



第八十四期

J. K. Rowling and the Harry Potter Series

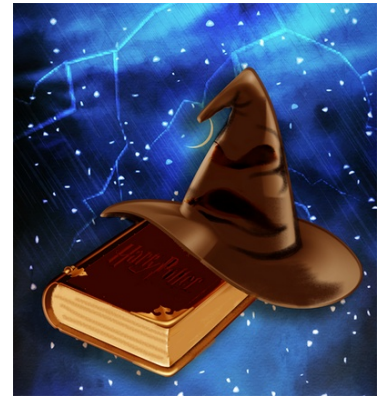
J. K. 羅琳和哈利波特系列

J. K. Rowling is considered one of the most **noteworthy** young adult fiction authors of this **generation**. The *Harry Potter* series, which led to Rowling's worldwide fame, has sold hundreds of millions of copies, making it the most successful book series of all time.

J.K.羅琳被認為是這一世代最值得注目的青少年虛構小說家。羅琳全球知名的哈利波特系列已經銷售了數億本，成為歷史上最成功的系列書。

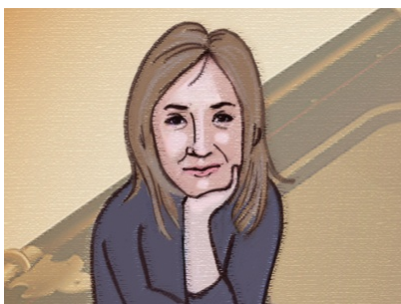
In 1965, Rowling was born in the town of Yate, England. Her childhood wasn't easy, as her mother was often ill, and her family wasn't rich. Her mother Anne passed away after several years of **battling** a serious illness. At the time Rowling was already writing the first of the *Harry Potter* books.

1965年時羅琳出生在英國的伊特鎮。她的童年過得並不輕鬆，因為她的母親常常生病，而且家中並不富裕。她的母親Annie與重病纏鬥好幾年後過世，當時羅琳已經在寫哈利波特的第一本書。



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone was the title of the first book, and it got **published** in 1997. Later on in 1999, the next two books in the series were published, and the three books shortly became bestsellers. The fourth book in the series sold more quickly than any other book in history!

哈利波特-神秘的魔法石是第一本書的書名，於1997年出版。後來在1999年，同系列的兩本書也出版了，這三本書在短短時間內就成為暢銷書。系列中的第四本書比史上任何書一本書銷售得都還要快！



The last volume, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was divided into two books. Like the books before, these two books sold like hotcakes. Of all the women in the UK, Rowling is **ranked** 13th in terms of wealth. Rowling has written other pieces of fiction as well, but they haven't been nearly as popular. **Nevertheless**, she's still considered a fantastic author.

最後一本哈利波特-死神的聖物分為上下兩冊。像之前的書一樣，這兩本書也非常搶手。在英國所有女性中，羅琳在財富方面排名第13名。羅琳也寫了其他的小說，但是它們並沒有如此受歡迎。儘管如此，她

仍然被認為是一個非常棒的作家。

Vocabulary 好字精選

1. noteworthy (adj.) interesting and significant 值得注意的

Listed below are the top ten most noteworthy business leaders of 2012.

下面列出的是 2012 年十大最值得注意的企業領導人。

2. generation (n) all of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively 世代，(一)代人

This generation is very different from the previous one.

這一世代與上個世代非常不同。

3. battle (v) to fight to achieve or resist something 戰鬥，鬥爭

Mrs. Parks has been battling cancer for ten years.

Parks 太太已經與癌症搏鬥了十年。

4. publish (v) to prepare and issue (a book, journal, piece of music, or other work) for public sale 出版，發行

This nonfiction book was published three years ago.

這本寫實小說是在三年前出版的。

5. rank (v) give (someone or something) a rank or place within a grading system 等級/排名

Edgar Huang was ranked the second best model in all of Asia.

Edgar Huang 被評為全亞洲排名第二的模特兒。

6. nevertheless (adverb) despite that 儘管如此 (條件子句)

It was raining heavily. Nevertheless, we went outside to play baseball.

儘管下雨很大，我們還是去了外面打棒球。

Phrases and Sentence Patterns 句型解析

1. lead to (phrasal verb) to begin a process that causes something to happen 導致，造成

The bad food led to Tom's diarrhea.

不乾淨的食物導致 Tom 的腹瀉。

2. pass away (phrasal verb) to die 過世

Megan was really sad after her boyfriend passed away.

Megan 在男朋友去世後真的很傷心。

3. sell like hotcakes (idiom) to be sold very fast (像剛出爐的蛋糕一樣) 搶手

I think these T-shirts are going to sell like hotcakes!

我認為這些 T 恤會很搶手！

4. in terms of (phrase) with regard to (片語) 就…而言

You may not like this restaurant, but it's fantastic in terms of quality.

你可能不喜歡這家餐廳，但就品質而言真的非常棒。

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Nicki Minaj

妮姬·米娜

Nicki Minaj is one of the most well-known rap music artists. She not only **raps**, but also acts in TV shows and films, and sometimes she works as a **model**. “Super Bass” and “Starships” are two of her most popular songs.

Nicki Minaj 是最著名的饒舌音樂藝術家之一。她不但饒舌，還在電視節目和電影中演出，有時候也身兼模特兒。「**超重低聲**」和「**星艦**」是她最受歡迎的兩首歌曲。



When Minaj was five years old, she moved to New York. She had a difficult childhood. Her father had a problem with drugs and once almost killed her mother. Minaj wanted to become stronger in order to help her mother. She started rapping at age 12, and then began school at LaGuardia High School of Music and Art. She studied acting there.

Minaj 在五歲時搬到紐約，她的童年很不幸。她的父親有吸毒問題，一度幾乎殺死她的母親。Minaj 想要變得更強壯以幫助她的母親。她在 12 歲時開始饒舌，然後在拉瓜地亞音樂藝術高中上學，在那裡學習演戲。



After high school Minaj worked as a waitress, but she was soon let go. Later, a man named Big Fendi saw Minaj’s Myspace page and decided to help connect her with the music world. Years later Minaj made a **debut album** called *Pink Friday*. It got great **reviews** and sold like crazy. 高中畢業後，Minaj 當起女服務生，但她很快就被開除了。後來，一個名叫 Big Fendi 的男子看見了 Minaj 的 Myspace 頁面，決定幫她牽線到音樂界。幾年後，Minaj 錄製了首張專輯「**粉紅星期五**」，大受好評而且瘋狂熱賣。

Nowadays Minaj is involved in many projects, but she still likes to focus on music. It’s her true passion.

如今，Minaj 參與許多計畫，但她仍然喜歡將重心擺在音樂，那是她真正的熱愛。

Vocabulary 好字精選

1. rap (v) to recite words quickly (as a recurring beat pattern plays) often in order to make rap music 饒舌

Snoop Dogg started rapping in the early 90s.

Snoop Dogg 在 90 年代初開始饒舌。

2. model (n) a person whose profession is posing for artists or photographers 模特兒

Jennifer was a beautiful woman, so she decided to become a model

Jennifer 是一個美麗的女子，所以她決定成為一名模特兒。

3. debut (adj.) of or relating to a first appearance 首次亮相，首次登台

He released his debut novel in 1983.

他於 1983 年發行第一本小說。

4. album (n) a collection of audio recordings released together as a collected work 專輯，相簿

Have you listened to Coldplay's new album yet?

你聽過酷玩樂隊的新專輯了嗎？

5. review (n) a critical article or report about a book, play, song, restaurant, etc. 評論/評價

The new movie got a bad review.

那部新電影的評價很糟。

Phrases and Sentence Patterns 句型解析

1. Proper noun/noun + be + one of the most + adj. + plural noun (sentence pattern) (句型) 最高級形容詞的其中一個 (名詞/代名詞)

The botulinum toxin is one of the most lethal poisons.

肉毒桿菌是最致命的毒素之一。

2. let go (idiom) laid-off or fired 解僱

Dennis and Yvonne were let go because the company couldn't afford to pay them anymore.

Dennis 和 Yvonne 被解僱了，因為公司支付不起他們的薪水。

3. verb + like crazy (phrase) used to emphasize the verb (動詞)+瘋狂地

When the baby fell down, it started to cry like crazy.

寶寶跌倒後，開始瘋狂地哭泣。



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