

Author Biography: Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson is a famous writer. He wrote *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson was born on November 13, 1850. He later changed his name to Robert Louis Stevenson. His parents were named Thomas Stevenson and Mary Balfour. Thomas was a lighthouse engineer. They lived in Edinburgh, Scotland.



Robert had no brothers or sisters. He became very sick when he was young. He was so sick he had a full-time nurse he called "Cummie."

He started school when he was 6. He did not have many friends. He could not read until he was 7 or 8 years old. He could not go to school when he was very sick. He had private tutors. When Stevenson was 17, he went to the University of Edinburgh. He studied engineering like his father. He did not like engineering. His father told him to study law. Robert listened to his father, but he did not like law. He wanted to be a writer. He graduated in 1875.

Stevenson travelled all over the world. He wrote about his trips. Travelling often made him sick. During one of his trips, he met an American woman named Fanny Osbourne. She was married. She had three children named Isobel, Lloyd, and Hervey. She was not happy with her husband. Robert Louis Stevenson fell in love with her. His friends and parents did not want him to date her because she was married. Robert didn't listen. He moved to California to be with her. She finally divorced her husband. Robert and Fanny married in 1880. Robert moved with Fanny and the children to Great Britain. They lived near his parents. Between 1880-1887 Stevenson wrote his most famous stories.

After his father died, Stevenson moved to Colorado with his mother, wife and step-children. His health was getting better. He decided to move to the South Pacific (the Samoan Islands). He lived there with his family for the rest of his life. He continued writing. He died on December 3, 1894 at the age of forty-four.

Sources:

"Robert Louis Stevenson Biography." Bio.com. Ed. Biography.com. A&E Networks Television, n.d. Web. 01 Jan. 2016.

"Robert Louis Stevenson Biography." Encyclopedia of World Biography. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Jan. 2016.

Wikipedia contributors. "Robert Louis Stevenson." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 29 Dec. 2015. Web. 1 Jan. 2016.



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)

- a) 1880
- b) 1875
- c) 1894
- d) 1850

2. Robert Louis Stevenson had _____ brothers and sisters. (1pt)

3. Why didn't Robert's friends and family want him to marry Fanny Osbourne?

- a) She was an American.
- b) She was married with 3 children.
- c) She was older than him.
- d) She made him sick.

4. Fanny's children are named _____, _____, and _____. (3pts)

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

- _____
- _____

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

- a) Hawaii
- b) Samoan Islands
- c) Scotland
- d) Great Britain

7. Robert Louis Stevenson was _____ years old when he died. (1pt)

