

## Biography

J.K. Rowling is best-known as the author of the Harry Potter series of seven books, published between 1997 and 2007. The enduringly popular adventures of Harry, Ron and Hermione have gone on to sell over 500 million copies worldwide, be translated into over 80 languages, and made into eight blockbuster films.

Alongside the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling also wrote three short companion volumes for charity: *Quidditch Through the Ages* and *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* in aid of Comic Relief; and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* in aid of her non-profit children's organisation Lumos.

In 2016 J.K. Rowling collaborated with playwright Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany to continue Harry's story in a stage play, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which opened in London and is playing to great acclaim in theatres in Europe, North America and Australia.

In the same year, she made her debut as a screenwriter with the film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Inspired by the original companion volume, it was the first in a series of new adventures featuring wizarding world magizoologist Newt Scamander. The second, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, was released in 2018.

J.K. Rowling also writes novels for adults. *The Casual Vacancy* was published in 2012 and adapted for television by the BBC in 2015. Under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith, she is the author of the highly acclaimed 'Strike' crime series. The first of these, *The Cuckoo's Calling*, was published to critical acclaim in 2013, at first without its author's true identity being known. *The Silkworm* followed in 2014, *Career of Evil* in 2015 and *Lethal White* in 2018. They have also been adapted for television by the BBC and HBO, with *Lethal White* currently in production. The fifth book, *Troubled Blood*, is to be published in 2020.

J.K. Rowling's 2008 Harvard commencement speech was published in 2015 as an illustrated book, *Very Good Lives: The Fringe Benefits of Failure and the Importance of Imagination* and sold in aid of Lumos and university-wide financial aid at Harvard.

As well as receiving an OBE and Companion of Honour for services to children's literature, J.K. Rowling has received many other awards and honours, including France's Legion d'Honneur, Spain's Prince of Asturias Award, Denmark's Hans Christian Andersen Award and the Robert F Kennedy Ripple of Hope Award.

J.K. Rowling supports a number of causes through her charitable trust, Volant. She is also the founder and president of the international non-profit children's organization Lumos, which works to end the institutionalisation of children globally and ensure they grow up in a safe and caring environment.