

While you listen

The *Britain is Great* series tells you about some of the things that make Britain so great. There's a lot of fun facts – and lots of good language, too. See if you can answer the questions while you watch the video.

Comprehension Task 1 - What's the main message of the video?

- a) J.K. Rowling has revitalised British literature by becoming the most successful writer of her generation.
- b) Britain has produced, and continues to produce, many talented and well-known writers.
- c) The British literary tradition is arguably the most influential in the world.

Comprehension Task 2 - Choose the best answer according to the video.

1. What do George Orwell, C.S. Lewis, Tolkien and J.K. Rowling have in common?

- a) They all wrote books that were aimed at children or teenagers.
- b) They all wrote books that have been made into films.
- c) They all invented iconic characters.
- d) All of the above are true.

2. What does the video say about Leadenhall Market?

- a) It's a six-hundred-year-old covered market.
- b) It's where part of the Harry Potter films were made.
- c) You can buy Harry Potter souvenirs there.
- d) All of the above are true.

3. According to Amanda Craig, J.K. Rowling is important to literature because...

- a) she's encouraged people to read in English.
- b) she's read all over the world.
- c) she knows how to tell a good story.
- d) All of the above are true.

4. What do Philip Pullman, Anthony Horowitz and Cressida Cowell have in common?

- a) They all write books aimed at children.
- b) They all write fantasy books.
- c) They've all had books made into films.
- d) All of the above are true.

5. According to Amanda Craig, Britain produces good writers because...

- a) Britain has a tradition of great writers.
- b) British people are interested in other people.
- c) British people speak English.
- d) All of the above are true.

Language Task 1 - Put the words in the spaces to make sentences from the video.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| a) adapted | e) translated |
| b) draw | f) over |
| c) edge | g) shivers |
| d) ground | h) throughout |

- I've been told that if I walk _____ here, something magical will happen.
- The Harry Potter films were _____ from the children's novels of J.K. Rowling.
- Over 450 million copies of the Harry Potter books have been sold _____ the world.
- They've been _____ into seventy-two different languages.
- She's made people in every country laugh, cry and sit on the _____ of their seats.
- Why is Britain such a breeding _____ for writing talent?
- We've got people like Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare to _____ upon.
- We want to make them feel _____ up their spine.

Language Task 2 - Amanda Craig talks about some living British writers, including Philip Pullman. Read the paragraph about him, and put the verbs in the right form. Use passive forms where necessary.

For the past forty years, Philip Pullman (1) _____ (enchant) young people with his fantasy novels. He (2) _____ (write) over twenty children's novels, but (3) _____ (be) best known for his trilogy, His Dark Materials, which (4) _____ (sell) over fifteen million copies to date. The first book in the trilogy, which (5) _____ (publish) as The Golden Compass in the USA, (6) _____ (make) into a film in 2007. It (7) _____ (star) Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, and (8) _____ (win) an Academy Award for visual effects. The trilogy (9) _____ (win) numerous prizes, including the Whitbread Book of the Year Award in 2002 - the first time the prize (10) _____ (give) to a children's book. His work (11) _____ (translate) into thirty-seven languages.

Comprehension Task 1: b;
Language Task 1: 1. f; 2. a; 3. h; 4. e; 5. c; 6. d; 7. b; 8. g
Language Task 2: 1. has enchanted/has been enchanting; 2. has written; 3. is; 4. has sold; 5. was published; 6. was made; 7. starred/stars; 8. won; 9. has won; 10. was given/has been given/had been given; 11. has been translated; 12. lives

Comprehension Task 2: 1. b; 2. b; 3. c; 4. a; 5. d