

Famous Authors

Beatrix Potter



Beatrix Potter's stories continue to delight children today, even though the first tale was published over a hundred years ago, in 1901. That first story was about four bunnies called Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter. It went on to become known as The Tale of Peter Rabbit.

At first, Potter struggled to find a publisher to sell her books. Instead, she paid to publish them herself. By 1902, publishers realised that people wanted to read them, so they agreed to publish them for her.

By 1922, Beatrix Potter had written and published 22 more tales of Peter Rabbit and his friends. She added characters such as Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle and Jemima Puddle-Duck. These characters live on today in children's cartoons, movies and endless merchandise.

Writing wasn't Beatrix Potter's only passion. She moved to the Lake District in 1913 and became a farmer with her husband. She carried on farming until she passed away in 1943.

FOCUS ON - WORD

1 Circle the plural nouns in the sentence below.

Beatrix Potter's stories continue to delight children today.

2 Change the past tense verbs into the present tense.

paid → _____

read → _____

agreed → _____

became → _____

3 Write the root word and the suffix for the word below.

root word		suffix		word
			=	endless

4 Write one more word in the same word family as those below.

publish	publisher	publishers	published	
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FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 What type of word has been underlined?

These characters live on today in children's cartoons, movies and endless merchandise.

- ☐ noun
- ☐ adjective
- ☐ adverb
- ☐ preposition

2 Insert a coordinating conjunction to complete the sentence below.

At first, Potter struggled to find a publisher to sell her books, _____ she paid to publish them herself.

or

nor

so

for

3 Underline the subordinating conjunction.

She carried on farming until she passed away in 1943.

4 Tick the sentence that contains a fronted adverbial.

- ☐ That first story was about four bunnies.
- ☐ She added characters such as Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle and Jemima Puddle-Duck.
- ☐ Writing wasn't Beatrix Potter's only passion.
- ☐ By 1922, Beatrix Potter had written and published 22 more tales of Peter Rabbit.

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FOCUS ON - TEXT

1 Write the pronouns in the correct columns.

her she herself them they his

3 rd person singular	3 rd person plural

2 Change the underlined present tense verb into the present progressive.
Tick the correct option.

Beatrix Potter's stories continue to delight children today.

- ☐ Beatrix Potter's stories are continue to delight children today.
- ☐ Beatrix Potter's stories is continue to delight children today.
- ☐ Beatrix Potter's stories are continuing to delight children today.
- ☐ Beatrix Potter's stories is continuing to delight children today.

CHALLENGE

3 Tick the box that points to the time adverbial.



At first, Potter struggled to find a publisher to sell her books.



FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

1 Identify whether a possessive apostrophe or a contraction apostrophe have been used in the sentence below.

Write your answer in the boxes.

Writing wasn't Beatrix Potter's only passion.

2 Tick the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

- ☐ In 1913 Beatrix Potter, moved to the Lake District.
- ☐ In 1913, Beatrix Potter moved to the Lake District.
- ☐ In 1913 Beatrix Potter moved, to the Lake District.
- ☐ In, 1913 Beatrix Potter moved to the Lake District.

CHALLENGE

3 What is the name of the punctuation mark used to show parenthesis in the sentence?

Tick **one**.

Her first story was about four bunnies — Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter.

- ☐ dash
- ☐ comma
- ☐ brackets
- ☒ inverted commas



Famous Authors

Charles Dickens



Lots of our impressions of Victorian England come from the stories that Charles Dickens wrote during that period. It wasn't just his ideas of that period that have lasted, either. Every year, people in Great Britain send Christmas cards showing snowy scenes and hope for a white Christmas. Charles Dickens is more responsible than anyone else for the idea of thick snow at Christmas in England, and yet it rarely happens.

However, we perhaps can't blame him entirely. He grew up during a period known as the Little Ice Age, where Britain was colder than it had been since the 15th century. Even the River Thames froze over during the winter of 1814; it was that cold.

In fact, Dickens has been credited with saving Christmas. Not many people celebrated Christmas at that time. Work was hard, and people were moving into bustling cities. He published *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, and people suddenly had a reason to remember how much fun Christmas could be.

Many of his other stories show us the darker side of Victorian England. This included poverty, child labour and unsafe living conditions.

FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 Underline the prepositional phrase.

People were moving into bustling cities.

2 What is the grammatical term for the underlined words? Tick **one**.

People send many Christmas cards with snowy scenes, hoping for a white Christmas.

- ☐ prepositional phrase
- ☐ expanded noun phrase
- ☐ main clause
- ☐ subordinate clause

3 Rewrite the sentence below with the adverb at the start. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

People suddenly had a reason to remember how much fun Christmas could be.

CHALLENGE

4 Change the underlined adverb for another adverb with similar meaning.

However, we perhaps can't blame him entirely.

clearly

definitely

certainly

probably



FOCUS ON - TEXT

1 Match the underlined verb form to its verb tense.

Use each box only **once**.

In fact, Dickens has been credited with saving Christmas.

In fact, Dickens saved Christmas.

In fact, Dickens saves Christmas.

past

present

present perfect

2 Which sentence below is written in the past progressive tense?

Tick **one**.

- ☐ People was not celebrating Christmas that much.
- ☐ People were not celebrating Christmas that much.
- ☐ People is not celebrating Christmas that much.
- ☐ People are not celebrating Christmas that much.

3 Identify the different pronouns.

Tick **one** box in each row.

pronoun	1st person	3rd person
his		
we		
us		

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FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

1 Change the contracted form into the uncontracted form.

wasn't	→	
can't	→	
won't	→	

2 Write a question using **ONLY** the words in the answer below.
Remember to punctuate your question correctly.

QUESTION: _____

ANSWER: People do hope for a white Christmas.

3 Tick the box that shows where a comma is needed.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
In Victorian England life was hard and not many people celebrated Christmas.

4 Insert the missing commas.

Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol Oliver Twist Nicholas Nickleby and David Copperfield.



Activity:

Write a summary of the text, including the key points.

Famous Authors

JK Rowling



Sometimes it is hard to work out who is more famous, J.K. Rowling or her most famous protagonist, Harry Potter. While Harry and his friends are famous around the world, none of the magic and mystery would have been possible without the imagination of J.K. Rowling.

Her real name is Joanne Rowling. The K in her writing name stands for Kathleen, which was the name of her grandmother. Before creating Harry Potter, Rowling worked at several jobs, including teaching English in Portugal.

The idea for Harry Potter first came to Rowling while she was sitting on a delayed train in 1990. It took her a long time to turn the idea into a full story. At first, publishers didn't think that the story would be very popular. She was rejected by 12 before Bloomsbury finally agreed to take it on. The first book in the series was published in 1997, and the first film adaptation followed in 2001. The final book in the series was published in 2007, and the entire series has sold over 500 million copies worldwide.

FOCUS ON - WORD

1 Draw lines to match the determiner to its sentence.

Use each box only once.

a
an
the

_____ famous author
_____ publishers
_____ imaginative mind

2 Circle the correct verb in each of the sentences below.

Before creating Harry Potter, Rowling **was** / **were** a teacher of English in Portugal.

Publishers **was** / **were** rejecting Rowling's story about Harry Potter.

The first film **was** / **were** produced in 2001.

3 Circle the two compound words.

teaching

worldwide

rejected

grandmother

CHALLENGE

4 Which prefix can be added to the word worked to mean to work too much?

Tick **one**.

- ☐ re
- ☐ mis
- ☐ over
- ☐ under



FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 Identify whether the underlined words are a main clause or a subordinate clause.

Tick one box in each row.

sentence	main clause	subordinate clause
The idea for Harry Potter came to Rowling <u>while</u> she was sitting on a delayed train.		
She was rejected by 12 publishers before Bloomsbury agreed to take it on.		
Before creating Harry Potter, <u>Rowling worked at several jobs.</u>		

2 Using the word in the box, write an adverb to complete the sentence below.

Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

initial



_____, she was rejected by 12 different publishers.

3 Tick the box that identifies the adverb.

☐☐☐☐

The idea for Harry Potter first came to Rowling while she was sitting on a delayed train.