

It is a dark November evening in 2001 and Dan Radcliffe is very nervous. He is only twelve, but he is famous. The first Harry Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, is at the cinema for the first time. 10,000 people are waiting in the street, near the cinema in London. They all want to see the actors; they all want to see Dan.

In the dark cinema, the film starts. Dan watches – and there he is! That night, the people in the cinema see the new face of the boy with the glasses. After that, for many people, Daniel Radcliffe – Dan to his friends and family – is Harry Potter.

J.K. Rowling's books are very famous, and Daniel Radcliffe is the face of Harry Potter. But who is the young actor? And is there a life for him after the films?

### **Life Before Harry Potter**

Today, people in many countries know the young film actor's name and face. But how did he start? Did he always want to be an actor? And what did he do before Harry Potter?

On 23 July 1989, Daniel Radcliffe comes into the world. His mother and father live in London. His father works with writers, and his mother works with actors. She knows about the lives of child actors; sometimes their lives can be very difficult. Dan's mother and father don't want a child actor in the house; they want a normal, happy child. Daniel *is* normal. He has a normal life at school. One year he is in a school play. He plays the part of an animal!



**Young Daniel in  
David Copperfield**

Because of their jobs, Dan's mother and father know a lot of people in film and television. One of them wants to make a television film of Charles Dickens's famous book *Oliver Twist* and he has an important question for the Radcliffe family. Does Dan want to act in the film? His mother and father say no. But then a family friend comes to the Radcliffes. Does Dan want to be in a BBC television series of Dickens's book *David Copperfield*?

This time, Dan's mother and father say yes. Dan goes and talks to the director of the series. Then he has an audition for the part. He has five auditions, and then...the answer is yes! On television, Dan is the new David Copperfield.

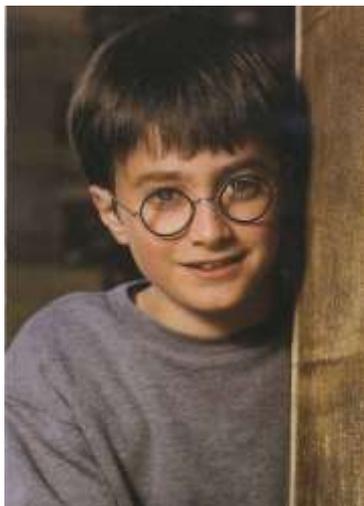
This is Dan's first job, and he is only ten at the time. He is nervous on the first day because actors are in the series. One of them is Maggie Smith. Later, Dan is going to work with her again in the Harry Potter films; she plays the teacher Minerva McGonagall.

The first part of *David Copperfield* is on television in Britain on 25 December 2000 – Christmas Day. People love it, and they love the young actor with the big blue eyes.

After *David Copperfield*, Dan works on a Hollywood film, *The Tailor of Panama*. Again, he works with very famous actors. American Jamie Lee Curtis and Australian Geoffrey Rush are his mother and father in the film. Jamie has a book with her on the film set. It is a children's book about a young wizard ... Harry Potter. In her book, writer J.K. Rowling says, 'Harry has a thin face ... black hair and green eyes.'

Dan's eyes are blue, not green. But, for Jamie, young Dan is the right actor for the job in a Harry Potter film. She talks about this to Dan's mother.

## The Young Wizard



**Daniel in his  
Harry Potter glasses**

In 1997, J.K. Rowling's first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, arrives in the book shops. Readers love this story of a young wizard's first year at Hogwarts School. Now people in many countries know about Harry Potter.

One of these people is film maker David Heyman. David is British, but at this time he is working with people in Los Angeles. He wants to make a film of J.K. Rowling's book and he starts to talk to writers and directors.

Readers wait for book two in the series, and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* arrives in 1998. Children love this book – and book three, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Their mothers and fathers love the stories, too; 40% of J.K. Rowling's readers are not children. For the first time, many children like putting on their glasses because of Harry Potter!

In Los Angeles, David Heyman has a writer, Steve Kloves, and a director, Chris Columbus. There is a lot of money for the film of the first Harry Potter book ... but no Harry Potter.

The film makers don't want a famous actor. They want a 'new face', and they want a British child. A lot of young actors have auditions for the part, but the film makers can't find the right child.

Then, one night, Heyman and Kloves go to a play in London. There is a family behind them – the Radcliffes, with their son, Daniel. Columbus and Kloves know Dan's father and they start to talk to him about Harry Potter film.

The day after that, Dan visits the film set. Then he has an audition for the part of Harry Potter. Dan is very nervous, but he goes for two auditions after this. Then they telephone him – Dan has the job. He is the new Harry Potter! He is very happy and doesn't sleep well that night.

Now a very important person watches a short film of Dan's acting – writer J.K. Rowling. She is happy with the young actor in the part. After that, Dan reads her books again. He wants to understand Harry very well.



**Emma, Daniel and Rupert**

They start to film in September 2000, in England. On the first day, there are a lot of actors and workers on the set and Dan is very nervous. But he isn't the only young actor there.

Rupert Grint is playing Harry Potter's friend, Ron Weasley. Rupert is eleven, too. Emma Watson – Harry's clever friend Hermione Granger in the story – is only ten. This is Rupert and Emma's first film. The three children are quickly good friends.

Film makers often work very long days. But child actors can't work all day because they have school work. For 130 days, the young actors work on the set of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and do their school work, too. In that time, Dan doesn't often see his old school friends on weekdays. But he likes his new friends, Rupert and Emma, and the three young actors have a good time.

Dan likes acting with the special effects. He likes the part of the film with the game of Quidditch. But life on a film set isn't always interesting for actors. For a lot of time, they sit and wait. Sometimes Dan listens to music and sometimes he watches films at these times. He likes playing jokes on the set, too. Sometimes Rupert and Emma play jokes on him.

## I. ACTIVITIES

### *Before you read*

1. Look at the Word List. What are the words in your language?
2. Talk about these questions.

- A What do you know about Daniel Radcliffe?
- B What do you know about the Harry Potter books and films?
- C Why do many people love the Harry Potter stories?

### *While you read*

3. Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

- A Daniel Radcliffe's mother and father work with writers.
- B Dan lives in London.
- C Dan's mother wanted him to act in *Oliver Twist*.
- D *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was Dan's first film.
- E Dan didn't audition for Harry Potter.
- F Dan was nervous on the first day on the set of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

### *After you read*

4. Work with two friends.

**Student A:** You are David Heyman. You want Dan to be Harry Potter. Talk to the Radcliffes.

**Student B:** You are Dan's mother or father. You want a normal, happy son. Talk to David Heyman, and to Dan.

**Student C:** You are Dan. You want to be in the film. Talk to your mother/father and David Heyman.

### WORD LIST with example sentences

**act** (v) She *acted* in her first film in 2002.

**audition** (n) A lot of people wanted to be in the film. They all went to the *auditions*.

**director** (n) Was Chris Columbus the *director* of the film *Home Alone*?

**dog** (n) I walk with my *dog* every day.

**glasses** (n pl) I can't read this. Where are my *glasses*?

**joke** (n) She smiled at the *joke*.

**kiss** (n) Say goodbye to your mother and give her a *kiss*.

**life** (n) She's got a good job and she goes to a lot of new places. She's got an interesting *life*.

**naked** (adj) The little boy was *naked* because it was a very hot day.

**nervous** (adj) I was *nervous* before my first day at school.

**normal** (adj) On a *normal* day, I get up at seven, but in the holidays I sleep!

**part** (n) The first *part* of the film is very good.

Daniel Radcliffe was right for the *part* of Harry Potter.

**play** (n/v) You can usually see one of Shakespeare's *plays* in London.

Dame Maggie Smith *played* one of Harry's teachers in the film.

**series** (n) It's a very good television *series*. I watch it every week.

**set** (n) They make the films on a *set* in London.

**special effects** (n pl) The special effects in King Kong were very good.

**stage** (n) After five films, he wants to be on the *stage* again.

**teenage** (adj) My *teenage* sister always listens to music in her room.

**wizard** (n) Merlin is a famous *wizard* in stories.

**world** (n) He likes going to new places. He wants to go to every country in the *world*.

## II. ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

### While reading

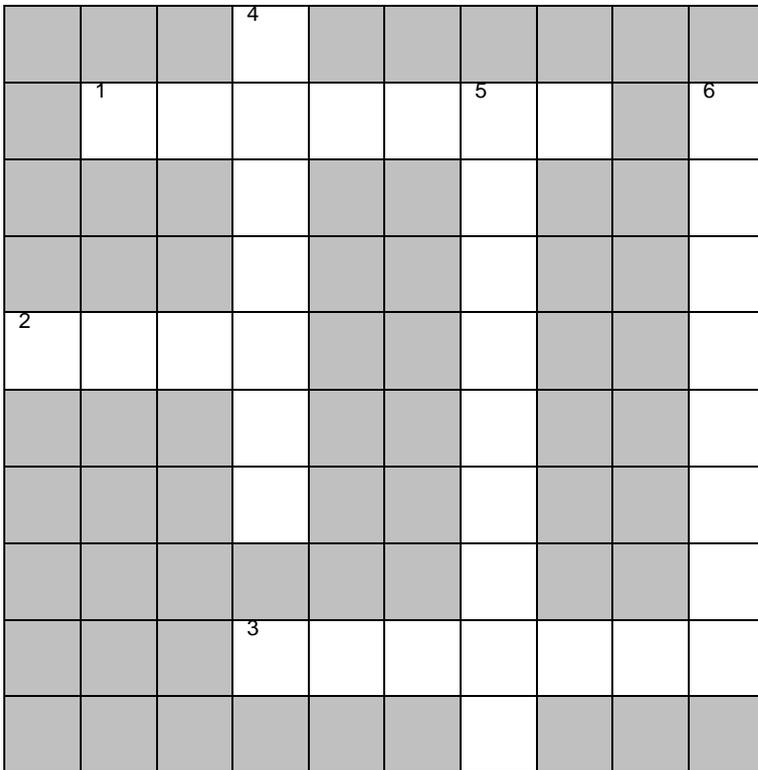
#### 1. Write the correct name.

An Australian actor, **(a)** \_\_\_\_\_, plays Radcliffe's father in *The Tailor of Panama*.  
**(b)** \_\_\_\_\_ thinks that Radcliffe is the right actor for Harry Potter.  
**(c)** \_\_\_\_\_, a filmmaker in Los Angeles, has a writer, **(d)** \_\_\_\_\_,  
 and a film director, **(e)** \_\_\_\_\_ for *Harry Potter*. **(f)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 is eleven years old and **(g)** \_\_\_\_\_ is ten years old. They are in the film, too.

#### 2. What does Radcliffe do on the set when he is not working? Write ✓ next to the right answers and ✗ next to the wrong answers.

- A listens to music \_\_\_\_\_
- B watches TV \_\_\_\_\_
- C watches films \_\_\_\_\_
- D reads books \_\_\_\_\_
- E plays jokes \_\_\_\_\_
- F does homework \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Complete the crossword puzzle.



#### Across

- 1 David Heyman's nationality.
- 2 Radcliffe's eyes are \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Radcliffe likes acting with the special \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Down

- 4 Radcliffe works on a BBC television series of one of \_\_\_\_\_'s books.
- 5 The director starts making the first Harry Potter film in the month of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 When he is working on the set, Radcliffe doesn't see his old school friends on \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4. Write the number of ....

- A auditions that Radcliffe did for the part in *David Copperfield*. \_\_\_\_\_
- B days that Radcliffe worked on the set of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. \_\_\_\_\_
- C years between the year at first Harry Potter book arrives in the book shops and the year the film is made. \_\_\_\_\_

# Teacher's Notes

## Summary

*Daniel Radcliffe* offers interesting information about the life and work of this young actor, who became world famous after starring as the main character in the Harry Potter saga. The book also talks about the filmmakers, writers and actors who were involved in the films.

This section of the book narrates how Daniel Radcliffe started his acting career in a television series of Dickens's *David Copperfield* and was later chosen to play the role of Harry Potter in a film that soon became a box office hit.

## Background and themes

**Child actors:** Daniel Radcliffe stars in the films based on J.K. Rowling's popular novels about a young wizard, Harry Potter. Following the enormous popularity of the books, the films were smash hits that made Radcliffe immensely famous and rich.

The young actor, who first played Harry Potter when he was eleven, is now an adolescent who, in spite of his fame, manages to live a relatively normal life and is still uncertain about what he wants to do in the future.

## III. DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES

### *Before reading*

**1. Guess:** Read the following sentences to students. They say whether they think they are true or false.

**A** Radcliffe's parents worked with writers and actors.

**B** *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was Radcliffe's first work.

**C** J.K. Rowling wanted another actor for Harry Potter.

### *After reading*

#### **2. Discuss:**

Tell students: *Is there a life for Daniel Radcliffe after the films?*

Ask them: *Can famous child actors live a normal life? Why / why not?*

**3. Role play:** Students imagine that they are Radcliffe's father and mother. They have a conversation about letting him act in the television film *Oliver Twist*.

#### **4. Artwork; game.**

##### **A game of dominoes**

Students search the Internet for pictures of the actors mentioned in this section of the book. They print them, make copies and then make **a game of dominoes** (see answer key).

The class plays the game, with an extra rule: Students must say something about the person/s in the picture before they can use a domino block.

**5. Pair work:** In pairs, students **solve this problem**. Ask them: *What is the number that you get?*

Date when the first part of *David Copperfield* is on TV in Britain x 4 + date of Radcliffe's birthday + year that Chris Columbus starts to film *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* – year Radcliffe was born + [(year that Chris Columbus starts to film *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* – year that *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* arrives) x 2] = .....

## ANSWER KEYS

### I. Book key

1-2. Open answers

3.

- A ✗
- B ✓
- C ✗
- D ✗
- E ✗
- F ✓

4. Open answers

### II. Activity worksheet key

1.

- A Geoffrey Rush
- B Jamie Lee Curtis
- C David Heyman
- D Steve Kloves
- E Chris Columbus
- F Rupert Grint
- G Emma Watson

2.

- A ✓
- B ✗
- C ✓
- D ✗
- E ✓
- F ✗

3.

			<sup>4</sup> D						
	<sup>1</sup> B	R	I	T	I	<sup>5</sup> S	H		<sup>6</sup> W
			C			E			E
			K			P			E
<sup>2</sup> B	L	U	E			T			K
			N			E			D
			S			M			A
						B			Y
			<sup>3</sup> E	F	F	E	C	T	S
						R			

4.

- A 5
- B 130
- C 3

### Teacher's notes

### III. Discussion activities key

1.

- A T
- B F
- C F

2-3. Open answers

### 4. A Game of Dominoes

#### *Instructions:*

Each picture is photocopied several times and students make the dominoes by sticking two different pictures on pieces of paper so that each **domino** has two pictures on it.

Dominoes are distributed among players and one is placed on the table.

In turns, players place one of their dominoes next to the ones on the table.

A domino can be placed next to another only when it has the same picture on it.

The first player to run out dominoes wins.

5.

$$25 \times 4 + 23 + 2000 - 1989 - [(2000 - 1998) \times 2] \\ = 134 - 4 = 130:$$

number of days that Radcliffe worked on the set of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.