

John Grisham - His first novel, 'A Time to Kill', was declined by fifteen publishers and some thirty agents. His novels have more than 60 million copies in print.

William Golding - "Lord of the Flies" 21 publishers rejected this manuscript

Mary Higgins Clark - First Novel was rejected 40 times before selling her first story. One editor wrote: "Your story is light, slight, and trite." More than 30 million copies of her books are now in print.

Frank Herbert - Dune , after 17-20 rejections, this book became a spectacular success with a popular film version in 1956

J.K. Rowling - in 1990, JK Rowling had the idea for the first Harry Potter book during a train ride from Manchester to London. Lacking a pen and too shy to borrow one, she is forced to remember the details until the end of the trip. She starts writing the book in her spare time. In 1996 after many rejections, Rowling, who was living on welfare, before she found a publisher for "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," After a number of rejections, Rowling eventually sold Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone for the equivalent of about \$4,000 US. The book was published in the UK in 1997 and a year later renamed Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and published in the USA.

Norman Mailer's book The Naked and the Dead was rejected 12 times.

Alex Haley - Before Roots, his stories, received over 200 rejections on his other novels

Richard Bach - 'Jonathon Livingstone Seagull ' overnight success, after submitting a short story of 10,000 words to a New York publisher 6 months earlier, rang the bank and asked how much was in his account. A woman's voice informed him, to his amazement, that the balance in his account was four million, three hundred thousand dollars. He had been completely unaware that his manuscript had become a run-away best-seller.

Pearl S. Buck wrote The Good Earth, which was rejected 14 times, but it went on to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Joseph Heller, The first title of Catch-22 was Catch-18, but Simon and Schuster, changed the title. Why 22? Because Simon and Schuster was the 22nd publisher to read it. Catch-22 has become part of the language and has sold more than 10 million copies.

Robert Persig's classic, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, sent it to 121 publishing houses before it was accepted.

Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen wrote Chicken Soup for the Soul and 36 publishers rejected it, before it became a huge best-seller

Dr. Seuss's first book was rejected 24 times before it was accepted for publishing> Sales of his children's books have soared to 100 million.

Patrick Dennis novel Auntie Mame, It circulated for five years through the halls of fifteen publishers and finally ended up with Vanguard Press, which is the end of the alphabet. This illustrates why using the alphabet may be a logical but ineffective way to find the best agent or editor.