

About the Authors



Washington Irving (1783–1859) was born – the youngest of 11 children – in New York, the United States. He studied law, but worked for only a short time. He lived in Europe for many years, and was the first world famous American writer. He is best known as the writer of *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, also available as a Dominoes reader.

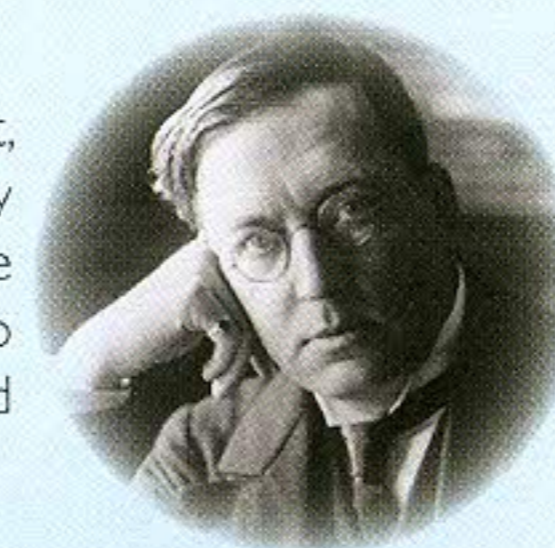
Edith Nesbit (1858–1924) was born in London, England. She went to school in France and Germany where she was very unhappy. In 1871 she moved back to England and started writing. Edith married and had children, but also wrote. She is best remembered today for her children's stories, of which one of the most famous is *The Railway Children* (1906).



Jerome Klapka Jerome (1859–1927) was born in Staffordshire in central England. His childhood was difficult as his parents were poor and died when he was 13. He took jobs working for the railways, as a journalist, a teacher and an actor. He wrote stories all this time but he only became famous with *Three Men in a Boat* (1889), an amusing story of a boat journey on the river Thames.



Montague Rhodes James (1862–1936) was born in Kent, England. He was a brilliant student at Cambridge University and later taught there. M. R. James also wrote some of the greatest ghost stories in English. He started writing them to amuse friends, and every Christmas Eve read a new story aloud to them. He published five books of ghost stories.



Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was born in Bombay (now Mumbai) in India to English parents. He loved listening to Indian rhymes and stories as a child. When he was six he went to school in England. In 1881 he returned to live in India and started work as a journalist. He travelled widely as a journalist and a fiction writer, and lived in both the USA and England. His most famous book is *The Jungle Book* (1894).



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