

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension Check: Exploring Expository Writing

Directions: After reading the article on Robert Louis Stevenson, answer the following questions using **complete sentences**.

Ex. Question: What are the names of Robert Louis Stevenson's parents?

Answer: Stevenson's parents were named Thomas and Margaret.

1. In what year was Robert Louis Stevenson born? (1pt)

2. How many brothers and sisters did Robert Louis Stevenson have? (1pt)

3. What year did Robert Louis Stevenson marry Fanny Osbourne? Why might his marriage be considered controversial? (2pts)

4. What are the names Fanny's children? (3pts)

5. What were two professions that Stevenson studied while in college? (2pts)

6. Where did he live with his family during the last years of his life? (1pt)

7. How old was Robert Louis Stevenson when he died? (1pt)

8. In what form is the information in this article arranged: (1pt)

a) problem/solution

b) cause/effect

c) compare/contrast

d) chronological

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Author Biography: Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish writer whose most famous works include: *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.



Robert's father, Thomas Stevenson, was a well-known lighthouse engineer in Edinburgh, Scotland. Thomas married Margaret Balfour and they had Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson on November 13, 1850. He later changed his name to Robert Louis Stevenson.

Robert had no siblings. Throughout his childhood he was plagued with frequent fevers and breathing problems and had a full-time nurse affectionately named "Cummie."

First attending school at the age of six, Stevenson's awkward nature made it difficult for him to make friends. He was a late reader, unable to read until the age of seven or eight. He often missed school due to illness and had private tutors. When Stevenson was seventeen, he attended the University of Edinburgh to study engineering like his father. He soon realized he held no interest in engineering, so his father encouraged him to study law. Although he graduated in 1875, he decided to become a writer instead of a lawyer.

Stevenson travelled and wrote about his adventures, even though he continued to become seriously ill. During one of his trips, he met an American woman named Fanny Osbourne, who was unhappily married and had three children (Isobel, Lloyd, and Hervey). Stevenson fell in love with her, and against the advice of friends and family, moved to California to be with her. She eventually divorced her husband and married Robert in 1880. Robert moved Fanny and the children to Great Britain to meet his parents. Between 1880-1887 Stevenson wrote his most famous works.

After his father died, Stevenson moved with his mother, wife and step-children to Colorado. After regaining his health, he decided to make a permanent home in the South Pacific where he spent the remainder of his years travelling with his family and writing. He died on December 3, 1894 at the age of forty-four.

Sources:

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