

JK Rowling – wizard with words

1965, July 31: Born Chipping Sodbury, England, elder of two daughters

1990: Conceives idea for book about schoolboy wizard during four-hour train trip to London

1991-94: Works on manuscript while teaching English in Portugal. Marries journalist Jorge Arantes, daughter Jessica born

1995-96: Moves to Edinburgh after marriage fails – unemployed single mum famously completes novel in cafe with Jessica asleep beside her

1997: After a year of rejections Bloomsbury agrees to publish *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, first in planned series of seven

1999: First three Potter books occupy top three slots on *New York Times* bestsellers list



2001: Rowling marries Dr Neil Murray – son David born Mar 2003, daughter Mackenzie born Jan 2005

2003: Fifth book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, sells five million copies in 24 hours

2004: *Forbes* magazine estimates her fortune at over \$1 billion – world's first billionaire novelist

2005: Potter books have sold more than 265 million copies worldwide and been translated into over 60 languages – including ancient Greek – while first three movies have grossed over \$2.6 billion

July 16: Book six, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, published, with initial print-run of 10.8 million

July 31: Joanne Kathleen Rowling celebrates her 40th birthday