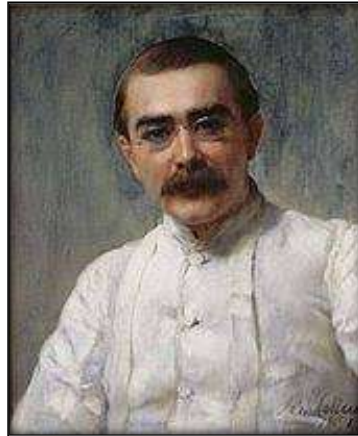


RUDYARD KIPLING



Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was born to a British family on 30 December 1865 in Mumbai, India. When he was five years old, he was taken to England to begin his education. He returned to India at the age of seventeen to work as a journalist and editor for the Civil and Military Gazette in Lahore. Kipling made his name as a novelist, poet and short-story writer, through iconic works like 'The Jungle Book', 'Kim', 'If' and 'Plain Tales from the Hills'. Kipling published his first collection of verse, 'Departmental Ditties and Other Verses' in 1886 and his first collection of stories, 'Plain Tales from the Hills' in 1888.

In the early 1890s, some of Kipling's poems were published in William Ernest Henley's National Observer and later collected in to 'Barrack-Room Ballads' (1892), an immensely popular collection which contained 'Gunga Din' and 'Mandalay'. Kipling's works for children, above all his novel 'The Jungle Book', first published in 1894, remain part of popular culture through the many movie versions made and remade since the 1960s. In 1896 he published another novel, 'Captains Courageous'. Kipling visited South Africa during the Boer War, editing a newspaper there and writing 'Just-So Stories'. The stories, written for his own children and intended to be read aloud, deal with the beginnings of things: 'How the Camel Got His Hump', 'The Elephant's Child', 'The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo', 'The Cat That Walked by Himself', and many others. In these works, Kipling painted rich, vivid word-pictures that honor and at the same time parody the language of Eastern stories such as the 'Jataka Tales' and the 'Thousand and One Arabian Nights'. 'Kim'- Kipling's most successful novel (and his last), appeared in 1901. In 1902, Kipling moved to Sussex with his family and devoted the rest of his life to writing poetry and short stories, including his most famous poem, 'If'. In 1907 Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. He was also awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Literature in 1926. When he was nearly 70 years old, he began to write his autobiography, 'Something of Myself'.

Kipling died on January 18, 1936. His ashes are buried in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey in London.