

Famous British Writers

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William Shakespeare (1564-1616)



William Shakespeare was one of the greatest and famous writers in human history. He was born in Stratford-on-Avon, a small town in the middle of England, in 1564. He began as a playwright and as an actor in London. He produced thirty seven plays at all. Most famous of his plays are Othello, King Lear, Hamlet, and Romeo and Juliet. William Shakespeare wrote also a lot of poetry including his wonderful sonnets.

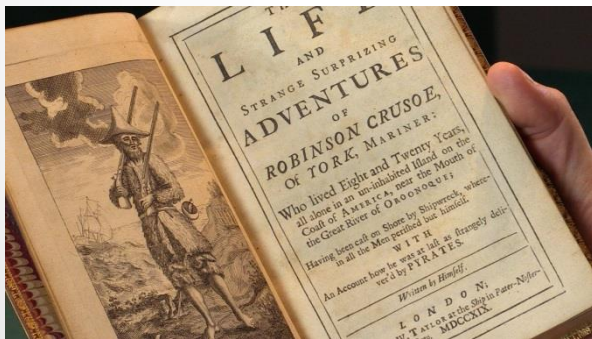


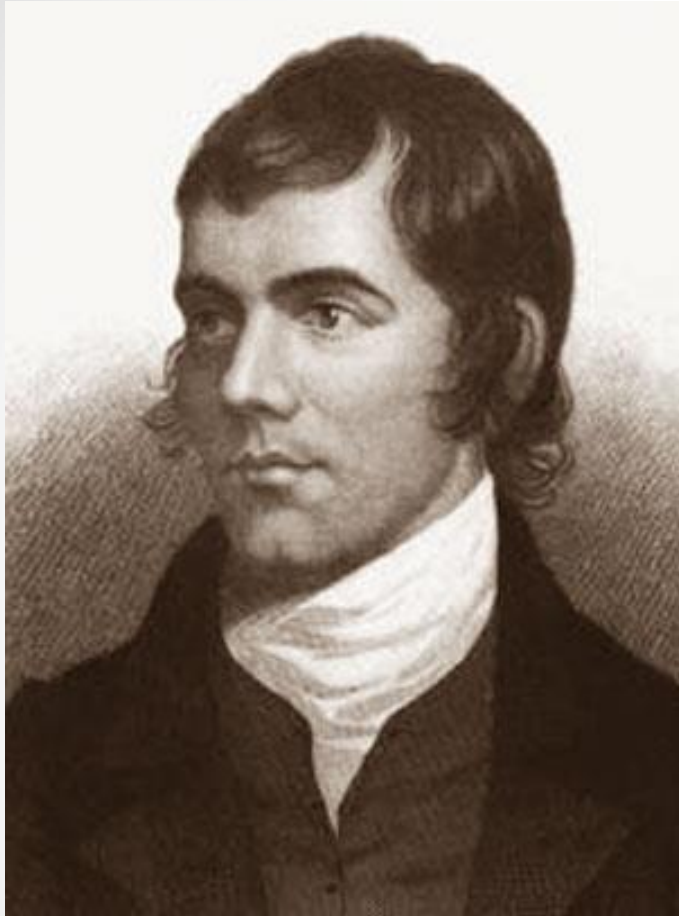


Daniel Defoe (1660-1731)

Defoe has been called the father of modern journalism; during his lifetime he was associated with 26 periodicals. He was nearly sixty when he turned to writing novels. In 1719 he published his famous *Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. The main hero spent 28 years on the island.

Robinson Crusoe describes the daily life of a man marooned on a desert island. Its main interest lies in the way in which Crusoe overcomes the extraordinary difficulties of life on the island.



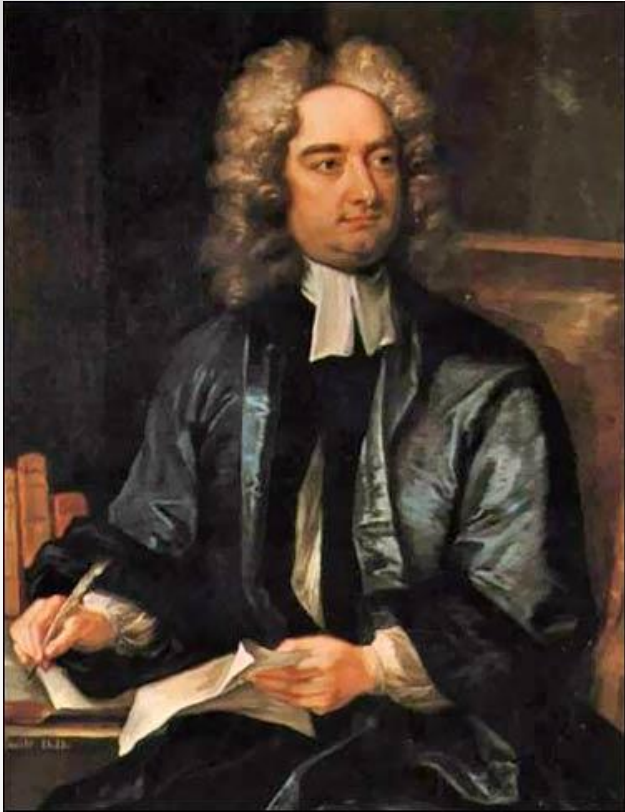


Robert Burns (1759-1796)

Robert Burns is a famous Scottish poet. His birthplace is Alloway in South West Scotland. He wrote hundreds of songs and poems. They are about country life, love and national life.

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

Jonathan Swift is a famous English writer, who was born in a poor family in Dublin, Ireland. He wanted the Irish people to be happy. He wrote satirical novels. The most famous novel is *Gulliver's Travels*. It is about England of his time.



Jane Austen (1775-1817)

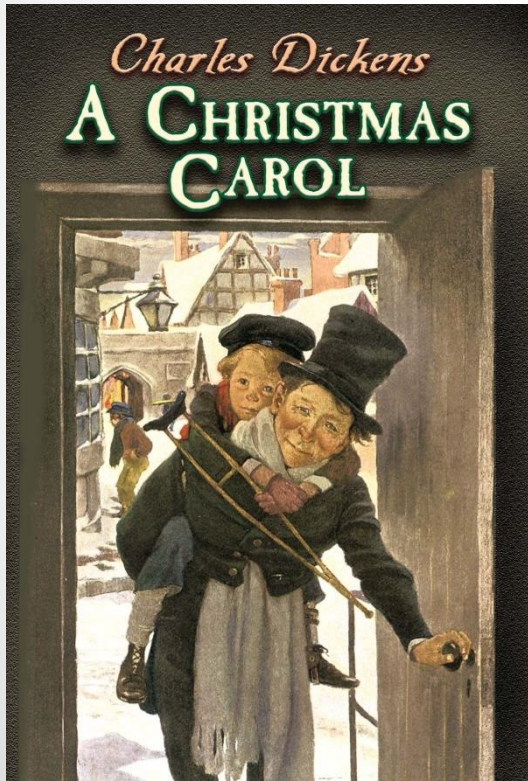


Jane Austen wrote about women in her time. She published her novels anonymously. Her books deal with the lives of the upper and middle classes in England. *Sense and Sensibility* came first, but all her books were a resounding success – *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion* – while *Pride and Prejudice* was famously described by Austen as her ‘darling child’ and remains a national favourite.



Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

From *A Christmas Carol* to *Oliver Twist*, it is difficult not to recognise one of Charles Dickens' iconic tales. The Victorian writer is quintessential of his time. He dealt with the struggles of contemporary life with unforgettable characters. Dickens was also a lover of theatre – both writing and performing – and performed for Queen Victoria in 1851.



Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855)



The eldest of the Brontë sisters, Charlotte outlived both her sisters and their successes. *Jane Eyre*, her most famous novel, created an enduring image of the wild moors of Yorkshire and introduced her criticism of society's treatment of women. She did not actively seek to defy the roles set for women at the time, as others like George Sand did, but used her words in a modest feminist stand against the times.

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)



Lewis Carroll was the pen-name of Charles L. Dodgson, the man who wrote a famous book for children "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". Charles L. Dodgson was born in England in 1832. Charles studied mathematics at Oxford and later taught this subject in the same college. Charles Dodgson had no family, but he loved children very much. He often visited his friend, there were three little girls in the family. One of them Alice, was four years old. Dodgson often told her interesting stories which he made up himself. When Alice Liddell was about ten years old, she asked Charles to write down the stories for her, and he did so. This hand-written book had many pictures made by Charles himself.



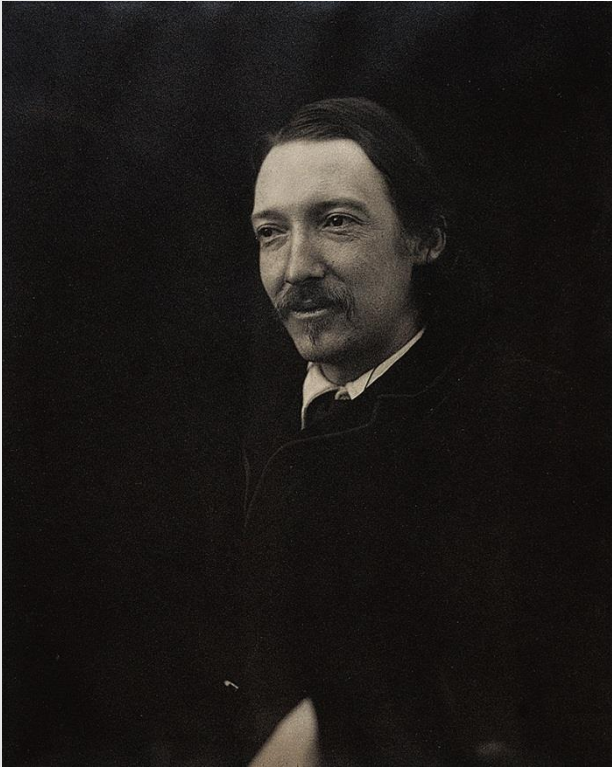
One day a friend of the Liddells, a writer, came to see the family. He saw the hand-written book made by Charles Dodgson and began to read it with a great interest. He read the book to the end and said that all the children in England must read it. The book came out in 1865 and all the people who read it liked it very much.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

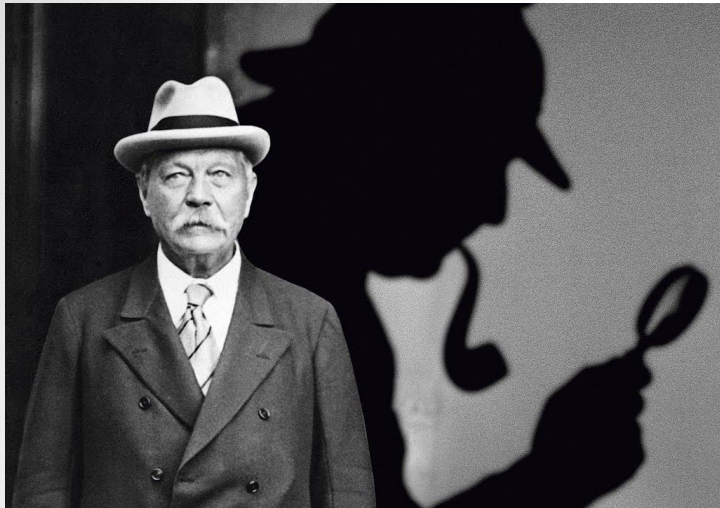
Robert Louis Stevenson was born in 1850 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The boy was often ill and during the cold winters stayed in the house. He had no brothers or sisters. Books were his only friends. Robert read very much. He read about other countries and drew maps of different places which he wanted to see. The boy wrote stories of adventures on the sea and told those stories to his parents.

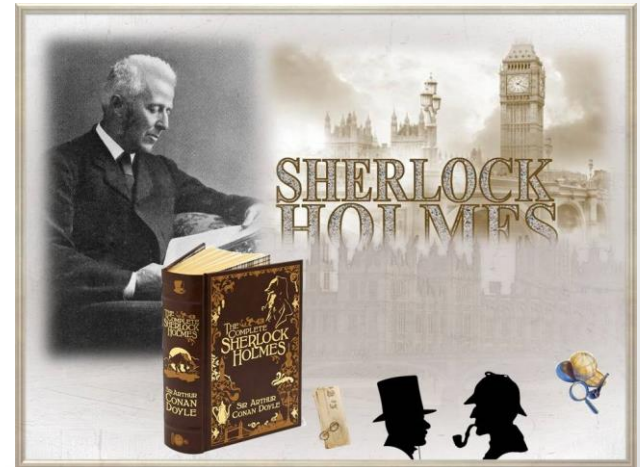
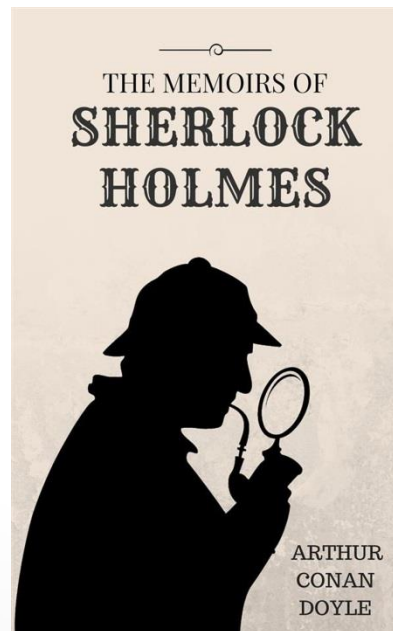
Stevenson went to the Edinburgh university for some time, then he travelled in different countries and wrote many stories. In 1883 Stevenson published his book "Treasure Island". Readers liked the book very much. In 1886 Stevenson published his book "Kidnapped". Then other books of adventures came out. The hobby of a small boy became his profession.



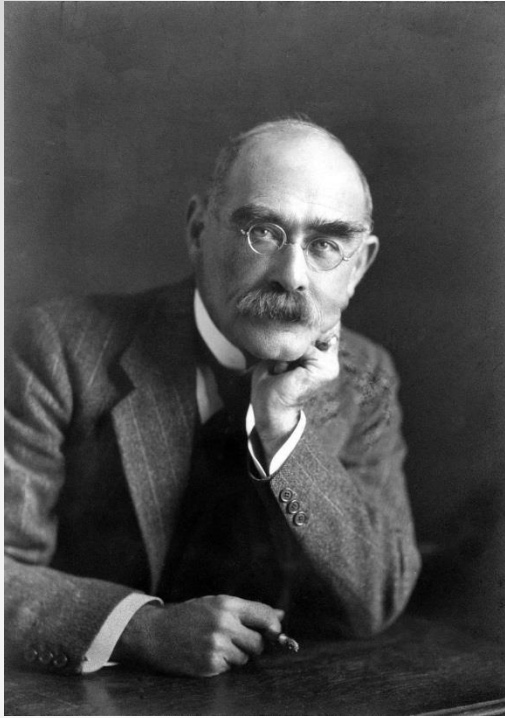
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 —1930)



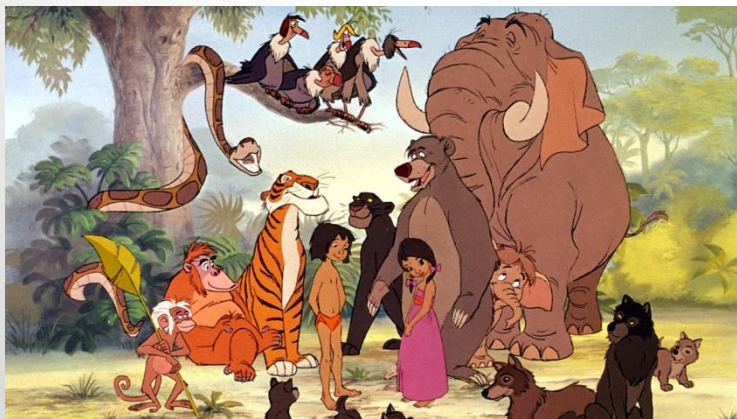
Conan Doyle is a great Scottish and English writer, the author of the well-known crime stories about Sherlock Holmes. He also wrote many adventure and science fiction stories.



Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)



Rudyard Kipling is one of the outstanding British writers. He was born in 1865 in the family of an Englishman in India. He got his education in England. He was one of the most popular writers of his time. During his life he visited South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. In October 1902 his "Just so Stories for Little Children" were published. Together with "The Jungle Book" it still enjoys great popularity. In 1907 Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize.



Alan Milne (1882 –1956)



Alan Alexander Milne) is an English author, best known for his books about the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh and for various poems. His only child was born in 1920. His name was Christopher Robin. Milne bought him a teddy bear for his first birthday. The teddy bear was soon named Winnie, after a real-life bear that lived in London Zoo. A. A. Milne wrote a lot of poems for Christopher Robin and about him.

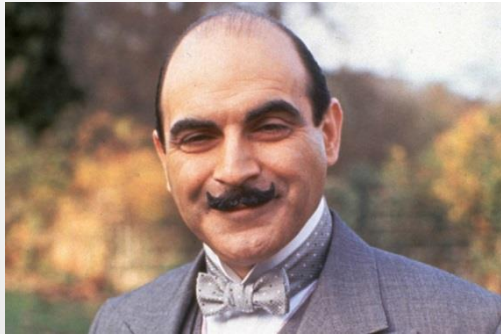


Milne was a noted writer, primarily as a playwright, before the huge success of Winnie-the-Pooh overshadowed all his previous work.



Agatha Christie (1890 –1976)

Agatha Christie is known all over the world as the Queen of Crime. She wrote 78 detective novels, 19 plays, and 6 romantic novels. Her books have been translated into 103 foreign languages. They are the third best-selling books in the world (after Shakespeare's works and the Bible). Many of her novels and short stories have been filmed. Agatha Christie's success with millions of readers lies in her ability to combine clever plots with excellent character drawing and a keen sense of humour with a great observation. Her plots always mislead the reader and keep him in suspense.



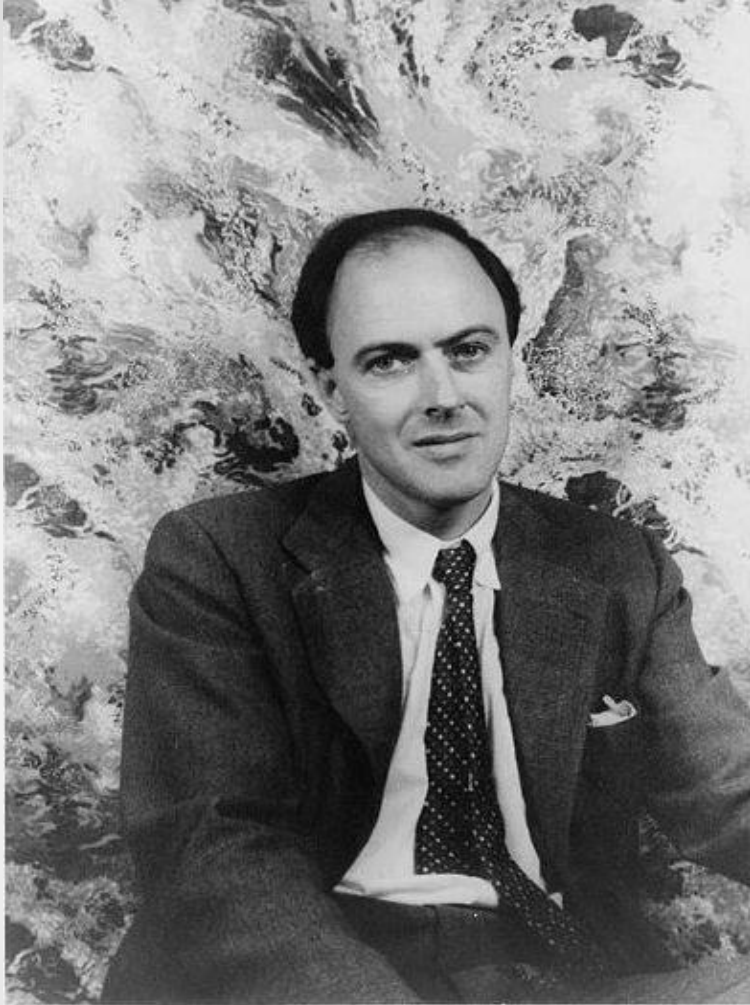
John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973)



J.R.R. Tolkien, an English novelist and scholar, won fame due to his original epic trilogy "The Lord of the Rings". This outstanding work consists of "The Fellowship of the Ring", "The Two Towers", and "The Return of the King". J.R.R. Tolkien was educated at Oxford and participated in World War I. He was a professor of the Anglo-Saxon and of the English language and literature (1945-59) at the University of Oxford.



The trilogy is remarkable for its fantasy types - elves, dwarves, hobbits - and it is regarded as a rare, successful modern version of the heroic epic. The film version of "The Lord of the Rings" came out in the year 2002. Its success was tremendous.



Roald Dahl

(1916 -1990)

Roald Dahl is one of the most popular writers of the books in Britain. He is a remarkable novelist and short story writer. His *Going Solo*, *Charlie* and *Chocolate Factory* are wonderful. He vividly describes his characters and develop fabulous stories.

J K Rowling (1965-present)



Joanne Kathleen Rowling is the author of her series about the teenage wizard, Harry Potter. Since the year Harry Potter was introduced to the world, he has become one of the most popular characters in the history of literature. Harry Potter fights the evil Voldemort, who was responsible for the death of his parents. All books were pictured on the screen. Harry has two best friends. Their names are Hermione and Ron. Here are the list of books about Harry Potter:

- *The Philosopher's Stone* (1997)
- *The Chamber of Secrets* (1998)
- *The Prisoner of Azkaban* (1999)
- *The Goblet of Fire* (2000)
- *The Order of the Phoenix* (2003)
- *The Half-Blood Prince* (2005)
- *The Deathly Hallows* (2007)

Rowling now publishes books for adults under the pen name Robert Galbraith. •



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