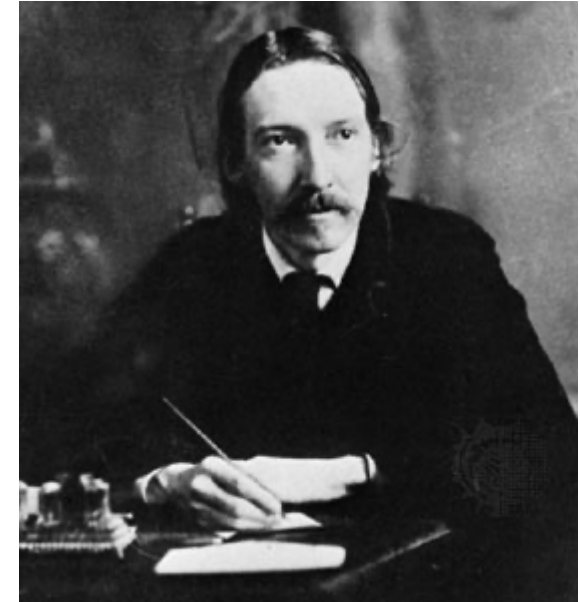


Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1850. His family included engineers, scientists, a professor of philosophy, and a religious minister.

He loved writing stories and poems when he was a child and went on to become an author. His most famous children's book is *Treasure Island*, which tells of the adventures of a boy called Jim Hawkins who finds a treasure map, and a pirate called Long John Silver. His most famous book of poems is *A Child's Garden of Verses*, which he wrote when he was ill in bed.



Stevenson was often ill as a child as he had serious lung problems. He read a great deal about travel and adventure. A combination of his love of adventure and his ill health led him to spend many years as a writer travelling the world in search of a climate that was healthier than Britain's.

In 1890, he went to live in the remote Samoan Islands in the South Pacific. He died there in 1894 at the age of 44.