

Biography

The purpose of a biography is to retell the events, experiences and achievements of a person's life.

Examples of biographies include:

- autobiographies
- memoirs.

Biographical texts use:

Present and past tense verbs

Descriptive and emotive language

Classifying language

Cause and effect connectives

Time connectives.

Title

J.K. Rowling

Orientation

Joanne Rowling (more commonly known by her penname, J.K. Rowling) is a celebrated British author. She is most well-known for the *Harry Potter* series, which became the **highest-selling book series of all time** in 2018. In addition to being a writer, Rowling is also a mother, a teacher and an advocate for the rights of women and children.

Classifying language

Family Background

J.K. Rowling was born in Yate (a town in Gloucestershire, England) on 31 July 1965. Her father, Peter, was an aircraft engineer, and her mother, Anne, was a science technician. Joanne's sister, Dianne, is two years younger than her. Books were highly valued in the Rowling household, as both parents were prolific readers. **As a result**, Joanne decided from an early age that she wanted to be a writer.

Past tense

Cause and effect connective

Education

Rowling began her school education at St Michael's Primary School in Gloucestershire. When she was nine years old, she moved to the town of Chepstow in Wales. Joanne attended secondary school at Wydean School, and then studied French and Classics at the University of Exeter. **After graduating from university in 1986**, Rowling worked for Amnesty International (a charity that campaigns against human rights abuses) in London. She also worked as an English and French tutor.

Time connective

Achievements

The idea for Rowling's most famous works, the *Harry Potter* series, came to her on a train journey from Manchester to London in 1990. She immediately began writing the story of the famous boy-wizard, although it would take several years to plan out the entire seven-book series. The first book was finally released in 1997 by Bloomsbury Publishing. **It was an instant success, adored by children and adults alike**. Six more novels followed, the last of which became the fastest-selling book ever.

Descriptive and emotive language

Summary

J.K. Rowling continues to write; however, she has informed the public that there will be no further additions to the *Harry Potter* series. She has won multiple awards throughout her writing career including an OBE (Order of the British Empire) award for services to children's literature. Joanne continues to donate to charities that fight to reduce poverty and social inequality, making her not only one of the world's greatest novelists but also one of its most generous philanthropists.

Present tense