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This passage is about a famous author whose first three books held the top three positions on the *New York Times* best-sellers list.



J. K. Rowling

The school bell rang and all of the students ran from the classroom. School was out for the day. The teacher was relieved that the school day was over. She could finally go home. She knew that she had to wake up early the next day again. This was because she wrote during the early mornings before school. She was busy writing her very first book. It was about a wizard. The teacher of this classroom was 26-year-old Joanne Rowling.

At the age of 26, Rowling was married. She was living in Portugal. After her daughter was born, she and her daughter moved to Scotland. Rowling usually wrote in cafés. She became determined to finish her book. She also wanted to get it published. In the meantime, Rowling worked as a French teacher.

When her book was completed, it was rejected by many publishers. Finally, she sold *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* to Bloomsbury for about \$4,000. Bloomsbury was a British publisher. However, she had to use the pen name J. K. Rowling. This was because her publisher was not sure if young boys would be reluctant to read a book written by a female author.

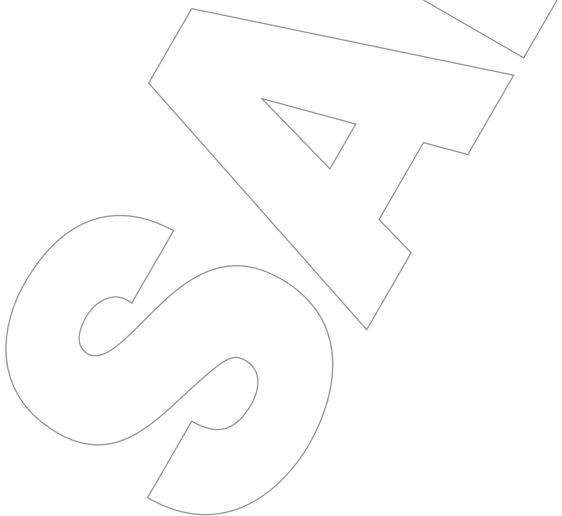
After several months, a second publisher bought the American rights to Rowling's book. This gave her more money and she was able to quit teaching. She then began to write full time. Rowling has described this part of her life as one of her happiest.

It wasn't long before Rowling was recognized as a household name. The awards and honors grew very quickly. When finally published in the United States, the book was renamed. It was released as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The first three installments of her series held the top three positions on the *New York Times* best-sellers list.

By the summer of 2000, Rowling had earned more than \$400 million for her first three books. Her books had been printed in 35 languages and sold more than 30 million copies. The fourth book was entitled *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. It sold more than one million copies before it was published. J. K. Rowling wrote seven books in her series.

Rowling's magical characters have also filled the big screen. The film version of the first book in the series was released in 2001. Many of her movies have sold tickets even before they were released. People even dress in costumes as they wait in long lines to see the film version of her books. All of the movies were filmed in Britain and featured an all-British cast. Fans look forward to each movie's release.

J. K. Rowling plans to continue writing. Her many fans continue to hope for an eighth book. However, her famous Harry Potter series ends with the seventh volume.





Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the passage that you just read. Read each one and then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you're not sure, go back and look at the passage again.

- From this passage you can tell that the publisher thought
 - boys might not read a book written by a female author
 - boys would read a book written by a female author
 - girls might not read a book written by a male author
 - girls would read a book written by a male author
- You can tell that Rowling's first book was selling very well because
 - Rowling sold *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* to Bloomsbury for about \$4,000
 - a second publisher bought the American rights to Rowling's book
 - Rowling wrote seven books in her series
 - Rowling earned over \$400 million for her first three books
- What did Rowling teach while she lived in Scotland?
 - English
 - Writing
 - French
 - Theatre Arts
- What is the main idea of paragraph 7?
 - Rowling's books have been made into successful movies.
 - People wait in line to see the movies.
 - All of Rowling's movies were filmed in Britain.
 - Fans look forward to each of Rowling's movies.

Factual

Critical Reasoning

Factual

Inference

5. Which of the following events happened first?

- (A) Rowling worked as a French teacher.
- (B) Rowling's book was published in the United States.
- (C) Rowling's books filled the big screen.
- (D) Rowling lived in Portugal.

Inference

6. What is the title of Rowling's fourth book?

- (A) *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
- (B) *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- (C) *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*
- (D) *Harry Potter and the Thinking Glass*

Factual

7. Paragraph 5 of the passage tells mostly about

- (A) the success of Rowling's book
- (B) Rowling's first award
- (C) a publisher in America
- (D) the fourth book in the series

Inference

8. It is likely that

- (A) Rowling will write an eighth book in her Harry Potter series
- (B) Rowling will return to her previous job as a teacher
- (C) publishers will continue to reject Rowling's books
- (D) Rowling will continue to write books

Critical Reasoning



Summing Up



Supporting details are anything you can add to your story that can make your case sound a bit more believable. They are facts and ideas that explain the main idea of the paragraph. Look at the graphic organizer below. The main idea has been provided. Write the supporting details in the correct boxes. Refer to the passage as needed.



J. K. Rowling wrote a very successful series of books about a wizard.

Supporting Detail

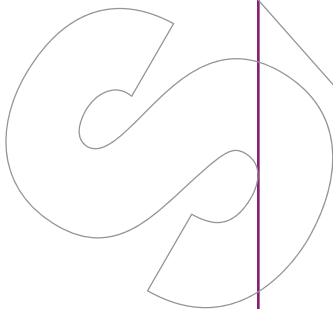
1

Supporting Detail

2

Supporting Detail

3





Write About It

When you are trying to prove a point, it is important that you use **supporting details** or facts to make your argument believable. They should provide evidence that supports your main idea or your argument.

Pretend that you and a friend are discussing the following question, “Who is the most successful author?” You believe that the most successful author is J. K. Rowling. Now you need to convince your friend to agree with you. Use the supporting details from the graphic organizer on page 31 and other details from the passage on pages 26 and 27 to write your discussion below.

Handwriting practice lines with a large, faint watermark reading 'SAMPLE' diagonally across the page.