Kenneth Grahame

Kenneth Grahame was a Scottish writer best known for his classic piece of children's literature *The Wind in the Willows*. He was born March 8th, 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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| Kenneth Grahame had three siblings Willie, Helen and Roland. |
| The area in which Kenneth was raised including Quarry Wood and River Thames is believed to have inspired the setting in Kenneth's later work *The Wind in the Willows*. |
| Kenneth worked at the Bank of England, beginning in 1879. He eventually retired in 1908 with the position of Secretary. It is believed that a shooting incident ended his career at the bank, when a bank director shot at Kenneth three times and missed. |
| In 1899 Kenneth Grahame married Elspeth Thompson, two years after they first met. They had a son Alastair. Alastair was born blind on one eye and had health problems all his life, which ended tragically when he was only 20 years old. |
| Kenneth began writing in his 20s and was published in the *St. James Gazette, The Yellow Book*, and the *National Observer*. |
| Kenneth Grahame wrote several short stories about orphaned children which he titled *The Olympians*. 18 of these short stories went on to be published as a collection titled *The Golden Age* in 1895. |
| *Dream Days* was the second short story collection published by Kenneth Grahame, in 1898. |
| When they were published, both *Dream Days* and *The Golden Age* were highly acclaimed. |
| Kenneth Grahame published *The Headswoman* in 1898. |
| When Kenneth's son Alastair was born, with disability and health issues, Kenneth's writing slowed down. He began telling his son bedtime stories that incorporated the characters that would later become *The Wind in the Willows*. |
| Kenneth wrote down his stories for his son, which later became the book he became so well known for writing. Despite several rejections *The Wind in the Willows* was published in 1908. |
| *The Wind in the Willows* was commercially successful at first, but not critically successful. |
| U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt met Kenneth Grahame when he visited Oxford in 1910, because he was a fan of *The Wind in the Willows*. |
| Kenneth Grahame died in Berkshire in 1932 at the age of 73. |
| Kenneth Grahame's story *The Reluctant Dragon*, published in 1898, was later made into a Walt Disney movie of the same name. It has also been featured on TV and other media since its initial movie in 1941. |
| *The Wind in the Willows* has been adapted to stage, film, and television. |