

Happy Birthday Harry! A1+



SPEAKEASY NEWS

L'actualité au cœur des cours d'anglais



Nathan

Harry Potter is celebrating a very special birthday... the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the first book: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.



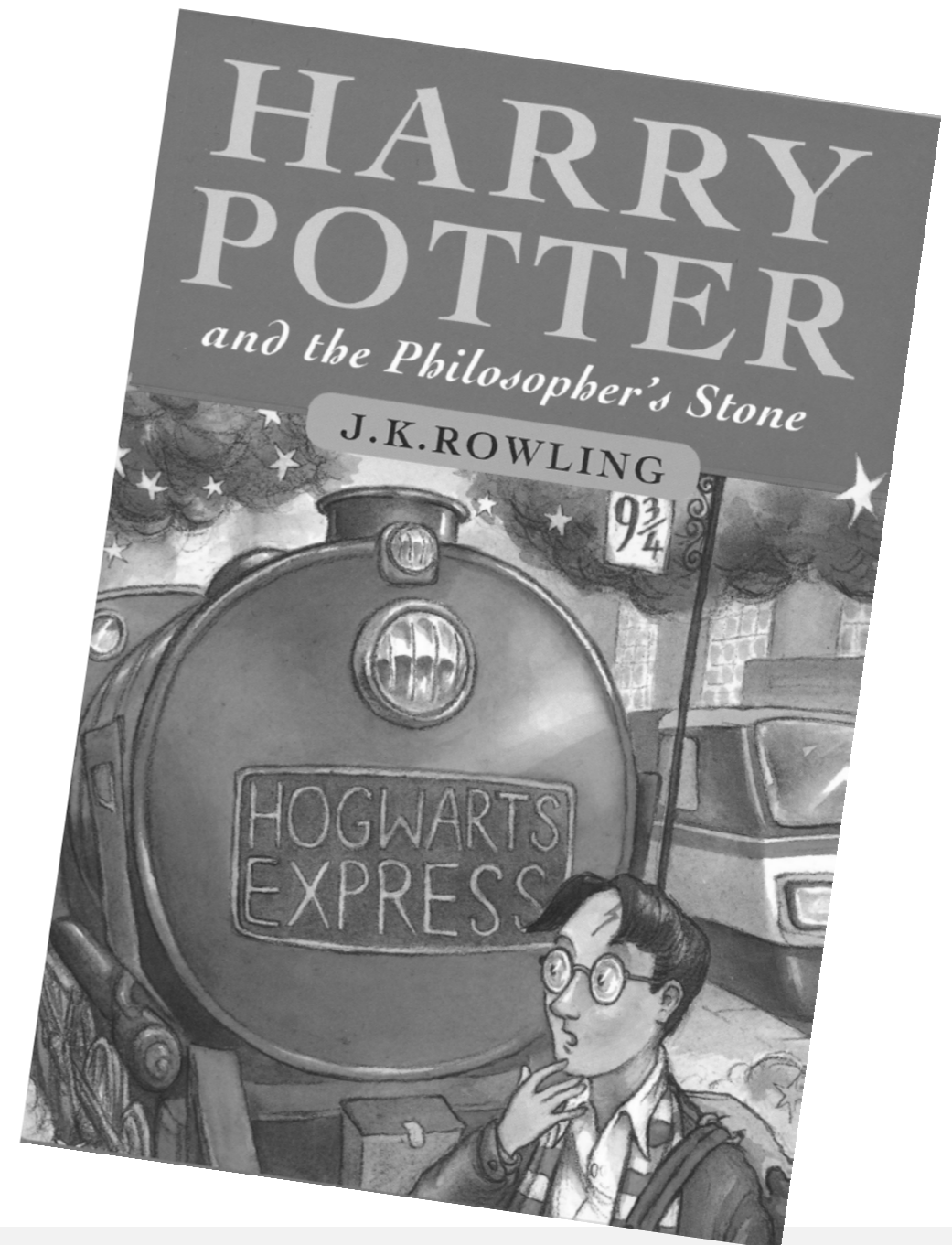
JK Rowling

The book by JK Rowling was published on 26 June 1997. The *Harry Potter* series was an amazing success. There are now seven books, eight films and a theatre play. There are 450 million copies of the books!

Twenty years ago, readers first discovered Harry's magical world:

- The magical school for wizards and witches, **Hogwarts**, with its four **houses**, Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin.
- The wizarding sport, **Quidditch**.
- Harry's friends, **Ron** and **Hermione**, **Hagrid** the giant and **Dumbledore** the headmaster.
- And his enemies, **Professor Severus Snape**, **Draco Malfoy** and the terrible You-Know-Who – **Voldemort**.

Readers learned, that Voldemort killed Harry's parents when he was a baby. He attacked Harry too. For 11 years, Voldemort disappeared. But he was preparing to return.



Help

twentieth (adj) the ordinal of number 20

wizard (n) a sorcerer or man with magical powers. Harry and Ron are *wizards*. Hermione is a witch.

SPEAKEASY NEWS

L'actualité au cœur des cours d'anglais

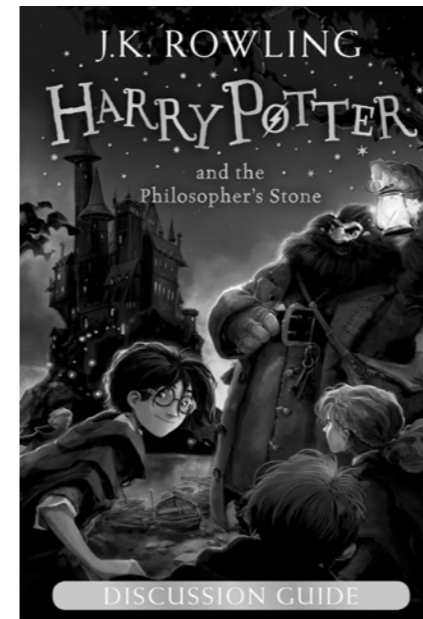


Nathan

People all over the world love the magical world of Harry Potter. JK Rowling stopped writing the books in 2007, after book seven. But she returned to the world of wizards in 2016 with a theatre play and the first *Fantastic Beasts* film. ■



MinaLima is a London shop and gallery created by two artists who worked on all the *Harry Potter* films.



Did You Know?

- JK Rowling's first name is Joanne. The publishers asked her to use her initials so readers didn't know she was a woman.
- Harry's birthday is 31 July like JK Rowling. All the books start with Harry's birthday.
- Nicolas Flamel, the alchemist in the *Philosopher's Stone*, was a real person. He lived in Paris in the 1300s, and his house, on the rue Montmorency, is the oldest one in Paris!

Help

alchemist (n) person who tries to transform ordinary metal into precious gold (a yellow metal)