

World Book Day Statistics: Information On The UK's Love Of Books

When did World Book Day start?

The first ever World Book Day took place on April 23rd, 1995. The event was created by UNESCO as a way to celebrate both books and their authors.

April 23rd 1995

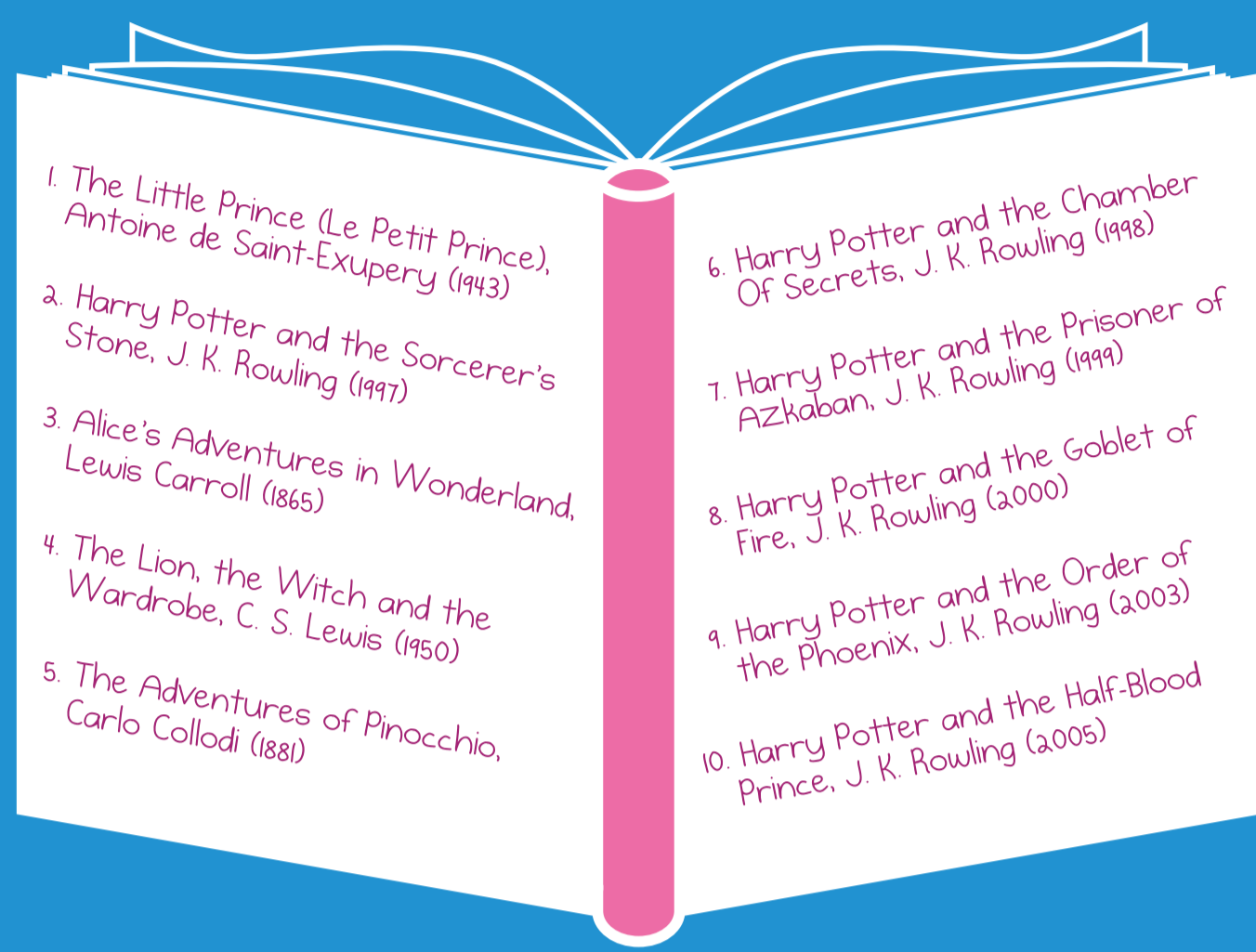
When was the first book published in the UK?

1473

Back in 1473, the first book was published in the UK. William Caxton was the first to use a printing press to produce his book 'The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye'. The book contained a compilation of stories about the Trojan Wars by Raoul Lefèvre, originally written in French.

Bestselling Children's Books of all time

Unsurprisingly, the **Harry Potter series** dominates this list having become a literary phenomenon and enjoyed incredible success at the box office too.



Books and Movies...

Many, many films have drawn their inspirations from books or are adaptations for the big screen. When it comes to critically-acclaimed films, we've found that

46% of the winners of the Oscar for Best Picture have been published books before being re-worked for cinema.

Included in the 42-strong list of winners based on books:

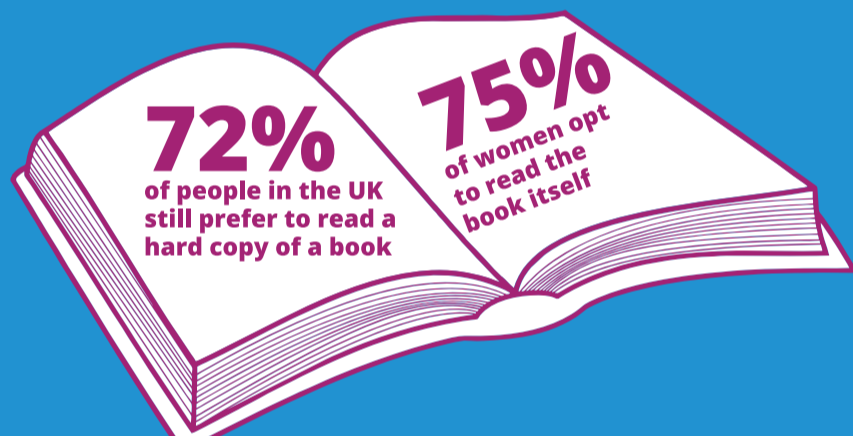
Spotlight

- 12 Years A Slave
- Lord Of The Rings: Return of the King
- Schindler's List
- The Bridge On The River Kwai

How we took in books

A 2021 Cartridge People study found that **72% of people in the UK** still preferred to read a hard copy of a book as opposed to using an e-reader, tablet or listening to an audiobook. One in five though did say that they now take in a book on a screen.

When it comes to enjoying hard copies of books over other versions, women are far more likely to pick up a hardback or paperback. Our findings showed that over **75% of women** opted to read the book itself.

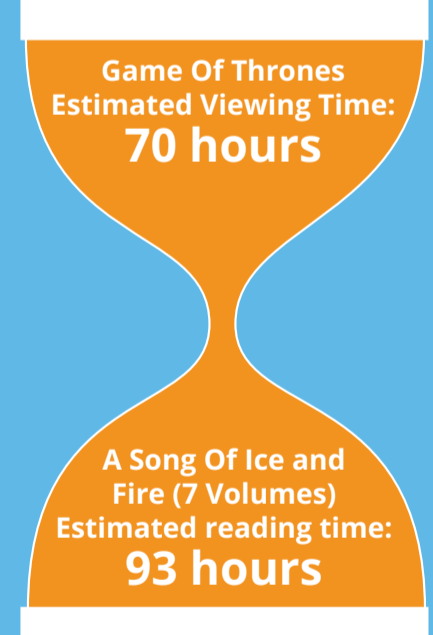


Audiobook statistics

According to our findings in 2021, **one in 10 people in the 18-44** age group preferred to listen to an audiobook and only **6% of over 55's** took in a novel through their earphones.

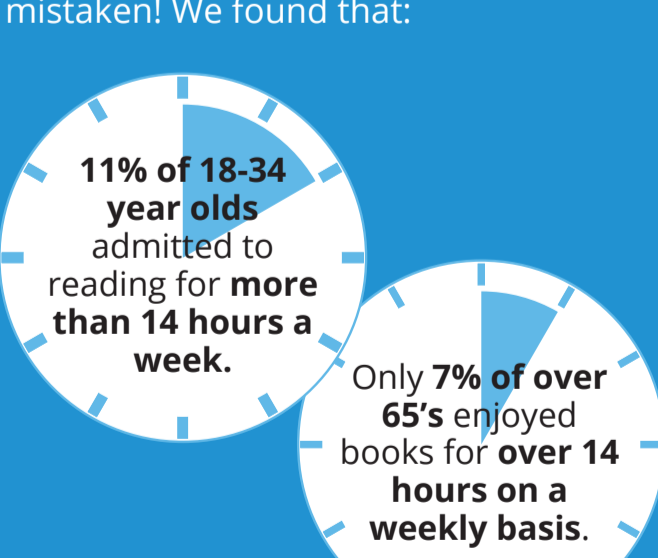
A debate can often be between whether to watch a dramatisation of a book or to sit down and read the book itself. You'll often hear people say that a film didn't do the book justice and vice versa. Usually it can be a case of judging what to do based on time, with watching seen by many as the "quicker" of the activities.

There are some dramatisations though that can give word counts in the actual book a run for their money, as highlighted here...

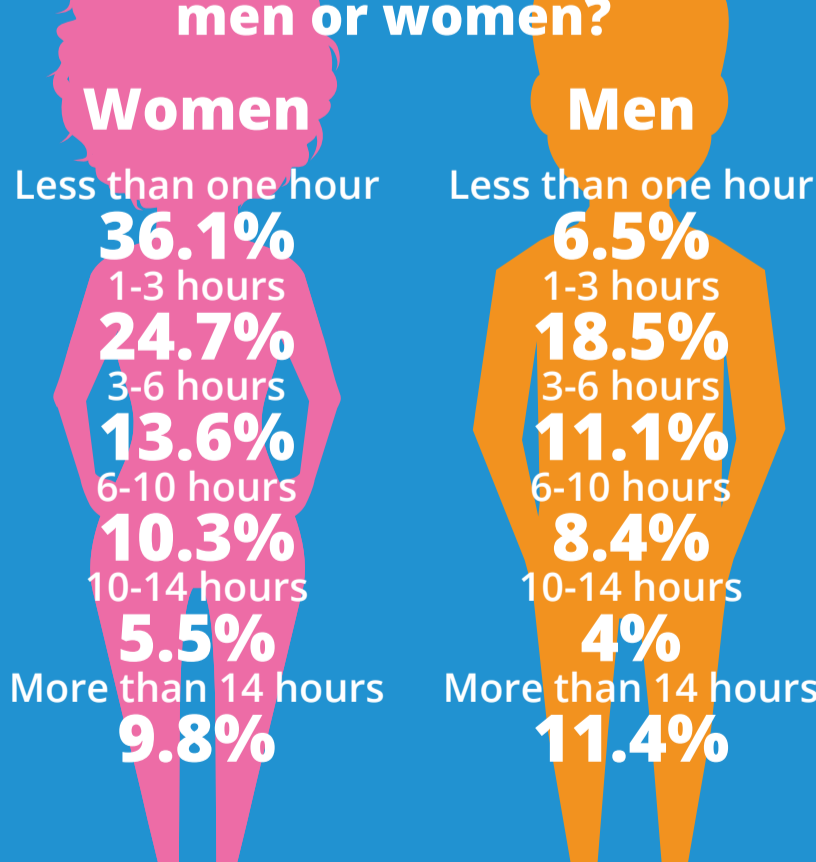


Time we spent reading

In 2021, **41% of Brits** were reading books for less than one hour a week on average (according to a Cartridge People study). However, it was also found that **more than one in ten** were reading for **more than 14 hours**, proving that reading was still a pastime for many. If you thought that reading (or listening to audiobooks) was something that occupied the time more of the older generation, you're mistaken! We found that:



Who read for longer during the week, men or women?



How the pandemic affected our reading habits

There's no doubt that the events of 2020 had an influence in the nation's reading habits. With various lockdowns and the lack of time spent doing other hobbies due to coronavirus restrictions, we asked people in February 2021 about their reading habits compared to 12 months earlier (prior to the pandemic).

33% stated that they were reading more than they were in February 2020.

This number was much higher though in the **over 65** age group with **41%**

telling us that they now spent more time enjoying books (whether that be hard copies, e-readers or audiobooks).

Sources:
www.cartridgepeople.com/info/blog/world-book-day-statistics
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