In this text I'm going to synthesize the Presentation Speech of 1907’s Novel Prize in Literature, conferred to Rudyard Kipling. At the starting of the text, the Swedish academy introduces some information about him.

Kipling was born in Bombay on December 30, 1865. After studying in England (when he was 6 he moved to England), he came back to India where he worked as a journalist and “acquired a thorough insight” into Indian culture, that is reflected in his writings. His early productions were the satire “Departmental Ditties”, the collections of stories “Plain Tales from the Hills”, “Soldiers Three”, “The Story of the Gadsbys", “In Black and White” and “Under the Deodars”, concerned with society life in Simla, the series “Life’s Handicap”, a collection of stories of serious import and “The Light that Failed”, a novel “harsh in style but containing some strongly coloured descriptive passages of excellent effect.”

Kipling also wrote the “Barrack Room Ballads”, that is a collaction of soldiers and sailors’ songs, “often in the very language they themselves employ”, and the cycle “The Seven Seas”, where he “reveals himself as an imperialist”.

The most famous books he wrote was “the jungle books”, a collection of mythlike tales about a boy, Mowgli, growing up in the jungle with the other animals.

In conclusion, the speaking voice tells why Kipling won the Nobel Prize in Literature: “Kipling may not be eminent essentially for the profundity of his thought or for the surpassing wisdom of his meditations. Yet even the most cursory observer sees immediately his absolutely unique power of observation, capable of reproducing with astounding accuracy the minutest detail from real life.”

Kipling is called the English poet, because of his aesthetic and ethical-religious idealism, his soldier-songs and because of the hymn that he composed on the occasion of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee.

After another focus on Kipling’s style, “Kipling favours concreteness and concentration; empty abstractions andcircumlocutionary descriptions are wholly absent from his works. He has a knack for finding the telling phrase, the characteristic epithet, with swift accuracy and certainty.He has been compared now to Bret Harte, now to Pierre Loti, now to Dickens; he is, however, always original, and it would seem that his powers of invention areinexhaustible. […] Kipling thus advocates courage, self- sacrifice, and loyalty; unmanliness and lack of self-discipline are abominations to him,and in the world order he perceives a nemesis before which presumption is constrained to surrender, he is compared to other British authors, with which he shares some traits while remaining original and personal.