Kipling was an English writer born in Bombay (now Mumbai), India. He is best known for his poems and stories set in India, most famously The Jungle Book.

He was born Joseph Rudyard Kipling on December 30th, 1865 in Bombay, India. His father was an artist and a teacher but when he was six years old he was sent with his sister to sail to England and live with a captain and his wife in Portsmouth while his parents stayed in India although the captain's wife was cruel to Rudyard. He was meant to join the British Army but at 16 years old, Rudyard went to work as an assistant editor at a newspaper in Lahore, India. His writing career began while working at the paper, writing poetry and fiction in his spare time.

In 1889, Kipling returned to England and lived in London. Three years later he married an American so the family moved there to have their two daughters and son. It was here that Kipling wrote 'The Jungle Book' in 1894. As a child, he was fascinated by tales of the Indian jungle and its animals and learned Indian myths and legends in the local language. In India, the author had suffered from insomnia and would often take long walks at night through Lahore and out to the edge of the wilds. Kipling wrote the stories as a series of fables, designed to give moral lessons to children through animal characters who had human traits and emotions.

Originally, the Jungle Book was a series of stories published in magazines with Mowgli as the central character. Mowgli was a small boy brought up in the jungle by wolves and is told by his wolf family that his name means "frog" because he was hairless and would not sit still. Actually, Kipling made up the name from scratch and said it had no meaning in any language he was aware of. He did, however, want the first syllable to rhyme with "cow."! Mowgli's best friend in "The Jungle Book" is the gentle bear named Baloo, ("Bhalu") which is Hindi for "bear." His job in the stories is to teach Mowgli the Laws of the Jungle.

Mowgli's wolf mother is named Raksha, which translates to "protection" or "defense" in Hindi. She is shown as a strong caregiver who adopts the human "man cub" and defies the evil tiger Shere Khan. The Bengal tiger Shere Khan, meanwhile, is the main villain in both Kipling's story and his name means "tiger" or "king". Bagheera (pronounced bug-EER-uh) is Mowgli's first mentor, a black panther whose name comes from the Hindi word for small "tiger" ("bagh").

Kipling and his wife returned to London where he wrote many other stories and poems including the "Just So Stories" which he had written as a tribute to his daughter who had died but to whom he had read these stories at bedtime. Another story is "Kim" and he also wrote the
well known poems "If" about betrayal and "Gunga Din" which like many of his poems, were related to the experiences of British soldiers.

In 1907, he accepted the Nobel Peace prize for literature but for the last 20 years of his life, he stopped writing children’s stories due to the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914. On January 18, 1936 Joseph Rudyard Kipling died aged seventy years. His body was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium and his ashes buried at Poets’ Corner.