

## Literacy heroes 文坛英雄

Vocabulary: literature 文学

Are you a **bookworm**? Is your head permanently stuck in a book? If so, that's a good thing. There are many benefits to reading. Getting into a good **novel** improves our **literacy**. But who or what encourages us to pick up a book and start reading?

Of course, when we are young, our parents and teachers inspire us by introducing us to **characters** that we love - or love to hate. And there are the **authors** - the people who invent and write about these characters. Good writing can really **capture our imagination**.



*Is your head always in a book?*

As a child, I loved books written by Roald Dahl, such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and The Twits. These **fictional** stories were funny, twisted and slightly **sinister**. These books are popular with children even today, despite competition from contemporary authors.

One modern-day children's author is J.K. Rowling, who's known for her books about the wizard, Harry Potter. Last year she was named as a '**literacy hero**' for her part in improving people's love of reading. The UK's National Literacy Trust awarded her the title for "turning a generation of children into readers."

The Trust also honoured schoolchildren, a **librarian** and teachers for their effort in trying to get people to read. The actor, Henry Winkler, who has **dyslexia**, was also named for the books he has written about a boy with learning difficulties.

Reading books is more than an enjoyable pastime; it can also help people in difficult circumstances. The author Pat Winslow worked as a writer in prisons and found reading and discussing stories helped prisoners reflect on their patterns of behaviour. She says "Very often we would have discussions about **the moral compass** of a character, what was the **motivation** of somebody, why did they behave that way?"

Today I like to read **factual** books such as **biographies**, where you get an insight into the lives of important and well-known people. I also enjoy looking at travel books and learning about journeys and new destinations. It's a good substitute if you can't visit in person.

But the main benefit of reading is the improvement it brings to our literacy. The more we do it, the better we get and who knows - one day you may become the next Tolstoy, Jackie Collins or even William Shakespeare. Who are your favourite authors - and which are your favourite books?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. True or false? *A fictional story is one that is not true.*
2. Name a children's author mentioned in this article.
3. What do you call a medical condition affecting the brain that makes it difficult for someone to read and spell words correctly?
4. Why was the author J.K. Rowling called a 'literacy hero'?
5. True or false? *A biography is a book about a person who is not alive any more.*

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My girlfriend is such a \_\_\_\_\_. I can't have a conversation with her because she's always reading!

bookend	bookworm	booking	paperback
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2. The author Ian Fleming's most famous \_\_\_\_\_ is the British spy, James Bond.

biography	librarian	motivation	character
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3. John told us about how he survived a shipwreck but I don't believe him. Most of what he tells us is just \_\_\_\_\_.

fact	fiction	sinister	literature
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4. The love stories in the \_\_\_\_\_ by Jane Austen always make my wife cry.

novels	comics	magazines	papers
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5. This year I decided I would get fit and train to run in the London Marathon but I just can't get the \_\_\_\_\_ to do it.

motivate	motivating	motivation	motor mouth
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## **Answers and Glossary** 答案与词汇

### **Quiz** 小测验

1. True or false? *A fictional story is one that is not true.*  
**Answer:** True.
2. Name a children's author mentioned in this article.  
**Answer:** Roald Dahl or J.K. Rowling.
3. What do you call a medical condition affecting the brain that makes it difficult for someone to read and spell words correctly?  
**Answer:** Dyslexia.
4. Why was the author J.K. Rowling called a 'literacy hero'?  
**Answer:** For turning a generation of children into readers.
5. True or false? *A biography is a book about a person who is not alive any more.*  
**Answer:** False. It is the life story of a person written by someone else.

### **Exercise** 练习

1. My girlfriend is such a **bookworm**. I can't have a conversation with her because she's always reading!
2. The author Ian Fleming's most famous **character** is the British spy, James Bond.
3. John told us about how he survived a shipwreck but I don't believe him. Most of what he tells us is just **fiction**.
4. The love stories in the **novels** by Jane Austen always make my wife cry.
5. This year I decided I would get fit and train to run in the London Marathon but I just can't get the **motivation** to do it.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>bookworm</b>	书呆子, 书虫
<b>novel</b>	小说
<b>literacy</b>	读写能力
<b>characters</b>	人物
<b>authors</b>	作者
<b>capture our imagination</b>	捕捉想象力
<b>fictional</b>	虚构的
<b>sinister</b>	阴险的, 凶兆的
<b>literacy hero</b>	文坛英雄
<b>librarian</b>	图书馆员
<b>dyslexia</b>	阅读障碍
<b>the moral compass</b>	道德指南针
<b>motivation</b>	动力
<b>factual</b>	真实的、与事实有关的
<b>biographies</b>	传记