

Scottish Children's Writers - Kenneth Grahame

About the author

Kenneth Grahame was born in March of 1859 in Edinburgh, but his family moved to Argyll when he was a year old. When Kenneth was five, his mother died. After this, his father became an alcoholic and Kenneth and his three siblings were raised by their grandmother 'Granny Ingles' in Cookham Dean in Berkshire, England. He went to school in Oxford. He wanted to study at Oxford University but his grandparents couldn't afford it. Instead, he took a job as a bank clerk at the Bank of England in London.

At this time, Grahame wrote some short stories, some of which were published in a London evening newspaper. These stories and essays were put together into a collection published as the 'Pagan Papers' in 1893. The general theme of this book was escape. Then in 1895, 'The Golden Age' was published and in 1898, 'Dream Days', which contained the story 'The Reluctant Dragon'. Both of these books were very successful. There was then a ten year gap where Grahame did not write. During this time, he and his wife Elspeth had a baby.

Kenneth Grahame worked for the bank until he retired in 1908 due to ill health. He then moved back to Cookham Dean with his wife Elspeth and their son Alistair. It was only then that he began writing again. He turned what had been bedtime stories he told his son into the very well-known story 'The Wind In the Willows'.

About the books

'The Wind in the Willows' was published in 1908. It won the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award in 1958. Both 'The Wind in the Willows' and Grahame's earlier story 'The Reluctant Dragon' were made into films by Walt Disney.

The story 'The Wind in The Willows' is still enjoyed by children and adults today.

Date of Birth

May 1859

Famous Book

The Wind in the Willows

Education

School of Oxford

