game forms the first entry to convey an intense theme of action and violence with the gameplay revolving around a third person shooter style format the spin off games lego harry potter years and lego harry potter years were developed by traveller s tales and published by warner bros interactive

entertainment the spin off games book of spells and book of potions were developed by sce london studio and use the wonderbook an augmented reality book designed to be used in conjunction with the playstation move and playstation eye the harry potter universe is also featured in lego dimensions with the settings and side characters featured in the harry potter adventure world and harry voldemort and hermione as playable characters in warner bros interactive entertainment opened its own harry potter themed game design studio by the name of portkey games before releasing hogwarts mystery in developed by jam city all seven harry potter books have been released in unabridged audiobook versions with stephen fry reading the uk editions and jim dale voicing the series for the american editions harry potter and the cursed child parts i and ii is a play which serves as a sequel to the books beginning nineteen years after the events of harry potter and the deathly hallows it was written by jack thorne based on an original new story by thorne rowling and john tiffany it has run at the palace theatre in london s west end since previews began on june with an official premiere on june the first four months of tickets for the june september performances were sold out within several hours upon release forthcoming productions are planned for broadway and melbourne the script was released as a book at the time of the premiere with a revised version following the next year after the success of the films and books universal and warner brothers announced they would create the wizarding world of harry potter a new harry potter themed expansion to the islands of adventure theme park at universal orlando resort in florida the land officially opened to the public on june it includes a re creation of hogsmeade and several rides the flagship attraction is harry potter and the forbidden journey which exists within a re creation of hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry other rides include dragon challenge a pair of inverted roller coasters and flight of the hippogriff a family roller coaster four years later on july universal opened a harry potter themed area at the universal studios florida theme park it includes a re creation of diagon alley and connecting alleys and a small section of muggle london the flagship attraction is harry potter and the escape from gringotts roller coaster ride universal also added a completely functioning recreation of the hogwarts express connecting kings cross station at universal studios florida to the hogsmeade station at islands of adventure both hogsmeade and diagon alley contain many shops and restaurants from the book series including weasley s wizard wheezes and the leaky cauldron on july the wizarding world of harry potter opened at the universal studios japan theme park in osaka japan it includes the village of hogsmeade harry potter and the forbidden journey ride and flight of the hippogriff roller coaster on april the wizarding world of harry potter opened at the universal studios hollywood theme park near los angeles california in march warner bros announced plans to build a tourist attraction in the united kingdom to showcase the harry potter film series the making of harry potter is a behind the scenes walking tour featuring authentic sets costumes and props from the film series the attraction is located at warner bros studios leavesden where all eight of the harry potter films were made warner bros constructed two new sound stages to house and showcase the famous sets from each of the british made productions following a million investment it opened to the public in march