

**Source:** [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

**List:** Best Books of the 20th Century

**Title:** Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

**Author:** J.K. Rowling

**Ranking in the List:** 3

**Rating:** 4.47

**Genres:** Fantasy, Fiction, Young Adult, Magic, Childrens, Middle Grade, Adventure, Science Fiction Fantasy, Novels

**Total Word Count:** 528

**Key-Words:** famous, harry, potter, miserable, infamous, school, mystical, world, exist, destiny, rowling, book, woman, born, years, father, mother.

**Brief Summary:**

Harry Potter has no idea how famous he is. That's because he's being raised by his miserable aunt and uncle who are terrified Harry will learn that he's really a wizard, just as his parents were. But everything changes when Harry is summoned to attend an infamous school for wizards, and he begins to discover some clues about his illustrious birthright. From the surprising way he is greeted by a lovable giant, to the unique curriculum and colorful faculty at his unusual school, Harry finds himself drawn deep inside a mystical world he never knew existed and closer to his own noble destiny.

**About the Author:**

Although she writes under the pen name **J.K. Rowling**, pronounced like *rolling*, her name when her first *Harry Potter* book was published was simply **Joanne Rowling**. Anticipating that the target audience of young boys might not want to read a book written by a woman, her publishers demanded that she use two initials, rather than her full name. As she had no middle name, she chose **K** as the second initial of her pen name, from her paternal grandmother

Kathleen Ada Bulgen Rowling. She calls herself **Jo** and has said, "No one ever called me 'Joanne' when I was young, unless they were angry." Following her marriage, she has sometimes used the name **Joanne Murray** when conducting personal business. During the Leveson Inquiry she gave evidence under the name of **Joanne Kathleen Rowling**. In a 2012 interview, Rowling noted that she no longer cared that people pronounced her name incorrectly.

Rowling was born to Peter James Rowling, a Rolls-Royce aircraft engineer, and Anne Rowling (née Volant), on 31 July 1965 in Yate, Gloucestershire, England, 10 miles (16 km) northeast of Bristol. Her mother Anne was half-French and half-Scottish. Her parents first met on a train departing from King's Cross Station bound for Arbroath in 1964. They married on 14 March 1965. Her mother's maternal grandfather, Dugald Campbell, was born in Lamlash on the Isle of Arran. Her mother's paternal grandfather, Louis Volant, was awarded the Croix de Guerre for exceptional bravery in defending the village of Courcelles-le-Comte during the First World War.

Rowling has said of her teenage years, in an interview with *The New Yorker*, "I wasn't particularly happy. I think it's a dreadful time of life." She had a difficult homelife; her mother was ill, and she had a difficult relationship with her father (she is no longer on speaking terms with him). She attended secondary school at Wyedean School and College, where her mother had worked as a technician in the science department. Rowling said of her adolescence, "Hermione [a bookish, know-it-all *Harry Potter* character] is loosely based on me. She's a caricature of me when I was eleven, which I'm not particularly proud of."