



Daniel Radcliffe

Vicky Shipton



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.

Pages 1–7: 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.

Pages 8–13: This section of the book gives details about the Harry Potter films that followed and about Radcliffe's work on TV, in the theatre and in other films. It also offers some information about Radcliffe's relatively 'normal' life.

Background and themes

Child actors: Daniel Radcliffe stars in the films based on JK 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.

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

- Guess:** Read the following sentences to students. They say whether they think they are true or false.
 - Radcliffe's parents worked with writers and actors.
 - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was Radcliffe's first work.
 - JK Rowling wanted another actor for Harry Potter.

After reading

- 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?*
- 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*.
- Artwork; game:** 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 block.
- 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 $\times 4$ + 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) $\times 2$] =

Pages 8–15

Before reading

- Guess:** Read the following question to students. They listen and write their answer, and then check when they read. *In 2001 Radcliffe worked on Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Two years after this he worked on Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. One year before this he worked in a play in London. Three years after this, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is in the cinemas. The director started this film one year before. When did the filmmakers start to film Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire?*

After reading

- Role play:** Divide the class into two groups. One group is going to be reporters, and the other group is going to be Radcliffe. Reporters prepare questions about Radcliffe's work. The Radcliffes study information about the films. Then, in pairs, a reporter asks a Radcliffe questions. The Radcliffes answer with books closed. The pair that has most correct answers after five minutes of interview wins.
- Write:** Students write Radcliffe's CV. They include personal information and all the jobs he has had.
- Pair work:** In pairs, students make lists of the things that Radcliffe does like any other normal teenager and the things that happen to him or that he does because he is a famous teenager. Then remind students of their ideas in activity 2 and ask them if they have changed their opinion after reading the book.

Vocabulary activities

For the Word List and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.