

ANSWERS

The children are being encouraged to use the collection to find the answers to the questions.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Where in Edinburgh did Stevenson live?

8 Howard Place, 1 (now 9) Inverleith Terrace and 17 Heriot Row. All in the New Town.

When was he born?

Born as Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson, November 13th, 1850.

What era did he live in?

The Victorian period.

Was he married?

Yes, he was.

What was his wife's name?

He married Fanny Osbourne an American (Frances (Fanny) Matilda Van de Grift Osbourne Stevenson).

How many people were in his family?

He was an only child, he had a mother and father.

Did he have children?

He had two stepchildren (a third died before his marriage to Fanny).

What was his job?

Stevenson was a writer – he wrote poems, books and essays.

Jot down the names of any books or poems written by him that you spot.

Did he live anywhere else?

He travelled extensively and lived in Samoa.

What were his hobbies?

He liked to ride, fish and travel.

When did he die?

Stevenson died in December 1894 in Samoa.

How old was he when he died?

He was 44 years old (very young).

What was the cause of his death?

Stevenson had been sickly for much of his life.

How did you find out the answers?

By looking at everything in the 2 rooms, reading and finding out the facts.

What do you think 'teller of tales' means?

Story teller.

This was a name that the Chief gave to Stevenson - why do you think the Chief in Samoa called Stevenson this?

Stevenson told the villagers stories.

Do you think that the Chief liked the stories Stevenson made up? Why?

Yes, because he gave Stevenson the ring and he gave him a special name (Tusitala). The ring is made from tortoiseshell – is this something we would consider using now?

ANSWERS

Please help us to conserve the collection by not touching the objects that are on open display.

Sir Walter Scott

Where in Edinburgh did Scott live?

When he was born his parents lived in a 3rd floor flat on College Wynd in the Old Town. By 1779, the family had moved to 25 George Square in the New Town. He lived there until he married – when he moved to 39 (North) Castle Street.

When was he born?

15th of August, 1771.

What era did he live in?

Georgian.

Was he married?

Yes.

What was his wife's name?

Charlotte Carpentier.

How many people were in his family?

He was the 9th child but 6 of his siblings died. There were a further 2 children after Walter. In total, 5 survived.

Did he have children?

He had four children.

What was his job?

He was extremely hard working. He wrote books, poems and essays and he invented a new kind of storybook called the 'Historical Novel'.

He was also a Clerk of Session and Sheriff Depute of Selkirkshire.

Jot down the names of any books or poems written by him that you spot.

Waverley.

Did he have any pets?

A dog called Maida (and a cat called Hinse- the cat is not referenced in the museum).

Did he live anywhere else?

Yes, 39 Castle Street New Town and Abbotsford in the Borders.

What were his hobbies?

Horse riding, playing chess, reading, walking.

When did he die?

21st September, 1832.

How old was he when he died?

61 years old – oldest out of the 3 writers.

What was the cause of his death?

He had a stroke in 1831, huge debts and ill health. (This may not be shown in the museum).

What was it that made Scott so famous?

His books.

What is the connection between Scott and Waverley?

This was the name of the series of novels he wrote which were hugely popular and widely read. Waverley Train station, Waverley Bridge and the shopping centre are all named after these books and in recognition of Scott.

What other game can you see in the room?

Chess!

ANSWERS

Robert Burns

Where in Edinburgh did Burns live?

Baxter's Close (now demolished) in the Old Town.

When was he born?

Alloway near Ayr.

What era did he live in?

Georgian.

Was he married?

Yes.

What was his wife's name?

Jean Armour.

How many people were in his family?

Both parents and 5 siblings (at least).

Did he have children?

Yes, at least 9!

What was his job?

He was a ploughman/ farmer, Exciseman and Poet.

Jot down the names of any books or poems written by him that you spot.

Did he have any pets?

A dog called Luath (this information is not in the museum).

Did he live anywhere else?

Ayr.

What were his hobbies?

Writing and socialising.

When did he die?

21st July, 1796.

How old was he when he died?

37 years old.

What was the cause of his death?

Not sure – possibly endocarditis or rheumatism. He had pain in his joints for many years and could hardly walk. The endocarditis was an infection in the inner part of the heart.

Look at the sculpture of Burns holding a pen- why do you think he was depicted in this way? What does it tell you about Burns?

It shows that he was a writer.

Using the information collected do the children have any questions about the authors that they don't know the answers to?

Further questions to research back at school: **Why did the authors die so young? What were living conditions like for each of the writers?**

Do you think it is important to remember and celebrate the lives of these three men?

Can you think of any other Scottish Writers that you think should be celebrated and why?

Write a letter to persuade the curators and managers of the Writers' Museum to include your favourite Scottish writer - be sure to explain clearly why.