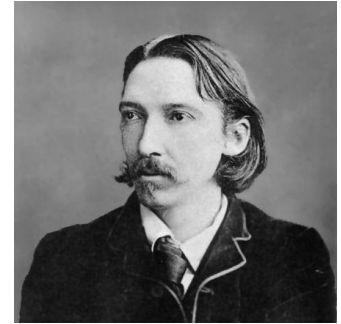


Author Biography: Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson is famous for writing *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Robert's father, was Thomas Stevenson. Thomas was a famous lighthouse engineer. Robert's mother was Margaret Balfour. Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson was born on November 13, 1850. He later changed his name to Robert Louis Stevenson.



Robert had no siblings. When Robert was young, he had many fevers and breathing problems. He was so sick he had a full-time nurse he called "Cummie."

He started school at the age of six and had a hard time making friends. He was unable to read until seven or eight years old. He often missed school because he was so sick, so he had private tutors. When Stevenson was seventeen, he went to the University of Edinburgh to study engineering like his father. He was not interested in engineering, so his father told him to study law. When he graduated in 1875, he decided to become a writer instead of a lawyer.

Stevenson travelled and wrote about his adventures. Travelling often made him sick. During one of his trips, he met an American woman named Fanny Osbourne. She was married and had three children (Isobel, Lloyd, and Hervey), but she was unhappy with her husband. Stevenson fell in love with her. His friends and parents did not want him to date a married woman. Robert still moved to California to be with her. She finally divorced her husband and married Robert in 1880. Robert moved with Fanny and the children to Great Britain to meet his parents. Between 1880-1887 Stevenson wrote his most famous stories.

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

Sources:

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

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

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)

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

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

