Biography of Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India in the year 1865. His parents had moved to India from England and were British citizens. They hoped to start a new life in India, which was then a colony of the British Empire. As a young child he played with local children and learned the language spoken in that area of India.

When he was six years old, however, his mother decided he should get an education in their home country, so he was sent to live with relatives while he attended school in England. The relatives did not treat him very well and when his mother finally found out about his poor treatment, she managed to move him to a home where he was treated nicely.

When he was old enough for college, his parents did not have sufficient money to pay for it so he returned to India. He was lucky though, and got a job as a writer on a newspaper. He had already been writing stories when he was in school in England, and so he continued writing and a publisher bought his collections of short stories. People began to know of him and his name was well-known by other authors around the world.

Eventually, thinking he could live on his own, he moved to the United States where he met a young woman, Carrie. He returned to England and later she joined him and they were married. They traveled a lot, at times living in Canada, Japan and South Africa, but a lack of money forced them to return to live with Carrie's family in Vermont. It was while living there that Kipling wrote the collection of short stories that would become known as The Jungle Book. One of the best known stories in that book was "Rikki-tikki-tavi", a story about a mongoose living in a household in India. By that time, Kipling was one of the most well-known and highest paid authors in the world.

Rudyard and Carrie Kipling had three children - two girls and one boy. The younger girl died at only six years of age due to disease and the boy, Jack, died as a soldier in World War I. Despite these personal losses, Kipling had many professional successes and received some important awards including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907.

Kipling died in 1936 and had the honor of being buried in London, England, in the Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey.