

# Total English

## Intermediate

### Being a very famous author...

- 1 You are going to read an interview with JK Rowling, author of the Harry Potter Series. Go on the internet and type in <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/arts/3004456.stm>. Answer questions 1- 12 below.
  - 1 Why does JK Rowling think her latest Harry Potter book of 766 pages was a bit of an achievement?
  - 2 Why is JK Rowling so secretive about her books.
  - 3 What does JK Rowling quote as a couple of the drawbacks of her fame?
  - 4 How has success changed JK Rowling?
  - 5 What does she find strange about a lot of children's fiction?
  - 6 What's JK Rowling's view on the merchandising that accompanies the Harry Potter series?
  - 7 Does JK Rowling think that the books or the merchandising will have a lasting effect?
  - 8 At what point after her baby was born did she manage to resume some writing?
  - 9 How does she feel now compared with four years ago?
  - 10 How revealing is JK Rowling about giving away her money?
  - 11 Has she already written the final chapter of the final book?
  - 12 Why was she so unhappy writing *The Goblet of Fire*?
- 2 Scan through the whole interview and write down four more facts about JK Rowling. Explain your choices.
  - 1 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Discuss questions 1-3.
  - 1 What do you think of the job of a writer?
  - 2 What do you need to do to be a successful author?
  - 3 Who do you think is a good author? What books have they written?

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## TEACHER'S NOTES:

**Aim:** for students to find out about the 'job' and life of JK Rowling.

This webquest is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 9.

**Time:** 40 minutes

**Materials:** photocopies of the worksheet for students

- 1 Check that all students are on the correct website. Ask them if they have read any of the Harry Potter books or read anything about JK Rowling. Then get students to read the questions and answer them. Monitor to check they are going in the right direction and give help if necessary. Give students time to compare their answers before checking them with the class.

**Answers:** (correct at the time of going to press) 1 because she had writer's block 2 Basically because she doesn't want kids to know what's coming! 3 negative impact on her daughter's life and being photographed on the beach 4 She no longer feels such a waste of space. / She has used the one skill she thought she had: story telling 5 That the characters never age - they literally stay the same for the whole series of books. 6 If she could have stopped it all, she would, but at least some of the worse examples never reached the shop shelves. 7 the books 8 when the baby was 10 weeks old 9 much more relaxed because she took some time out between fourth and fifth books 10 She says she gives money away and that's it. 11 yes 12 because she had committed to an unrealistic deadline

- 2 This is an opportunity for students to scroll through the interview and pick out some items of interest. Monitor to check they are clear on all the language. Elicit students' answers and encourage peer correction.
- 3 Students discuss with each other the advantages and disadvantages of being an author. Get feedback from the class.