

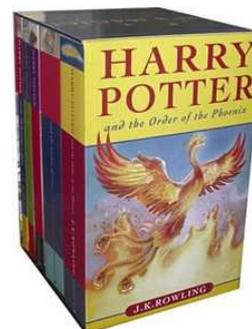
Tarea 2. Plan de mejora de las competencias lectoras en la ESO.



Interview with JK Rowling, Author of *Harry Potter*

JK talks to us about her unique experience and what it was like to write the Harry Potter series

By [Heather Riccio](#) (Adapted by Cristina Aranda)



She is known worldwide as one of the greatest children's fiction writers that ever lived. Famous for her bestselling Harry Potter books, Rowling has captured and enchanted a truly worldwide audience. The books are sold in over 200 countries and 60 languages.

HILARY Magazine recently interviewed Mrs. Rowling on her life, her books and, of course, Harry Potter.

HILARY Magazine: We've heard that with your first book, *The Philosopher's Stone*, you had to use a typewriter to write the manuscript, is that true?

JK Rowling: That's true. The first manuscript I had to do on a typewriter and then had to re-type the entire chapter if I changed a paragraph. Then I had to re-type the whole book all over again because it wasn't double spaced.

HILARY Magazine: I couldn't imagine doing that. It must've taken a lot of time and effort to get the book just right. When did you come up with the idea for Harry Potter?

JK Rowling: In 1990, I was in Manchester looking for a flat, but I decided to take the train back to London and the idea for Harry Potter fell into my head during the journey. I had been writing since I was six, but I had never been as excited about an idea as I was for this book. Coincidentally, I didn't have a pen and was too shy to ask anyone for one on the train, which frustrated me at the time, but it was the best thing for me. It gave me the full four hours on the train to think up all the ideas for the book. I began to write 'Philosopher's Stone' that very evening, Although the first couple of pages look nothing like the finished product.

HILARY Magazine: How long did it take you to complete the novel?

JK Rowling: After I began to write "Philosopher's Stone," something horrible happened. My mother died. She was only forty-five. Nine months afterwards, I desperately wanted to get away from everything and took a job in Portugal as an English teacher at a language institute. I took my manuscript with me in hopes of working on it while I was there. My feelings about Harry Potter's parents' death became more real to me, and more emotional.

In my first week in Portugal, I wrote my favorite chapter in *Philosopher's Stone - The Mirror of Erised*. I had hoped that I would've been done with the book by the time I was back from Portugal, but I came back with something better, my daughter, Jessica. The marriage didn't work out, but the best thing I had ever had came into my life.

HILARY Magazine: It must have been hard to finish the book now with a small child in your life.

JK Rowling: It was hard, but I made it work. Every time Jessica would fall asleep in her pushchair, I'd dash to the nearest café and write as much as I could. I wrote nearly every evening. Then, I had to type everything out myself. Sometimes, I hated the book, and all the while I still loved it.

HILARY Magazine: When you sent it off to agents, did they take the manuscript right away or did you have to send it to several people?

JK Rowling: The first agent I had sent my first three chapters off to had sent my manuscript back so fast that it seemed like they sent it back the same day it arrived. The second agent however, wrote back and asked to see the rest of the manuscript. It was one of the best letters I had ever seen and it was only two sentences long.

HILARY Magazine: How long did it take your agent to find someone to publish your book?

JK Rowling: It took my agent, Christopher, a year to find a publisher. Many of them turned it down. Then finally in August of 1996, Christopher called to let me know that he had an offer from Bloomsbury. I couldn't believe my ears. After I had hung up, I screamed and jumped into the air.

HILARY Magazine: In your opinion, where was the best place for you to write?

JK Rowling: It's no secret that the best place to write, in my opinion, is in a café. You don't have to make your own coffee, you don't have to feel like you're in solitary confinement and if you have writers block, you can get up and walk to the next café while giving your batteries time to recharge and brain time to think.

HILARY Magazine: Do you have any advice for people who want to get their work published as well?

JK Rowling: First, you need to write something a publisher would want to read. Next, you need to approach the publisher, either directly, or I recommend you find an agent. The best way to find agents and publishers is to consult, 'The Writer's and Artists Yearbook,' which is updated every year. Then wait, and pray. This is the way I got Harry Potter published.

HILARY Magazine: Thank you again, Mrs. Rowling. We wish you all the success and look forward to reading *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

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ESTRATEGIAS DE LECTURA	
ANTES DE LA LECTURA	<p>1. Activación previa de conocimientos</p> <p>Empezaríamos la actividad preguntando a los alumnos y a las alumnas quién conoce la saga de Harry Potter, si alguien ha leído algún libro, si conocen al autor de la obra, si conocen algo de su vida, cuántos libros ha escrito sobre Harry Potter, los personajes principales de la saga, si les gusta ese tipo de ficción, vocabulario básico (por ejemplo “wizard”), etc.</p> <p>2. Elaboración de hipótesis a partir de título, formato e ilustraciones</p> <p>Comentar la estructura de una entrevista, su introducción y su conclusión, lectura de las preguntas para realizar hipótesis sobre el contenido general del texto, etc.</p> <p>3. Leer con distintos objetivos</p> <p>Leer por placer, dado que es un texto sobre un tema que suele interesar a los alumnos de estas edades, y leer para obtener información concreta y general, a partir de preguntas que el profesor realizarás en clase.</p>
DURANTE LA LECTURA	<p>1. Elaboración de recapitulaciones parciales</p> <p>2. Resolución de problemas relacionados con el vocabulario y con determinadas estructuras gramaticales.</p>
DESPUÉS DE LA LECTURA	<p>1. Identificación del tema y de las ideas generales del texto</p> <p>2. Identificación de la información relevante, subrayando y resumiendo el contenido fundamental de cada pregunta de la entrevista con el fin de realizar un resumen bien oral o escrito.</p>

	3. Recopilación de vocabulario nuevo y relevante.	
PROCESOS LECTORES		
RECUPERAR - OBTENER INFORMACIÓN	1.L3	Why are cafés the best place to write for JK Rowling? ¿Por qué piensa JK Rowling que las cafeterías son el mejor sitio para escribir?
	Respuesta	<i>Because you don't have to make coffee, you don't feel isolated and if you have writer's block you can get up, walk to the next café and get some fresh air.</i>
	2.L4	Which of these sentences is true? A. JK Rowling started <i>The Philosopher's Stone</i> in Portugal. B. JK Rowling finished <i>The Philosopher's Stone</i> in Portugal. C. JK Rowling didn't start or finish <i>The Philosopher's Stone</i> in Portugal. ¿Cuál de estas oraciones es verdadera? A. JK Rowling empezó <i>The Philosopher's Stone</i> en Portugal. B. JK Rowling acabó <i>The Philosopher's Stone</i> en Portugal. C. JK Rowling no empezó ni acabó <i>The Philosopher's Stone</i> en Portugal.
	Respuesta	C
COMPRENSIÓN GLOBAL	1.L2	Which questions does the interviewer ask about: 1. JK Rowling's first book? 2. JK Rowling's writing habits? 3. JK Rowling's advice for other writers? ¿Qué preguntas de la entrevista están relacionadas con: 1. El primer libro de JK Rowling? 2. Los hábitos de escritura de JK Rowling? 3. Consejo que JK Rowling da a otros escritores?
	Respuesta	<i>1. Questions 1 to 6</i> <i>2. Question 7</i> <i>3. Question 8</i>
	2.L3	Do you think it was easy for JK Rowling to write her first book? Why? ¿Crees que fue fácil para JK Rowling escribir su primer libro?
	Respuesta	<i>Not at all. First of all, just after starting the book, her mother died. Then, after moving to Portugal, she had a baby and it was really hard to combine motherhood and writing.</i>

		<i>After finishing the book (which she had to re-type several times), it was difficult to find an agent (actually it took her two attempts) and the agent needed a whole year to find a publisher.</i>
INTERPRETACIÓN INFERENCIAS	1.L3	How hard does JK Rowling think it is to get one's work published? ¿JK Rowling piensa que es duro publicar un trabajo?
	Respuesta	<i>Extremely hard, because she says that after writing something good and finding an agent, you have to wait and pray. This means that luck is really important in the process.</i>
	2.	Do you think JK Rowling normally prefers to be alone or with people around? ¿JK Rowling normalmente prefiere estar sola o rodeada de gente?
	Respuesta	<i>She must be quite a social person, because when she mentions the advantages of writing in a café, she says that "you don't have to feel like you're in solitary confinement".</i>
VALORACIÓN - REFLEXIÓN FORMA	1.L1	How does the interview introduce the interviewee? How does the interviewer finish the interview? ¿Cómo presenta la entrevista a la invitada? ¿Cómo le despide?
	Respuesta	<i>The interview starts with a short introduction about JK Rowling, saying who she is, what she does and how important her Harry Potter series is in the world (title, subtitle and first paragraph). The interviewer finishes the interview thanking JK Rowling and wishing her all the success for her latest book at the time of the interview (last line).</i>
	2.	<i>"The first agent I had sent my first three chapters off to had sent my manuscript back so fast that it seemed like they sent it back the same day it arrived."</i> Which of these sentences describes what the writer thinks about the first agent? a) After reading the book carefully they didn't like it and they sent it back. b) They can't have read it in such a short time. c) They might not have received the chapters. ¿Cuál de estas oraciones describe lo que la escritora piensa del primer agente?

		<p>a) Tras una lectura detallada no les gustó y lo enviaron de vuelta.</p> <p>b) No pudieron haberlo leído en tan poco tiempo.</p> <p>c) Puede que no hubieran recibido los capítulos.</p>
	Respuesta	b)
VALORACIÓN - REFLEXIÓN CONTENIDO	1.L4	<p>Does the interviewer sympathise with JK Rowling's suffering when writing the book? How?</p> <p>¿Muestra la entrevistadora empatía con JK Rowling ante las adversidades a las que ésta se enfrentó mientras escribía el libro? ¿Cómo?</p>
	Respuesta	<p><i>Yes, she does. The interviewer comments on her answers with expressions like "I couldn't imagine doing that", "It must've taken a lot of time and effort to get the book just right" and "It must have been hard to finish the book now with a small child in your life"</i></p>
	2.L	
	Respuesta	
PUESTA EN PRÁCTICA - OBSERVACIONES		