

Harry Potter a test

by Marina Lenti

Book description

by the editorial staff of Runa Editrice



Runa
Editrice

Runa Editrice

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Back cover

- ◇ What do Voldemort's mother and the greek goddess Merope have in common?
- ◇ Why didn't J.K. Rowling write all the thirty tales originally planned for The Beedle Bard?
- ◇ In which sense did Harry Potter dethrone James Bond?

The author, a Potter expert, has selected **270 quiz** recreational questions about the young wizard's universe, together with very detailed answers for your amusement and education.
Test yourself or challenge your friends thanks to this new title of the collection *How many do you know?*.

The book at a glance

The game...

- ◇ Why is Harry Potter's wand made of that special wood?
- ◇ Which is the connection between Harry Potter and Greenpeace?
- ◇ What is the recipe for the Harry Potter's favourite cake?
- ◇ What do Draco Malfoy, Gary Oldman and the Sex Pistols' bass guitar player have in common?
- ◇ Why do the Harry Potter films' directors change as frequently as the DADA professors at Hogwarts do?

...Linked to the knowledge

Everything you wanted to know about Harry Potter in **270 Q&A** presented in a multiple choices format. Pick one of four alternative answers and check out the rich and lively comment on the back of the page. Alone or with friends. You'll learn many unexpected news and test how acquainted you are with the little wizard's world.

With a final "**psychological test**", you will learn which Hogwarts' house you're likely to be more compatible with.

And at the end n. **8 puzzles** of entertainment and fun.

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The Harry Potter phenomenon:

A short analysis about the happy season Harry Potter and fellow books are going through.

1. Biographical notes and curiosities about J.K.Rowling:

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2. Harry Potter books:

n. 86 questions and detailed answers on the ideas and the material which shaped the novels.

3. Harry Potter films:

n. 96 questions and detailed answers on actors, scenographies, special effects, directors and thousands of other curiosities behind the making of the films.

4. Potter worldwide odd news & fuss:

n. 30 questions and detailed answers on the oddities 'pottermania' generated worldwide.

Personality test:

n. 20 questions to discover your personality and to find out which House you're suitable to.

Puzzle games:

n. 8 puzzles of entertainment and fun

Selling points

- ◇ Harry Potter means millions of fans all over the world, millions of readers starving for news, gossip and rarities.
- ◇ No equivalent on most markets.
- ◇ The perfect gift for the perfect fan (who is left with nothing more to read).

About the author

Marina Lenti (www.marinalenti.com) is considered the main italian expert on the *Harry Potter* saga. She started writing in 1989 as a freelance contributor to some italian music and film magazines. and, during the '90s, she also worked as a freelance for the press offices of some italian independent music labels.

An avid reader herself, she's always been attracted by the Fantastic Literature and, for 4 years, she's been the *Harry Potter* official expert for one of the biggest italian portals, *SuperevaDada* (afterwards an international portal with branches in *UK, Usa Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Austria, Brazil, Australia, China, Hungary, The Netherlands and Canada*), for which she wrote several hundreds of articles.

For more than 8 years she's been part of the editorial staff at *FantasyMagazine*, the biggest italian on line magazine devoted to the Fantastic genre, for which she wrote over one thousand articles (<http://www.fantasymagazine.it/collaboratori/65/marina-lenti>).

Throughout the years she's given many lectures, has participated to many panels and has written several book essays on those same subjects (see her bibliography below).

She's been also the continuity editor for the italian translation of the most famous *Harry Potter* encyclopaedia in English language, '*The Lexicon – An unauthorized guide to Harry Potter fiction and related materials*' by *Steve Vander Ark* (published in Italy by Piemme).

Her bibliography

***2006 - 'L'Incantesimo Harry Potter' (The Harry Potter Spell) - Delos Books**

For 3 weeks this book was among the top 5 bestselling essays in the **International Book Shop** (www.ibs.it) list. At the time, IBS was the biggest Italian online books store which could be now compared to Amazon.it. The essay also won the **Premio Italia 2007**, the most prestigious Italian award dedicated to Fantastic, Fantasy and Science Fiction literature. The essay was reprinted (and updated) in November 2007 and it's been included in the bibliography of academic works from the Universities of **Roma, Palermo, Modena and Reggio Emilia**, as well as in several other Italian book essays about **Harry Potter**.

***2007 - 'Harry Potter a test' (The Harry Potter Quiz Book) – Alphatest**

A didactic and entertaining manual, which was reprinted (and updated) in 2008. The book was also published and further updated in **France** in 2009 as **The Monde de Harry P.** (Belin publisher).

A final updated version with added charades and games will see the light in 2019 for Runa Editrice.

***2011 - 'Potterologia' (Potterology) - Camelozampa**

Inventor and curator of this multi-author short essays anthology to which she contributed with the essay '*The fountain of fair fortune: an alchemical metaphor about the meaning of life*'. All the royalties are donated to the charity Theodora, that supports hospitalized children and their families through the 'clown therapy'. The book was reprinted (and updated) in 2016.

***2011 - 'Code di Stampa' (a wordplay which literally means 'Print Queue', but in Italian also means 'Printed Tails ') - La Gru**

Inventor and curator of this multi-author novels anthology about animals, to which she contributed with the novel '*Brave*', and whose royalties are donated to a charity called Save the dogs and the other animals which helps the strays and the mistreated animals in Romania.

***2012 - 'La Metafisica di Harry Potter' (The Harry Potter Metaphysics) - Camelozampa**

A book essay devoted to the supernatural themes of the saga, to which she dedicated more than four years of study and research. The book won a nomination at the **Premio Italia 2013**.

***2015 - 'Harry Potter: il cibo come strumento letterario' (Harry Potter: the food as a literary tool) - Runa Editrice**

A book essay that analyses the various 'roles' which **J.K. Rowling** made the food play throughout the novels.

***2016 – Il Fantastico nella letteratura per ragazzi (The Fantastic genre in Kids Literature) – Runa Editrice**

Inventor and curator of this multi-author short essays anthology, to which she contributed with the essay '*I'm fighting to win and I'm fighting with what I have*', devoted to the *Last Elf* saga written by the most popular Italian author in the genre, **Silvana De Mari**.

***2016 - Hobbitologia' (Hobbitology) – Camelozampa**

Inventor and co-curator of this multi-author short essays anthology, to which she contributed with the essay '*The food role in The Hobbit*'. A collection of essays on **The Hobbit**, the first novel by **Tolkien**, recently brought to the screen with **Peter Jackson's** trilogy.

In ten short essays written by a dreamteam of experts of the Fantastic genre, the analysis of the debut novel by Tolkien from ten different and unusual perspectives.

***2016 – J.K. Rowling, l'Incantatrice di 450 milioni di lettori (J.K.Rowling, the Enchantress of 450 million readers) – Ares**

A biographical essay examining the life of the writer and its influence on the Harry Potter saga. The book will also be translated in Russia in 2020.

Put your Harry Potter to test (some examples)

Section 1

J.K. ROWLING BIOGRAPHY

5. One of J.K. Rowling's relatives affirms he's been the inspiration for the character of Harry Potter. What kind of kinship ties this person to the writer?

- A.** The two are cousins
- B.** The two are brother and sister in law
- C.** The two are uncle and niece
- D.** The two are father in law and daughter in law

24. J.K. Rowling's story has several things in common with Stephenie Meyer's, the Twilight series' author. However, among the following, one statement is false. Which one is it?

- A.** Both of them have written the first novel while having small children to take care of
- B.** A biography of both of them has been published in comics format
- C.** Both of them have talked about their first novel to their respective sisters
- D.** Both of them have received from their respective publishing houses, as an advance cheque, the same amount of money

25. At the age of four, J.K. Rowling contracted measles. One of her most tender childhood's memories, tied to that episode, is about her father distracting her with the reading of a classic from the fantastic literature. What was such book?

- A.** Alice in Wonderland
- B.** The Hobbit
- C.** The Neverending Story
- D.** The Wind in the Willows

FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT...

Walter Semkiv, an American doctor and a passionate researcher of 'famous reincarnations', affirms in one of his studies that J.K. Rowling would be none other than the well known writer Charles Dickens reincarnated. The 'tip' would come through some medium sessions by Kevin Ryerson, who channels an entity called Ahtun Re.

5. J.K. Rowling immediately dismissed as a fabrication her cousin Ben Rowling's claim to be the inspiration for Harry (right answer: **A**). But he didn't give up and, in March 2005, he even put himself through a truth test in a reality show called Lie Detector.

With very little surprise on behalf of the Potter fans, Ben overcame the test, which doesn't really prove anything but the fact he is actually sure of having been the inspiration for the Harry Potter character. He told the media he used to be an inseparable mate of the writer, when they were little: «I know Jo based Harry on me. I can see so much of the young me in his character. We used to spend the weekends swapping stories of boarding school life. She was always fascinated about what I had been up to at school and used to love me telling her about the scrapes and escapades I had been involved in».

24. Between Joanne Rowling e Stephenie Meyer there are more than ten years in terms of age. The story of their lives, before success came, are deeply different: rather hard the first one's, pretty tranquil the second one's. Comparing their publishing stories, instead, there are more similarities than differences: both got their inspiration from a certain kind of 'vision' (a daydream for Rowling, a proper night dream for Meyer); both have talked about their novels to their sisters; both wrote steadily while having little children to look after; both got an average of a dozen of rejection letters sent from agents/publishers; both have been picked up (or 'revived', in Rowling's case) by chance, from the so called 'slush pile', that is from the pile of unsolicited manuscripts from the publishers/agents; both, finally, obtained a huge success worldwide and have seen their books transferred on screen. Even the names of their 'pygmalions' partially fit with, in a bizarre game of coincidences: Rowling found an agent in Christopher Little, Meyer a publisher in Little & Brown (who, by the way, later became also the publisher of the first Rowling's post-Potter novel!). Nevertheless, Rowling received, as an advance payment, only 1500 pounds, while Meyer 750.000 dollars, that is almost 495.000 pounds (right answer: **D**)

25. Right answer is **D**. The Wind in the Willows was published for the first time in 1908. The author is Kenneth Grahame, a secretary of the Bank of England who invented the story and the characters in order to entertain his child whenever his job was forcing him to stay away from London. Then Grahame used to send him the episodes via snail mail and so it was that, in time, the adventures of the pompous Toad, the wise Badger, the cautious Mole and the sensible Mouse came to life

Section 2

HARRY POTTER BOOKS

8. When J.K. Rowling first had the idea of the four Hogwarts' Houses names, where did she jotted them down?

- A.** A On an airplane sick bag
- B.** On a shopping receipt
- C.** On a medicine instruction paper
- D.** On the back of her own hand

15. The appellation 'Gurg' indicates the Giant in chief, but what does it mean?

- A.** Cruel
- B.** Murderer
- C.** Wolf
- D.** Predator

54. Why does the gubraithian fire, given by Dumbledore to Madame Maxime and to Hagrid as a gift for the Giants, can never be extinguished?

- A.** Because it was created just like that by Gubraith, who used to live in a cave full of airstreams, where normal fires tended to easily extinguish
- B.** Because it's a trait determined by its own name
- C.** Because it contains the spirit of the perennial fire
- D.** Because it's made with the fire of an extinct dragons' species (the gubraithian species) and this fire is the last memory in the world of the existence of such species.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Regarding coins and currencies, here's a nice on line converter which puts Wall Street directly in touch Gringotts! The URL is: <http://www.calctool.org/CALC/other/fun/galleons>

8. In a February 2000 interview, published on her American publisher's website Scholastic, J.K. Rowling said: «I invented the names of the Houses on the back of an airplane sick bag! This is true. I love inventing names, but I also collect unusual names, so that I can look through my notebook and choose one that suits a new character (right answer: **A**).

15. Right answer is **C**. Both in Pahlavi language (ancient Persian language spoken under the Sasanid Empire and used from the III until the X century A.C.) and in Hindustani language (spoken in North India), the word gurg actually defines the wolf, as well as the corresponding Persian form gorg.

54. The word gubraith comes from the union of two Scottish words, gu an bràth, which together mean just “forever” (right answer: **B**). There's also the Irish variation go bràth. This prodigious fire is offered as a gift to the Giants' chief, in the hope of persuading him to listen to Hagrid's and to Madame Maxime's requests.

Section 3

HARRY POTTER FILMS

21. *In order to design the hats worn by the Beauxbatons girls, costumer Jany Temime asked for the collaboration of an important British milliner. Who is he?*

- A.** Philip Wright
- B.** Peter Bettley
- C.** Stephen Jones
- D.** Philip Treacy

29. In the ‘Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets’ film, the basilisk which appears on the screen is not, from a strictly mythological point of view, a believable creature. Why is that?

- A.** Because of its dimensions
- B.** Because of its colour
- C.** Because of its look
- D.** Because of its extreme aggressiveness

47. *In the ‘Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban’ film, a fountain depicting the animals of two school Houses appears in the Hogwarts courtyard: which Houses are they?*

- A.** Gryffindor and Hufflepuff
- B.** Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw
- C.** Gryffindor and Slytherin
- D.** Slytherin and Ravenclaw

THE DARK MARK

The image of the skull, with the snake coming out from the mouth, recalls one of the symbols present in the Rosicrucian book-manifesto ‘The alchemical wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz. In fact, on the fourth of the seven days such text is divided into, the protagonist describes an altar where some full of symbolism objects are displayed: among them there's just a skull from whose eye orbits the head and the tail of a snake peep out.

21. Philip Treacy, an Irishman born in 1967, began working – after his studies at the Dublin National College of Art & Design - with Stephen Jones (whose name's listed as one of the other possible reply choices among other famous londoner milliners) and obtained his first success in 1988, after creating the hat for the wedding gown of the «Tatler Magazine» style editor. For ten years he's been working with Karl Lagerfeld at the Chanel maison and afterwards with Givenchy, while top models like Naomi Campbell, Stella Tennant and Christy Turlington posed for him in exchange for free hats. Among his clients there are some british royal family members and Treacy has also created the hat for the wedding gown of Camilla Parker Bowles, who married Prince Charles. He has exhibited his creations in Florence, London, Paris, Dublin and Milan.

Temime told at first the designer was hesitant in taking on the Potter job, but then he accepted saying his main reason to do so was gaining the respect of his little niece (right answer: **D**).

29. According to what Pliny the Elder writes in his Naturalis Historia, basilisk's dimensions are rather small. In the passage devoted to this animal (viii, 33) we can actually read its length is no more than twelves fingers. As the roman measure of one finger (digitus) corresponds, in the metric decimal system, to about 18,5 centimeters, it means that the maximum length of a basilisk can be 222 centimeters, that is a little more than two metres. In the film, instead, the basilisk is 80 feet long, that is 24 meters and 38 centimeters (right answer: **A**)

47. At the fountain's corners there are four statues depicting an eagle with a snake in its beak (right answer: **C**). Director Alfonso Cuarón wanted them into the set design because the snake and the eagle (which shares with the griffin the upper part of the body) also appear on the mexican flag, his native Country.

Section 4

HARRY POTTER ODDITIES

4. *The Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire film was screened, upon explicit request, in a really peculiar and... inhospitable environment for uman beings. Where did such screening took place?*

- A.** In a camp in the Sahara desert
- B.** In a spaceship
- C.** In a bivouac on the Antartic ices
- D.** In a submarine

21. *In November 2008 J.K. Rowling's series have been used as one of the themes for a sculpture festival which is held every year in Bruges, Belgium. The artworks have been made with a very peculiar material. Which kind of?*

- A.** Ice and snow
- B.** Salt and glue
- C.** Sand and water
- D.** Rice and starch

25. *In the autumn of 2004, in the wake of the suggestions made by J.K. Rowling, while she was still writing the sixth book, regarding the death of an important character, british brokers went wild with their bets: which character got the most numerous wagers as a probable victim?*

- A.** Arthur Weasley
- B.** Hermione Granger
- C.** Cho Chang
- D.** Ron Weasley

AN INCENDIARY HOGWARTS

Pat Acton's challenge's really peculiar... This eccentric Iowa man has actually built up, using matches, a perfect replica of the Hogwarts castle, just as it's been showed through the film released by Warner Bros.

The artwork has required three years of patience and self-abnegation, a well as half a million matches and more than sixty-eight litres of glue.

In the past, Acton had already built up a gigantic replica of the Enterprise starship from the Star Trek series, as well as a Shuttle and a Capitol Hill's replicas. You can see his creations at the following URL: <http://matchstickmarvels.com/index.php/the-model>

4. As part of the normal support to the astronauts during long stay space flights, NASA accepted the request of William McArthur, the captain of the International Space Station, for a preview screening of the 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' film. The space agency has therefore asked Warner Bros for the license for a space streaming, to the great satisfaction of the prestigious cosmic fan of the boy wizard (right answer: **B**). Inside the Station there's already a library with dvds, books, cds and other multimedia material to help the astronauts chilling out during the few free moments allowed by their busy schedule.

21. For many years, in the belgian city of Bruges has been held a festival devoted to snow and ice sculptures (right answer: **A**).

The 2008 edition contemplated a series of artworks inspired to magic and, of course, a tribute to the most magical tale of all times couldn't be missed out: for example, there have been on display iced statues of Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore, 'magical' animals like cats and snakes and even striking tools like broomsticks, skulls and ancient magic books illuminated by peculiar chandeliers made of ... ice crystals! Globally, to bring these frozen wonders to life, fourty artists have been using three hundred tons of ice and four hundred tons of fresh snow.

The exhibition, inaugurated on November the 20th, has been kept open until the 11th of January of the following year.

25. The highest bet accepted for Cho Chang was one hundred pounds and many people wagered at least half of that sum (right answer: **C**). The bettors were so numerous to force the bookmakers to downgrade the ratings for the ex Harry Potter sweetheart, decreasing from an «eight against one» to a «three against one». At a later stage, after the theft of a copy of the 'Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince' book, which took place one and a half month before the official publication, the trend had changed and an avalanche of bets had been poured on Dumbledore: at that point the bookmakers blocked the bet, because it was clear there had been a leak.

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