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J.K. Rowling – *Her Story*

The success of the Harry Potter series of novels for adolescents is a modern-day phenomenon. Millions of copies have been sold worldwide. When its writer, J.K. Rowling, made a personal appearance in Toronto at the SkyDome, she drew the largest crowd ever recorded for a public reading session.

J.K. Rowling is now enjoying fame and wealth but it wasn't always that way. When she began to write the first Harry Potter book, she was a single mother of an infant daughter living on social assistance. She lived in a tiny rented apartment in Edinburgh, Scotland. She spent time in a local café where she wrote her first story, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. This novel completely changed her life.

As a child, J.K. Rowling loved English literature. She wrote her first real story at the age of 6. It was then that she decided that she wanted to become a writer. She thought writing would be the best occupation because she would be getting paid to do something she enjoyed.

J.K. Rowling isn't absolutely sure where she gets the ideas for the Harry Potter stories. The odd names for her characters come from a variety of sources. Some of her characters are loosely based on real people that she knows. However, once she starts to develop the characters, they become different from their source. The Potter stories are not based on Rowling's life, although most authors put a little of themselves into their writing.

Through the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling has been credited with increasing the interest in reading for children around the world.



The Main Idea

- A. Circle the letter of the most appropriate statement that gives the main idea of each paragraph.**

Paragraph One

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. J.K. Rowling enjoys writing. | B. J.K. Rowling is a popular author. |
| C. Harry Potter novels are interesting. | D. Harry Potter is an interesting character. |

Paragraph Two

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. J.K. Rowling is wealthy. | B. J.K. Rowling was a poor author. |
| C. J.K. Rowling drinks coffee. | D. Harry Potter saved her life. |

Paragraph Three

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Six-year-olds can be writers. | B. Write when you're young. |
| C. J.K. Rowling loved literature. | D. Don't write unless you get |

Paragraph Four

- A. J.K. Rowling writes about people that she knows.
B. The characters in her books are sometimes based on real people.
C. Her novels are based strictly on her life.
D. Her characters are all made up.



Your Opinion

- B. Answer the question.**

Why is J.K. Rowling credited with changing the reading habits of children around the world?



Prepositions

- A **Preposition** helps connect a noun or pronoun to another part of the sentence. It also connects a verb to other words in the sentence.

Example: The students in the class read quietly.

The word "in" connects the subject, students, to the class. Now we know that they are the students from the class.

Example: He placed his hat on the hook.

The word "on" connects the verb "placed" to the word "hook", which is where the hat is placed.

C. Choose eight prepositions and use each to create a sentence. After each sentence, place "N" if the preposition connects a noun to other words and "V" if it connects a verb to other words.

after down into under inside near without
until beside at above around below of
on for from before among about with

1. The children played baseball in the yard. (V)
2. _____ ()
3. _____ ()
4. _____ ()
5. _____ ()
6. _____ ()
7. _____ ()
8. _____ ()
9. _____ ()



Making Opposites

D. Add the proper prefixes to the words to make the opposites.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. un/im _____ prepared | 2. dis/un _____ appointed |
| 3. dis/un _____ fair | 4. un/im _____ proper |
| 5. im/un _____ possible | 6. un/dis _____ honour |
| 7. un/dis _____ approve | 8. dis/un _____ likely |
| 9. dis/un _____ happy | 10. in/un _____ complete |
| 11. dis/un _____ necessary | 12. im/un _____ perfect |



Building Vocabulary

E. Change the word in parentheses in each sentence to a form that fits the sense of the sentence.

John is (give) _____ away his bicycle.

You would place the word "giving" in the space, which is a form of the word "give" in parentheses.

- Show (kind) _____ towards others.
- It was (terrible) _____ cold outside.
- Be (care) _____ when you go swimming.
- They were studying the (move) _____ of the Earth.
- The wedding was followed by a (celebrate) _____ .
- He was very (help) _____ when he was needed.
- It was a (beauty) _____ morning with the sunshine.
- She could not find the (solve) _____ to the problem.